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IDAHO OFFICE OF DRUG POLICY



October 2016



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Take Back Your Meds

Get rid of unwanted prescription Rx October 22nd

Reducing the amount of prescription medication available in the community is part of a comprehensive strategy to combat opiate misuse. October 22nd is one of the national Drug Take Back days, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Check out the events being organized by Idaho community substance abuse coalitions to take back your unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications.

[Find a Take Back Event](#)

Please note: This may not be an exhaustive list of Take Back events. Check with your local coalition or law enforcement agency if your city isn't listed.

You can also visit <https://odp.idaho.gov/prevention/prescription.html>

Overdose Prevention & Response

Health care professionals receive needed naloxone training

Over the past several months, Dr. Magni Hamso and the Office of Drug Policy provided an opioid overdose prevention and response training to health care professionals at various locations in the Treasure Valley. ODP analyzed survey responses and are pleased with the outcomes thus far.

Seventy health care professionals provided responses to measure their knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors before and after the training. Approximately 37% of respondents were clinicians. The majority of participants care for patients with chronic pain (78%) and care for patients who abuse opioid pain relievers or heroin (66%). **Despite this, most of the participants had never had an opioid overdose prevention and response training before (79%).**

Knowledge improved significantly. The percentage of participants feeling extremely to very knowledgeable regarding naloxone increased from 11.5% at pre to 51.4% at post. A significantly higher percentage of participants reported feeling comfortable prescribing naloxone at post. The belief that naloxone is necessary to reducing the number of overdose deaths also improved. After the training, less people agreed that naloxone encourages drug use; although, the majority of participants did not agree that naloxone encourages drug use at pre. Additionally, the majority of participants were not worried that discussing naloxone with a patient would make them uncomfortable.

Almost all of the participants reported being likely to very likely to share the information they learned from this training with colleagues and patients. Approximately 40% reported being likely or very likely to co-prescribe naloxone with an opioid pain reliever.

These outcomes make the case that providing these trainings reaches more than just the present audience; for every two people reached, an additional three people are provided the information from attendees of the naloxone training.

[See Survey Results Here](#)

Substance Abuse Prevention Training

Register today for upcoming prevention training

Emerging Teen Drugs

The abuse of Rx drugs remains steady among Idaho teens while marijuana use, vaping and overdoses from heroin are on the rise in our communities. Coalition leaders, providers and community members are invited to join Mike Williams of the Drug Enforcement Administration to learn what our law enforcement is seeing, and doing, to combat youth substance use.

- Thursday, October 27, 2016
- 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM (MST)
- [Register HERE](#)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention



Contributed by Erika McCall, Executive Director

The Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (also known as 7B Drug Free) has been in existence since 2014. In that time, the coalition has been dedicated to tackling the tough issues surrounding substance misuse.

After conducting local research, the coalition found a large gap in prevention services in the areas of underage drinking and prescription drug misuse. Since then, the coalition has been motivated to provide education to the entire community. Some of the highlights of these efforts include introducing an over the counter medication safety course to local 6th grade students, implementing the Project Northland curriculum at the local middle school, engaging area health care professionals in the conversation surrounding safe prescribing practices, advocating for a new parent "tip line" for underage parties, partnering with local law enforcement agencies to

bring in additional prescription drug collection boxes, and involving youth in the planning and implementation of the "natural high" campaign.

One of the most exciting events took place in July. The coalition was looking for a way to more actively engage the youth of the community. The idea was brought up to do a workshop on a topic the kids might find fun and interactive. It was decided to focus on photography. Thirteen local teens attended an afternoon workshop lead by Monte Stiles. They began the event at the county Extension Office where they heard a presentation on making positive choices and to always remember to stop and look for the natural beauty that is so abundant in everyday life. They then were able to take a look at whatever camera they chose to bring with them and learn a few pointers on taking great wildlife portraits. The kids and chaperones then boarded a bus and traveled to a nearby state park where they spent 3 hours hiking and photographing anything that caught their eye. At the close of the event, all of the teens were surprised by how much they had learned and how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Kids were also asked if they would be interested in joining a committee to plan additional events for youth in the community. The majority answered yes, and there are plans to continue to offer these great events to local youth while focusing on the positive message of making healthy choices.

7B Drug Free is excited to see how much progress has happened in just a few short years and the entire coalition is looking forward to even better things to come, so stay tuned!

Drug Trends

RMHIDTA Marijuana Update

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) has been tracking the impacts of marijuana legalization in Colorado since the law's implementation. In September, the RMHIDTA released their fourth publication of *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*. According to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, marijuana use appears to be increasing. Colorado ranks first in the nation for past month marijuana use among all age groups.

Comparing the two years before legalization to the two years post-legalization, youth marijuana use in Colorado has increased 20% and adult use has increased 63%. There has also been a 155% increase in the number of marijuana exposures reported to the poison control center. In their report, RMHIDTA also tracks the source of the marijuana that youth use.

Despite claims that marijuana legalization eliminates the black market, 18% reported obtaining their marijuana this way. Additionally, 29% reported getting it from a friend that obtained it illegally, and 5% reported buying it from a dispensary.

From the report, it is apparent that increased use is not the only negative consequences of marijuana legalization. For example, when comparing the few years before marijuana legalization to the years since, marijuana-related traffic deaths and the emergency department visits have increased 48% and 49%, respectively. Perhaps an unexpected consequence is the increased number of vagrant youth in large Colorado cities, such as Denver. According to the Intermountain divisional commander for the Salvation Army, "An informal survey of 500 newcomers in the summer of 2014 determined that nearly 30 percent were there because of cannabis." Although it is not clear that marijuana legalization was the only factor that may have caused these consequences, the associations are clear.

Unfortunately, the impact of retail marijuana are not contained within the states that have passed laws; the diversion of marijuana, both on our highways and through our mail, has increased. In addition to the information listed above, the RMHIDTA report also provides statistics on the number of marijuana business, tax revenue, alcohol consumption since marijuana legalization, changes in THC potency, trends in drug involved in youth suicide, crime, and much more. [Click here to see youth use, tax and traffic deaths data.](#)

[Read the Full Report](#)

The Idaho Office of Drug Policy leads Idaho's substance abuse policy and prevention efforts by developing and implementing strategic action plans and collaborative partnerships to reduce drug use and related crime, thereby improving the health and safety of all Idahoans.



We envision an Idaho free from the devastating social, health, and economic consequences of substance abuse.



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