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Effects of Substance Abuse on a Community

Substance abuse and addiction negatively affect everyone in the community. Research proves that high percentages of accidental overdoses, suicide, teen pregnancy and school drop out rates can be linked directly to substance abuse. Many innocent people have been injured or killed by drivers that were “under the influence”. Domestic violence, child abuse and failed marriages are also common in families struggling with the horrible effects of substance abuse. Schools and communities are negatively impacted by alcohol and drug abuse, as the quality of education eventually deteriorates and the crime and unemployment rate rises. The legal system also incurs extra burdens that may not be criminally related but directly influenced by substance abuse.

Alarming Substance Abuse Facts

- ✓ 20.6 % (Kalamazoo County) students were offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property during the past 12 months (2009-2010 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey).
- ✓ During the 2009-2010 school year more Kalamazoo County middle school kids reported abusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days than reported using marijuana or alcohol (2009-2010 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey).
- ✓ 69% of Michigan students said they had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days. Of those, 32% got the alcohol they drank from someone who gave it to them (2009 Michigan High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey).

Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force

Vision

A healthy community free of substance abuse.

Mission

To reduce youth alcohol and substance abuse issues in our community through the development of strategies that will reduce access to substances, prevent high-risk behaviors, connect community resources, and provide educational opportunities.

Who Are We?

We are a dedicated and diverse group of community members that develop strategies, programs, and practices to address alcohol and substance abuse issues in our community. Our efforts are funded by the SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Grant and Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services.

For more information or to get involved call or click:

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Our Voice. Our Community. Our Opportunity.

