



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee March 2006 Fact Sheet



Mission: The GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee addresses health and social issues in the Greater Attleboro/Taunton communities resulting from substance abuse.

Vision: This is accomplished by coordinating with existing community resources to heighten public awareness and to develop programs to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse.

All taken from PolicyImpact communications and Join Together

MA House Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee Recommends Decriminalizing Marijuana from \$500 fine and up to 6 months in jail to \$250 fine for possession (for less than 1 oz)

AdCare North Dartmouth Outpatient Clinic at 88 Faunce Corner Road is offering a College Substance Abuse Education Group. Aimed at students who have reached an extreme of SA (alcohol and gambling included), with some students coming to the program through court referrals or at the request of parents. Meetings are weekly for 1 ½ hours as a group, and weekly individually with a counselor.

What's Wrong with Moderation – Most international students are taught to drink responsibly while still under the guidance of their parents, in social situations without getting drunk. It is different in the United States where students may see alcohol as a forbidden pleasure, and as much of it as possible should be consumed when given the opportunity.

More Female Nonsmokers Dying of Lung Cancer – The same amount of tobacco exposure is more likely to lead to the changes that cause lung cancer in a woman than the male counterpart who gets the same secondhand exposure. About **15,000 nonsmoking women die of lung cancer annually.** More women die annually from lung cancer than breast and ovarian cancer combined.



Taking It On Herself To Sound A Warning – Losing her boyfriend made Haley Cyr speak up about teen drinking. Last November 4, 2005, her boyfriend, who had been drinking wanted her to come with him to Wendy's. This time, she offered to drive, but when he repeatedly refused the offer and accused her of not trusting him, she walked away. He died in a crash as well as did a friend who accompanied him. Police are pursuing charges against a 17 year old and his mother for allegedly hosting a house party that day. **Haley now shares her boyfriend's story at school assembly programs** with other teens in hopes they will make good decisions when it comes to alcohol. She feels personal stories carry more sway with teens, especially girls, when they are told by other teens. She doesn't believe the story will stop teens from drinking, but hopes it will persuade some not to drive drunk or get into a car with a drunk driver.

From Tobacco in the News: Campaign for Tobacco-Free kids:

- Government officials gathered in Geneva at the WHO for the first meeting of the ratifying parties of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the global tobacco treaty that became law last year. **The United States did not participate in any of the proceedings – including those on key smuggling provisions important to the U.S. – because it has not yet ratified the treaty.** Although the Administration signed it in May 2004, it failed to send it to the Senate for ratification.
- Cancer deaths decline, but 1/3 of all cancer deaths remain attributable to tobacco use
- More than 500 internet websites sell tobacco products at lower prices, because they do not include excise or sales tax.