



Working Together Toward
Safe Communities
Free From Substance Abuse

THE INFORMANT



Meth Watch Member e-Letter
Publisher: Lacey Jones November 2009

Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council's
(GSSAC) Prevention Center
Spokane County Meth Action Team (MAT)



Fatal Overdoses Often Involve Methadone

November 11, 2009

Methadone was involved in 64 percent of fatal overdoses on prescription opiate drugs in the state of Washington, more than double the rate of overdoses on oxycodone or hydrocodone, according to a new report from state and federal health officials.

Reuters reported Nov. 4 that researchers who analyzed prescription opiate overdose deaths in Washington between 2004 and 2007 found that 23 percent of deaths were due to oxycodone overdoses, while 14 percent involved hydrocodone.

The study found that 60 percent of victims were men, most were middle-aged (ages 45-54), and that Medicaid recipients were 5.7 times more likely to die of an overdose than non-recipients, possibly because Medicaid patients are twice as likely to get prescriptions for opiate-based painkillers.

The findings were published in the Oct. 30, 2009 issue of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. *(Join Together)*

www.HARMD.org

Helping America Reduce Methadone Deaths

“We are the families of victims and those yet to be victims of methadone. Together with other families throughout the United States who have lost loved ones to methadone, we aim to prevent any other family facing the devastation we have experienced.”

"OxyContin Express" Video

Published by **VANGUARD**

There is a lot of prescription drug activity in south Florida and it has found it's way to Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. It's all captured on this video that you don't want to miss seeing.

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/100279/vanguard-the-oxycontin-express>

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPOKANE COUNTY

Rx Drug Poisonings

Go To: www.spokanecounty.org

- Medical Examiner's Office
- Annual Reports
- 2008



College Students Use Meth's Alternate: Adderall

Adderall's popularity has spread through social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter. Though Adderall is designed for people with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and narcolepsy, many students use them as "smart pills" to stay alert for all-night study sessions and exams. Others partake recreationally. National studies suggest that 25 percent of college students have popped cognitive stimulants.

More than a dozen students at WSU have joined Facebook groups praising Adderall. On Twitter, posts on Adderall roll in by the minute, typically praising but occasionally cursing the drug.

But students are doing more online than just talking about it. A Google search for "buy Adderall" results more than 900,000 hits. Internet sales of medical drugs by illegitimate and often off-shore "pharmacies" may reach \$75 billion a year by 2010, according to a 2008 study from the University of Maryland.

Adderall poses a significant risk for psychological addiction, which leads to people using the drug compulsively, regardless of negative effects, said Rebecca Craft, a WSU biopsychology professor. Alice Young, a psychology professor at Texas Tech University who specializes in psychopharmacology, said the drug may temporarily help a student study and remember, but recall may suffer if the student stops taking it.

National studies show that as many as 1 in 4 students in a college setting may have abused Adderall, and two surveys are under way at WSU to examine student use. College students are twice as likely to use the drug nonmedically as their peers who aren't in college, according to a report this year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(The Spokesman Review)

WA Rx Watch Community Presentation

Help combat the PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE epidemic by becoming educated on the issue with a **WA Rx Watch Community Presentation**. This presentation covers a wealth of information about Rx drug abuse including: commonly abused types of Rx drugs, WA State trends, unintentional poisoning deaths, pharmacy burglaries, internet pharmacies, etc.



4 hour Train the Trainer Course ALSO available!

This course is FREE & trains community members, professionals, law enforcement and other interested individuals how to conduct these presentations in their community.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Call Lacey Jones @ (509) 922-8383

Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training SAPST

Comprehensive
4 day prevention
Training

A Comprehensive Training on the Science and Application of Prevention

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- History of Prevention
- Science and research behind prevention
- What works and what doesn't
- Overview of evaluation
- Steps to designing an effective program
- Media Literacy/Advocacy
- Social Marketing
- Program planning
- Cultural issues
- Human development in prevention

Dates: December 2, 4, 9 & 10

Time: 9:00 am—4:30 pm
(The 10th will be an extended day from 9:00 am—5:00 pm)

Location: GSSAC's Prevention Center
8104 E. Sprague Ave.—Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Cost: \$20 per person to cover materials

To Register: Contact Karen at the Prevention Center (509) 922-8383
Kperry@gssacpreventioncenter.com