



STUDY ON TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR SCREENING AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

A new study showing marked increased in teen use of marijuana and ecstasy over the past three years underscores the importance of incorporating screening and prevention programs into all health care interactions with adolescents and their parents, says a leading expert on adolescent substance abuse treatment.

“Any time professionals have an option to work with parents or teenagers, even if it’s not directly about a substance abuse issue, they should be putting drug use on the radar screen,” say Ken Winters, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, and Research Scientist at Treatment Research Institute. “Many health care settings don’t have the luxury of specialized and expensive drug treatment, but a quick screening and a brief discussion about drug use should be more achievable in pediatric and other adolescent health settings.”

TEEN DRINKING NORMALIZED

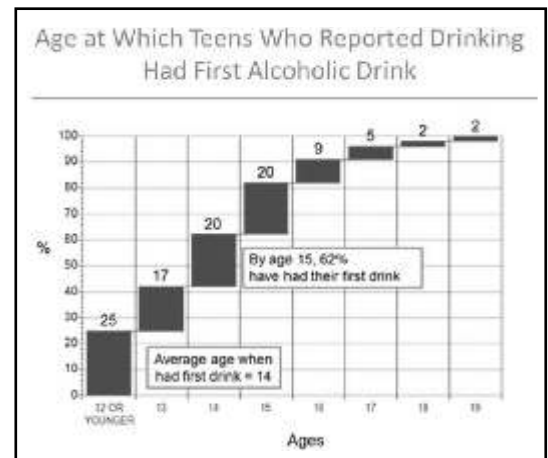
Dr. Winters said the findings of the 22nd annual Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) released by the Partnership at Drugfree.org and MetLife Foundation earlier this month, echo the reality that substance abuse treatment professionals see every day. The study shows that underage drinking has become more normalized among adolescents. Of those teens who reported alcohol use, 62% said they had their first full alcoholic drink by age 15, not including sipping or tasting alcohol. Of those teens who reported alcohol use, 25% said they drank a full alcoholic drink for the first time by age 12 or younger. Almost half of teens (45%) said they do not see a great risk in heavy daily drinking.

Age of first use is critically important: research has shown that more than 40% of those who start drinking at age 14 or younger developed alcohol dependence, compared with 10% of those who began drinking at age 20 or older.

The study also found that marijuana use is on the rise. Past-year marijuana use among teens increased by 22% (from 32% in 2008 to 39% in 2010). There was a 67% increase in the number of teens who reported using ecstasy in the past year (from 6% in 2008 to 10% in 2010).

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

The PATS survey touched on an issue that parents are often unaware of: teen abuse of prescription medicines. The data found that 24% of teens reported taking a prescription drug not prescribed to them by a doctor at least once in their lives, and 23% used a prescription pain reliever not prescribed to them by a doctor. “Health care professionals need to alert parents that if they’re taking prescription drugs, they can’t just take the medicine home and put it in an unsecure place – that’s risky,” Dr. Winters says. “Parents are often surprised to find out how common it is for teenagers to take medication from the medicine chest and use it or sell it. We have to remind them not only to monitor their prescriptions, but also to dispose of unused medications with the many drug disposal programs that are now available.”



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2011 LIT GRADUATES HONORED

May 26th was LIT graduation ceremony for 61 students who have become a family to each other as well as to WNY United. The ceremony was held at Medaille College and in attendance were the graduates, their families, WNY United Prevention Specialists, other staff, and some school administrators. These 8th grade students completed a two-year service-learning process as well as the summer program they attended before entering 7th grade. Program Director Beth Anzalone delivered the keynote speech where she congratulated the graduates on their growth and accomplishments, and encouraged them to continue to “shine” like fireworks. As one of the last LIT assignments the students were required to write an essay about “What LIT Has Meant To Me”. Dakym Davis from Native American Magnet School #19, Victoria Hennegan from Lydia T. Wright #89, James Abraszek from Southside Elementary #93, and Amiyah King from Olmsted #156 all shared their essays during the ceremony. You can read their essays at www.wnyunited.org.

For the fourth year two students were inducted into the Leaders In Training “Hall of Fame”: **Savannah Wells** from Lorraine Elementary #72, who will attend Oracle Charter School in the fall, and **Katrina Jefferson** a graduate from the LIT class of 2007 from Hillery Park Elementary #27. As LIT “Hall of Fame” members, the students will occasionally speak on behalf of the program and their names will be placed on the “Hall of Fame Plaque” that will be displayed at program events.

All Leaders In Training students deserve recognition not only for the character they have demonstrated and good work completed, but also for acting as positive role models for their peers and younger children. WNY United is proud of all the 2011 graduates and is looking forward to seeing you fly!

Congratulations 2011 LIT Graduates

#19 Native American

Christine Doman
 Kiara Martinez
 Edwin Koffa
 Anthony Brown
 Dakym Davis

27 Hillery Park

Angel Gibson
 Ben Salter
 Sasha Dancy
 Skye Nieves
 Jarius Kedzierski
 Alysa Huertas

31 Harriet Ross Tubman

Jason Conner
 Michaun Gray
 Maria Debold
 Mariana Coleman
 Alisha Williams
 Tykwon Boswell

33 Bilingual Center

Nahomy Reyes
 Alexandria Szpila
 Zachary Szpila
 Joshua Barbosa
 Diana Burgos
 Mackenzie Bachmann
 Alexis Zimmer
 Celena Rondon
 Zachary Benzo
 Layla Mohamed
 Angelica Rodriguez
 Itzel Carrasquillo

#39 Martin Luther King

Niko Feliciano
 Monae Thornton
 Aaliyah Coleman
 Khalil Sullivan
 Desyonna Hough

43 Lovejoy Discovery

Alex Gresko
 Joe Stabler
 Wilfredo Vasquez
 TaCara Boone
 Caliee Parsons

72 Lorraine Academy

Samantha Swartwood
 Kaila Skarzynski
 Matthew Gilbert
 Steven Madigan
 William Koschnick
 Fikirte Adella
 Codie McCool
 Niya Craig
 Nathan Kiehle
 Savannah Wells

#89 Dr. Lydia T. Wright

Avyana Morehead
 Daija Jones
 Isaac Howard
 Kennedy Robinson
 Khaila Gardner
 Mack Hill
 Sharde Howard
 Shaun Sumpter
 Unique Edwards
 Victoria Hennegan

91 BUILD

Daquan Williams
 Jakalya Jordan
 Da'Quan Brown
 Michael Hargrave
 Sharn Luper
 Daylan Williams

93 Southside

Christian Wujek
 James Abraszek
 McKenna Brown
 Joseph Bortz
 Dante Diaz
 Nadia Monessar

#192 Performing Arts

Terrence Medley

#156 Olmsted

Autum Carter
 Austin Carter
 Amiyah King
 Jalisa Conyers





16th ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY A SUCCESSFUL KICK-OFF TO SUMMER

WNY United teamed up with the Buffalo Bisons to present Family Fun Day during a baseball game, to give families an afternoon of All-American Fun for only \$8! Attendees received a free lunch, access to the carnival and a game ticket. Approximately 1100 people attended the sixteenth annual event on May 29th at Coca-Cola Field. Family Fun Day, WNY United Foundation's largest fundraiser, is chaired by Jean Toth, sister of the late **Elaine Mack** who was WNY United Foundation Vice-President and Family Fun Day creator.



SpongeBob and his fans Reese and Chase Chudoba.

With the rainy weather in WNY this spring attendees weren't sure what to expect for the event. But as the gates opened at noon the sunshine appeared to help with the festivities! Folks were able to enjoy the carnival area before the baseball game started at 1:05 pm. Lunch was available at any of the five full-service concession stands in the concourse. While in the rear pavilion area children enjoyed coloring butterfly fans to help keep them cool, creating a noodle necklace, having their faces painted by the staff of EduKids, getting temporary tattoos, and decorating their own New Era Caps. Kids loved the inflatable attractions, the all new Toddler Zone inflatables, and sports games all from **ABC Rental**. SpongeBob and Dora the Explorer from **DC Special Entertainment 4 U** as well as Buster Bison, Belle, and Chip joined the festivities. Sno-cones were free to anyone wanting to cool down in the carnival area.

The Family Fun Day Raffle and WNY United Wheel of Prizes were located in the concourse. The raffle had nine themed gift baskets and the popular Fisher Price Power Wheels - all of which went home to happy winners. The WNY United Wheel of prizes was another way of attendees showing their support for the cause, and everyone walked away with a prize! **After expenses, this year's Family Fun Day raised approximately \$15,000 to support the WNY United Foundation.**

WNY United gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the Buffalo Bisons staff, especially Mike Buczkowski, Tom Sciarrino, Matt LaSota, Kurtis Brightman, Mike Poreda, Mike Simoncelli, Kevin Parkinson, Roger Buczek, Jim Morrissey, Dan Christmann and Chris Koller. Special thanks go to the 2011 planning committee made up of Chris Callen, Linda Zaborowski, Ann Godfrey, Julie Gicewicz, Kim Rich-Lupkin, Urmas Lupkin, Mary Gurbacki, and Elizabeth Carey. The committee is chaired by Jean Toth and staffed by Kate Chudoba. Thanks to the WNY United staff of Linda Flowers, Karen Smith, Beth Anzalone, Denise Bitar, Wes Borden, Elizabeth Chapnick, Amy Damasiewicz, Kathy Deet, Julie McCarthy and Theresa Villano for serving as zone captains.

In addition, WNY United also thanks the volunteers who were incredible on the day of the event. Without each of you, the event would not have been such a tremendous success! Those volunteers include: Pamela Arena, Gail Arthurs, Christian Baxter, Chris Becker, Jonna Bichler, Omer Bitar, Chris Callen, Aaron Chapnick, Pat Chelebowski, Briana Cordova, Dakym Davis, Canaan Delgado, Collin Delgado, Melissa Delgado, Ray Delgado, Job Flemming, Ed Flowers,



Inflatable fun by ABC Rentals.



Loving the giant inflatable slide.



LIT Showcase 2011

The Leaders In Training (LIT) team is hand-picked each year by Prevention Specialists in schools that receive WNY United services. After their selection, students are required to attend a summer program where upon completion they are officially recognized as seventh grade LIT members. Students who make the commitment to be on their school's LIT team are seen as positive role models in not only their schools, but in their communities by completing various service projects throughout the school year. All their accomplishments are put on display at a two day culminating event held every year in the spring.

This year, April 12th and 13th marked the annual seventh grade LIT spring showcase where in attendance were keynote speaker Nestor Hernandez, guest speaker Wes Borden, volunteers from AmeriCorps, aids and mentors from Buffalo Public Schools, and the staff of WNY United.

As the students arrived, they were given a chance to mingle with other LIT members who they might not have seen since last summer. While enjoying breakfast, the students created bumper stickers as Program Director Beth Anzalone gave general introductions and welcoming remarks. Their colorful bumper stickers included their names and a list of personal favorites and descriptive phrases, such as favorite school subject and summer program activity. An etiquette video was shown to the students highlighting appropriate table manners and basic how-to's of dining.

Nestor Hernandez, Executive Director of the Belle Center in Buffalo, was the keynote speaker for day one of the event. He spoke about growing up in a single parent home and how crucial

it was for him to have powerful role models as a child. Hernandez also touched on having dreams, setting goals and staying true to your passions. He encouraged the students to be true leaders and to make a change in their communities by being the change that they want to see, "Things need to happen and you need to be the aggressor of change."

The second day of the showcase included the same morning activity, introductory remarks from Beth Anzalone, and etiquette video. Guest speaker Wes Borden, a Prevention Specialist for WNY United, reemphasized Beth Anzalone's comments about the importance of everyone having five core people in their lives. He stressed the vital role his parents and baseball coaches played during his youth to keep him focused on his goals and taking advantage of opportunities that arise. Like Hernandez, he talked about joining AmeriCorps out of college and using the relationships he built through the program to eventually land a spot on the WNY United staff.

The students then presented their projects to a room full of peers and educators. The following are a list of schools and their service projects for the school year.



Students from school #18, Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Excellence displaying their story board of community service projects. Back row: Kayla Correa, Michelle Torres, Ms. Theresa Villano, Prevention Specialist, Atzahel Rojas. Front row: Tyvon Davis, Ricky Carpenter, Shyheim Rush



LIT Showcase 2011 continued

Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence #18

- Won first place in the Take-A-Stand Banner Contest & Walk received a \$100 prize
- Donated a Tops gift card to a school custodian who was receiving cancer treatments
- Volunteered at custodian's benefit by serving food and facilitated the raffle drawing

Native American Magnet School #19

- Held a book drive that resulted in over 300 books being donated. Gave books to Peace of the City on the West Side and taught a lesson to the homework club on leadership

Hillery Park Elementary #27

- Did Red Ribbon Week activities at school
- Collected money for Habitat For Humanity's Nickels for Nails
- Packaged food for homeless animals for Friends of Pets
- Held a Candy Bar Sale fundraiser for WNY United's LIT Program

Harriet Ross Tubman #31

- Raised and collected "Pennies For Patients" for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society
- Made greeting cards through the American Red Cross for the men and women serving overseas
- Delivered American Cancer Society daffodils to teachers who supported the cause

Bilingual Center #33

- Adopted a soldier with which they became pen pals. The recipients were found on a website dedicated to soldiers who didn't receive mail

Martin Luther King Multicultural Institute #39

- Collected money for the American Diabetes Association
- Participated in Red Ribbon Week
- Made greeting cards through the American Red Cross for the men and women serving overseas
- Delivered Hospice Bouquets to teachers who supported the cause

Lovejoy Discovery School #43

- Donated food to the Food Bank of Western New York for the holiday season

Lorraine Elementary #72

- Raised \$774 by holding a Hospice Bouquet sale. Proceeds went to Hospice of Buffalo

Dr. Lydia T. Wright #89

- Donated 695 pounds of canned goods to the Food Bank of Western New York
- Decorated the main school display case throughout the year
- Created Holiday Care packages for soldiers overseas and received a certificate of appreciation from the troops
- Ran a chocolate sucker fundraiser sale for Valentine's Day and used the profits to buy window treatments for the Plymouth Crossroads house

BUILD Academy #91

- Hosted the Red Ribbon Rally
- Created a video about five ways to "Say No"
- Held clothing drive for Plymouth Crossroads house
- Mentored and tutored students in first grade

Southside Elementary #93

- Ran a food drive and delivered food to the Food Bank of Western New York for the holiday season.
- Managed a carnation sale for Valentine's Day with the proceeds going to the Summer LIT Program
- Participated in Take A Stand Banner Contest & Walk for which they created a drug-free slogan to be displayed in their community

Frederick Law Olmsted #156

- Made blankets and collected donations for the SPCA of Erie County

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts #192

- Collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house which were recycled for money that was used to buy items for the house
- Used their artistic talent to make scarves for the homeless women and children of Buffalo
- Devised a plan to plant flowers around the school in the spring

Cleveland Hill Middle School

- Held a donation drive for the SPCA, collecting towels, newspapers, treats, & stuffed animals and made dog treats out of peanut butter and oat
- Helped with the giving tree at Cleveland Hill
- Wrote thank you cards for teachers

The event was a successful one for the Leaders In Training students and the WNY United staff. It was another snap shot in the already highly accomplished resume of these outstanding students. These truly remarkable students, with the guidance of their Prevention Specialists, will hopefully continue to make an impact in their schools and communities as they graduate into eighth grade LIT members.



PARENT DRUG AWARENESS FORUMS

In order to decrease underage drinking and drug use, parents and schools need to work together. Studies show that there is no greater influence on a young person's decision about substance abuse than his or her parents or guardian. Many parents, however, report a lack of knowledge on current drug issues. A growing number of school districts in Erie County have employed a bold new strategy to get parents the help they need by participating in the "Parent Drug Awareness Program."

Starting in 2008, in collaboration with ECCPASA and the Erie County Sheriff's Department, Western New York United began targeting underage use by conducting Parent Drug Awareness Forums in Erie County school districts. Interested school districts are provided with a 90-minute education forum for parents of children participating in sports and/or school functions. The concept of these forums was created in collaboration with local community interest groups, school boards and school superintendents. The forums teach parents about the risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of serving minors.

Parent Forum Components:

- Why the Program is offered
- Warning signs and symptoms of drug abuse
- Effects of drugs on brain development
- What's different about drug abuse today
Local drug trends and paraphernalia
- Risks and legal consequences

The Erie County Sheriff's office also provides handouts with valuable information like underage drinking laws.

Past Parent Drug Awareness Forums have taken place in many different school districts including Amherst, Cleveland Hill, Eden, Iroquois and Lakeshore. In 2011 alone, 681 parents have attended a Parent Drug Awareness Forum and received a wealth of information regarding current drug issues. With this information, parents are better equipped to discuss drug issues with their children and to help their children make informed and responsible decisions. For more information about how these Parent Drug Awareness Forums can be provided in your school district or community, please contact Karen Smith at ksmith@wnyunited.org or by phone at (716) 821-7722 ext. 316.

2011 FRIENDS OF PREVENTION HONORED

Each year WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse honors a few individuals who have made a tremendous impact on the children or communities they serve. These "**Friends of Prevention**" have gone above and beyond the level of support WNY United receives on a regular basis.

The Friends of Prevention were honored on Coca Cola field in a pre-game ceremony on Sunday, May 29th. Beth Anzalone, Program Director for the Agency was on the field to present the recognition plaques. **Congratulations to each of you on being chosen as a 2011 "Friend of Prevention".**

- ▶ Darlene Jesonowski – Principal at Southside Elementary School BPS #93
- ▶ Patrick McCabe – Principal at Cleveland Hill Elementary School
- ▶ Diane Cozzo – Director of Educational Services for Buffalo Public Schools
- ▶ Erich Reidell – Principal of Lake Shore Middle School
- ▶ Mark Frazier - Lead Community Superintendent for Buffalo Public Schools
- ▶ Kim Heimborg – President of the Boys and Girls Club of Lake Shore



2011 Friends of Prevention: Diane Cozzo, Patrick McCabe, Darlene Jesonowski and Director Beth Anzalone.

Mark Your Calendars!

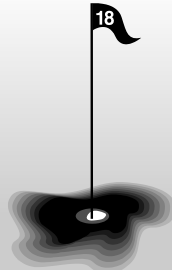
SEVENTH ANNUAL



GOLF TOURNAMENT
in Memory of Robert E. Rich

Monday, August 29th, 2011
East Aurora Country Club
11:30 Lunch - 12:30 Shotgun

to benefit



Contact Drew O'Connor at 821-7722, ext 328
or doconnor@wnyunitied.org for more information.

**VISIT WNY UNITED WITH WYRK-FM
AT THE ERIE COUNTY FAIR**

For the 19th consecutive year, WNY United will partner with WYRK-FM at the Erie County Fair. For a \$1.00 donation, visitors to the WYRK-FM booth will be able to try one of their games of chance like the "Wheel of Prizes" or "Country Clinko." **EVERYONE WINS A PRIZE!**



WYRK-FM has raised nearly \$150,000 for WNY United at the Erie County Fair through a partnership that started back in 1993. This year, the Fair will run from **Wednesday, August 10th through Sunday, August 21st.**

In order to continue our success; WNY United needs your help. Prizes like vouchers for free items or services or promotional items from local businesses are always needed. Anyone interested in donating prizes to the fair promotion should contact **Drew O'Connor 821-7722 ext. 328** or e-mail at doconnor@wnyunitied.org or **Amy Damasiewicz 821-7722 ext. 336** or email at adamasiewicz@wnyunitied.org.

Come see us at the Fair!

*WNY United Digest is published periodically. We encourage community members to submit dates of interest and articles for sharing in this newsletter.
Send to: WNY United Digest, 1195 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14213
ATTN.: Kate Chudoba, Editor, or e-mail at kchudoba@wnyunitied.org or fax at 821-7733.*



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Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc.

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