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***Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana: An Outstanding Partnership***  
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**SEPTEMBER PSA**

September's PSA focuses on prevalence rates for hallucinogens and psychedelics from the IPRC's 2004 ATOD Survey

Check it out at:  
[www.drugs.indiana.edu/hottopics/mattes/pdfs/](http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/hottopics/mattes/pdfs/)

**SAMHSA RELEASES  
DRUG SURVEY**

SAMHSA's 2003 National Survey on Drug Use & Health was released the afternoon of September 9th of 2004. An estimated 19.5 million Americans aged 12 or older currently use an illicit drug, 70.8 million currently smoked tobacco, and 119 million currently drank alcohol.

Read more at  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

The Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University is funded, in part, by the Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction/FSSA.

Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana has been providing fun, engaging activities for Hoosier youth in the after school hours for seven consecutive years. A recent monograph prepared by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University provides evidence for the positive impact that this program has had on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use by Indiana youth. This success is attributable to the hard work and dedication of a plethora of outstanding partners that have pulled together to make *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* a success. In particular, schools, churches and social service agencies have contributed to this tremendous effort and helped guarantee a healthier future for our youth.

Schools ~ Administrators and teachers recognize the deleterious effects of ATOD use on the school environment. In particular, ATOD use increases incidents of problem behavior and undermines academic achievement. Schools have embraced *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* by providing space, staff, resources, and a connection with the community. For example, the administration of the Portage Township School Corporation in Porter County provides incredible support to *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* in the form of free access to the building and facilities as well as free transportation for the youth. Program provider Dave Kasarda praises Portage Township Schools calling them a "model of what a school system can mean to a community...we are very blessed."

New Prairie United School Corporation has also made a commitment to their youth by offering Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana programs. Tina Social Service Advisor and Program Supervisor Tina Kaldahl points out that, "what is so unique and special about this program is that our school corporation saw the importance of this drug prevention program." In return *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* programs have positively impacted youth resulting in healthier students that are drug-free, well-behaved, and ready to learn.

Faith-Based Organizations ~ Clergy and others in the faith-based community recognize the important role that spirituality and religiosity play in positive youth development. In fact, a personal moral code and commitment to conventional lines of action protect against ATOD use. Like schools, churches have supported *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* and contributed to its success. For example, Youth Pastor Tommy Beatley has served youth in multiple counties in southern Indiana this past year. He has seen a positive change in attitude among the youth and the formation of positive bonds with others. In addition, the participants take the *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* message home to parents. As a result of the involvement of churches and individuals like Mr. Beatley, *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* has encouraged youth to make connections with other prosocial individuals in their communities and remain ATOD-free.

Social Service Agencies ~ Health practitioners, social

workers, and youth workers have firsthand experience with the physical, social, and emotional damage caused by ATOD use. These professionals have focused their expertise on preventing ATOD use-related problems before they begin by offering *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* programs. For example, Dave Kasarda serves five groups of youth each year at the Portage Township YMCA in Porter County. Dave has been with Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana since its inception as has Dorothy Saeuberlich of Creative Clubhouse. A pediatric intensive care nurse by training, Dorothy takes the program "on the road" to two schools in Starke County and is presently negotiating with a hospital in Pulaski County to incorporate *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* into their on-going community education program. Thanks to the contributions of these individuals and other professionals, Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana has armed youth with an arsenal of problem-solving, conflict resolution, and refusal skills to keep them ATOD-free.

Schools, faith-based organizations, and social service agencies have pulled together to provide quality prevention programs in their communities. As Indiana gears up for another great year of *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana* programs, hearty thanks go out to all of the devoted and enthusiastic individuals that have made Indiana a great place to be young!

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