Alcohol claimed 2,104 Hoosier lives in the year 2000 (Indiana Social Indicator System); was responsible for 27% of Indiana’s motor vehicle fatalities in 2004 (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) and absorbed an estimated $148 billion in economic costs to American society (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2001). April is Alcohol Awareness Month and this issue is dedicated to those whose lives have been negatively impacted by alcohol.

Regardless of the current drug trend, alcohol remains a steady contender as the most popular drug of choice in America and for many Hoosier youth. According to the Indiana Prevention Resource Center’s Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents 2005 survey, alcohol was reported to be the most commonly abused substance across the board (6th through 12th grades) in 2005, despite the steep decline in alcohol prevalence rates for the first time since the 1990’s. According to the Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 75% of all Indiana high school students surveyed reported ever having used alcohol (Indiana State Department of Health, 2005). Although these data indicate improvement in alcohol consumption among youth over time, alcohol abuse continues to rage on.

Countering the trend of alcohol use among youth, prevention providers are gaining momentum through town hall meetings, panel discussions, expert speakers, conferences and events to continue to drive Indiana’s youth alcohol rates down. In recognition of Alcohol Awareness Month, we encourage you to remain active in your community and keep the momentum going.

Alcohol Awareness Tips:

- Release local information on alcohol trends with prevention resources and activities in a fact sheet, editorial or handout.
- Collaborate with community centers, business and/or faith leaders to host alcohol-free activities for all ages.

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Engage youth as well as adults in the planning process.
Invite representatives from the press for post event publicity.

Contact the Indiana Prevention Resource Center for consulting services or resources to promote your alcohol awareness campaign.

If you or someone you care for may have a problem with an addiction call 800-662-HELP for a treatment provider near you.

TRAININGS AND EVENTS


April 13th Three Keys to Effective Parenting. Whiteland, IN. http://oak.gws.k12.in.us/service/Rosemond%20registration.htm.


April 25th Columbus Public Forum. Columbus, IN. http://www.doe.state.in.us.


For additional events visit: www.drugs.indiana.edu

Sources used for cover article:


The Indiana Prevention Resource Center is funded, in part, by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, financially supported through IHS/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. The IPRC is operated by the Indiana University Department of Applied Health Science and School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. It is affiliated with the Department’s Institute of Drug Abuse Prevention. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Trustees of Indiana University or the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. Indiana University accepts full responsibility for the content of this publication. © Copyright 2006 by the Trustees of Indiana University.