



The Role of Schools in Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment

**The Opiate Crisis: School Districts' and
Communities' Call to Action**

May 3, 2017

New Jersey School Boards Association



Who are we?

- ASAP-NJ was founded in 1983 to meet the needs of New Jersey youth in education, prevention, intervention, and referral services in areas of high-risk behaviors including the use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and addictive behaviors. A not-for-profit organization, the group is made up of over 300 Student Assistance Professionals (SAPs), Student Assistance Coordinators (SACs) prevention specialists, educators, and health care professionals.
- [Statewide contacts](#)



What's a SAC???

- **Academic and attendance problems are often due to underlying issues.**
- **Student Assistance Counseling is a process where students meet with a specially trained professional counselor to discuss any problem they may be experiencing, such as:**
 - Family problems
 - School problems
 - Drugs / alcohol (42 CFR)
 - Depression and other emotional problems
 - Relationship issues
 - Stress or anxiety
 - Bullying
 - Eating disorders
 - ANY other issues



What we're seeing

Drugs and alcohol

- Use, abuse, dependence
- Family addiction
- Normalization

Mental health

- Stress and anxiety disorders
- Depression, suicide
- Self-injurious behaviors
- Eating disorders

Social - emotional

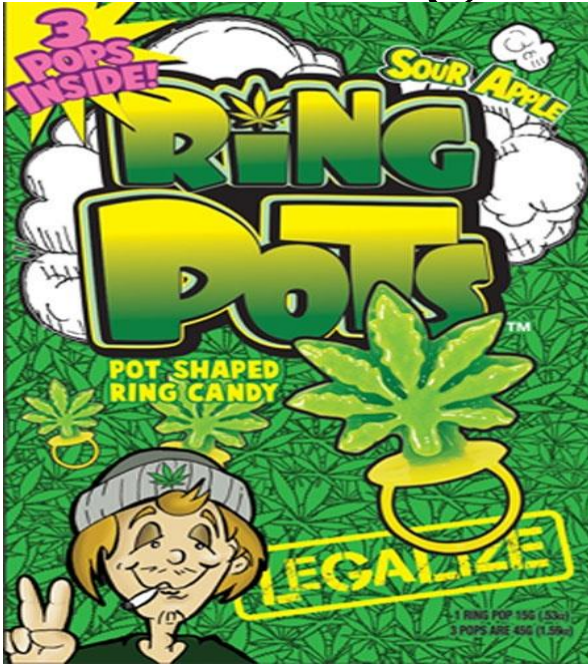
- Bullying, violence, gang involvement
- Relationship issues
- Family dysfunction
- LGBTQI issues

Gone are the days...

- [Jeff Spicoli](#) is ready for school!



New drug trends – how do we keep up?



- Pot Candy





- ***‘Academic doping’ on the rise: Number of students abusing ADHD drugs increasing*** — NBC, October 10th, 2016
- ***New heroin? ADHD drug abuse similar to opioids*** — APP, Sept. 2016
- ***In Their Own Words: ‘Study Drugs’*** — NY Times, June 2012



\$58 for t-shirt?

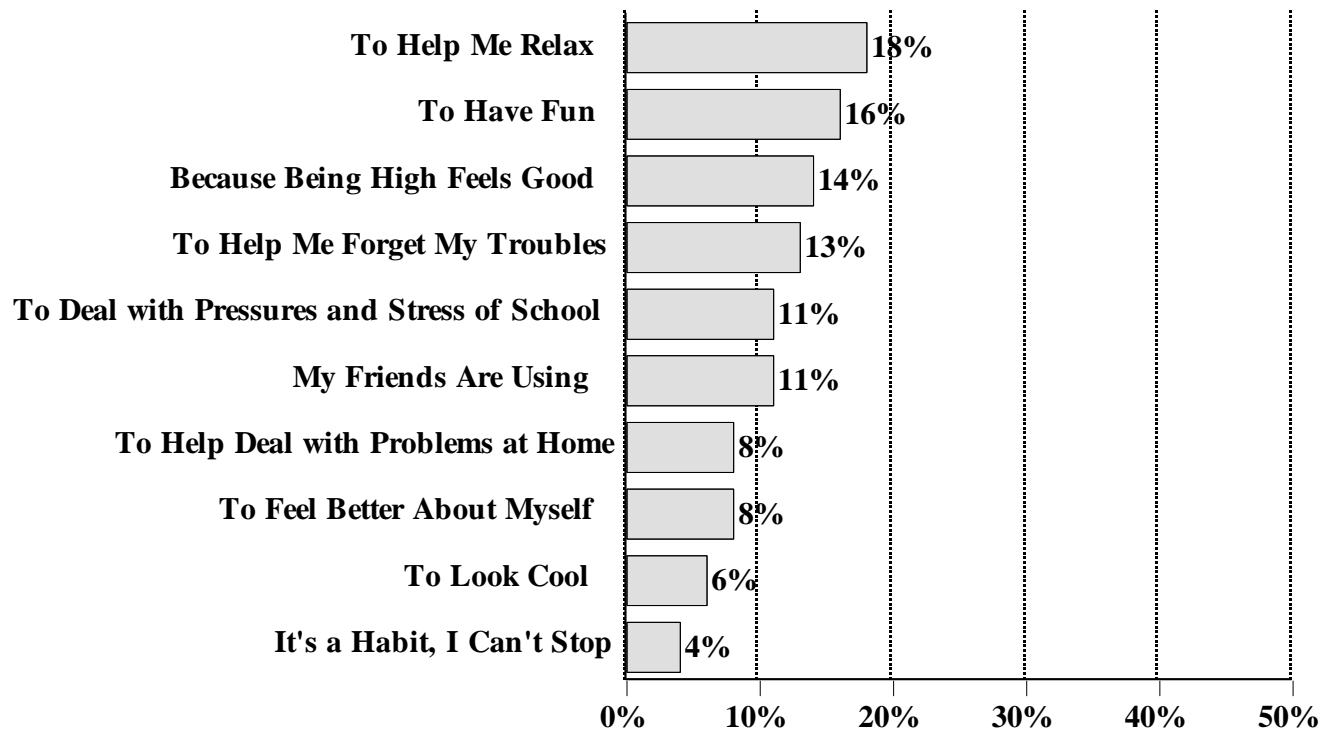
\$98 for sweatshirt?



“What Was the Main Reason Why You Last Used a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription?”

(N=3,884 U.S. High School Students Reporting Lifetime Use of a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription)

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the MetLife Foundation, *The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATs): Teens and Parents*, 2013. Available online at <http://www.drugfree.org/newsroom/research-publication/full-report-and-key-findings-the-2012-partnership-attitude-tracking-study-sponsored-by-metlife-foundation> .





HEROIN

Killer
of a generation



Obstacles in the schools

- Sitting in class struggling with mental health
- Confidentiality – 42 CFR still applies
- Misunderstanding/misperception by administrators/teachers
- Helicopter/Lawnmower parents
- “Right of Passage”
- Increased testing and academic pressures



Where is their information coming from?



GLAMORIZING??



- ***Breaking Bad*** is the story of a struggling high school chemistry teacher who is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer at the beginning of the series. He turns to a life of crime, producing and selling methamphetamine in order to secure his family's financial future before he dies, teaming with his former student.



- ***Weeds*** is an American dark comedy-drama. The central character is Nancy Botwin, a widowed mother of two boys who begins selling cannabis to support her family after her husband dies suddenly of a heart attack. Over the course of the show, she and her family become increasingly entangled in illegal activities.

The series follows the dysfunctional family of Frank Gallagher, a single father of six children. While he spends his days drunk, his kids learn to take care of themselves.



OR...



WHAT CAN BE DONE?



good things
take
time

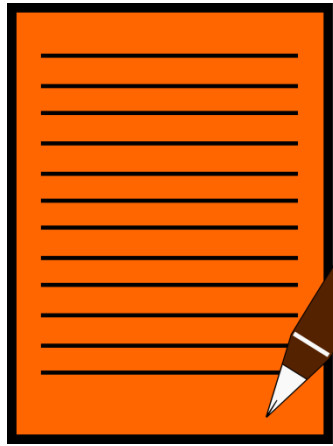
- Prevention and Intervention Efforts
 - Advocacy for our students
- Awareness and Education for Parents and Community Members
- Coordination with outside support services

making
- a -
difference



ASAP- NJ Statewide Efforts

- Collaborating with GCADA and county alliances in prevention efforts
- Consultation with DOE on research-based programs to supplement the health/phys ed curriculum
- Educational workshops with Legal One/NJPSA
- Middlesex County's "Social Work Before Police Work" movement
- Cumberland County's Opiate Initiative
- Supporting Recovery High Schools



Legislation support

- “The SAC Bill” – 1/1000
– Schools CANNOT CUT SACS!
- Senator Burzichelli and Senator Van Drew sponsoring Bills A3481 and S2031



Thank You!

- www.asapnj.org
- @ASAPNJ_SAC

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