

Drug Free Adams County

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Drug Free

Adams County
Rays of Hope for a Better Tomorrow

Drug Abuse Trends – Be “In the Know”

Drug abuse is the use of illegal drugs, or the use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs excessively or for purposes other than how they are meant to be used. Knowing the trends, and educating your children on the dangers related to drugs can help keep your family safe.

Recent Drug Abuse Trends:

- Marijuana use among high school seniors is currently the highest it’s been since 1979.
- Vaping skyrocketed from 13.2% in 2017 to 32.7% in 2019.
- Drug traffickers have increasingly produced methamphetamine made to look like pastel-colored bits of candy or Flintstone children’s vitamins, which is convenient to ship.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs are responsible for a growing number of overdoses. Examples of this are:
 - Antidiarrheal Loperamide (Immodium): Larger-than-recommended doses can cause opioid-like effects, similar to fentanyl, heroin, or oxycodone. Loperamide overdoses have been increasing in incidence and severity.
 - “Benadryl Challenge”: Teenagers have been hospitalized after overdosing on diphenhydramine (Benadryl), and idea they got after watching videos on TikTok that claimed teens could get high and hallucinate if they took a dozen or more Benadryl tablets. Benadryl is also dangerous when combined with pain medications and decongestants; taking Benadryl with either type of medication can lead to an unintentional overdose.
- Three powerful synthetic opioids not authorized for medical use are causing overdoses and even death – isotonitazene (“iso”), xylazine (an animal tranquilizer also known as “tranq dope”), and brophine (“purple heroin”).



Remember, research shows that teens who learn about the risks of alcohol and drugs from their parents are up to 50% less likely to drink alcohol or use drugs.

Talking to your teens can save lives.

For more information, please visit our website: www.DrugFreeAdamsCounty.org