

The Drug Culture: The Role of Awareness in Prevention and Intervention of Youth Substance Use

The culture of youth is ever evolving with each new decade. Understanding the world of our youth is very much a cat and mouse game. Just when we think we have it figured out, a new trend arises. Staying engaged in the lives of our youth, asking questions, listening, having conversations and paying attention to behaviors can help us in our endeavors to stay ahead. When it comes to drug references, it may be hard for the average parent or educator to detect. Popular music, clothing and language is often filled with hidden meanings that without education, adults may be blind to otherwise. Drug culture can also be seen in the online world. The accessibility of drug paraphernalia, information and connections to others who may be engaging in at-risk behaviors can easily be found via the internet.

One of our greatest roles in SCIP is to increase awareness and education of parents and school professionals surrounding youth substance use. SCIP had the pleasure of attending the Northeast Nebraska Drug Symposium in December. Jermaine Galloway is an international instructor on trends in drug/alcohol culture and enforcement methods. After spending nearly 20 years in law enforcement working to reduce underage drinking and drug use, Galloway now devotes his career to educating professionals, parents and communities in the hope of better equipping communities in their youth substance use prevention efforts. Teaching by the motto, "You can't stop what you don't know", Galloway provided us with valuable information that can assist us in recognizing drug references within current youth culture.

The Internet and Drug Use

YouTube

- How to Make Pot Brownies
- Cannabis 101
- Hash School: Make Your Own Dabs
- How to Make High Grade Extracts

Online Stores

- Only requirement is you must click a box that says you are 18
- Can purchase an assortment of drug paraphernalia, including clothing used to hide drugs.
 - www.everyonedoesit.com
 - www.rollingpaperwarehouse.com
 - www.paraphernailaboutique.com
 - www.grasscity.com
- Be aware that there are online sales for synthetic drugs that are often advertised as Research Chemicals (RC). Sometimes called designer drugs, synthetics are highly dangerous, come out of a lab and are often stronger than the drug it was meant to mimic. Manufacturers of "Research Chemicals" are constantly changing formulas to avoid laws.
 - <https://www.smokeyschemsite.com>

Clothing

- Green Arbor Clothing is known to make clothing that references the drug culture.
 - <http://greenarborclothing.com/history/>
 - Produces t-shirts highlighting different marijuana strains.
 - Sour Diesel, Girl Scout Cookies, Pineapple Express (all different marijuana strains.)
- Be aware of certain clothing lines that provide “stash” compartments and hidden pockets inside garments to hide drugs.
- Supra, No Bad Ideas and Grassroots are examples.



Language/Symbols

- *Molly*- A reference to Ecstasy
- *420*- A term in marijuana culture for the international pot smoking time and day (4:20 or 4/20).
- *710*- The word oil upside down in reference to marijuana concentrates.
- *Image of double Styrofoam cups*- a reference to a mixture of cough syrup (active ingredient DXM) and soda. Also referred to as Lean, Dirty Sprite, Purple Drank and Sizzurp. When mixed in high quantities has the effect of drunkenness to hallucinations.



References: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov (DEA Resource); Jermain Galloway (2017)

School Community Intervention and Prevention

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