

Drugs Don't Work

Hodac, Inc., Drugs Don't Work Support Center

Drugs of Abuse



1-800-338-6745

Let us help you find the resources you need

Trained information specialists
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Free information and resource referral for
Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Adolescent Residential Treatment
Outpatient Treatment
12-Step Group Meetings
Prevention Programs

1-800-338-6745

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DUI Risk Reduction

Classes

Will be held Sept. 12th and 13th from 9am-5pm 14th and 15th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm.

Call Hodac, at
953-5675

- You must have an assessment prior to attending class. Call office to schedule.
- The assessment is \$75.00. The 20-hour course is \$205.00
- A picture ID is required first day of class.

Opiates

“The three major health consequences of heroin use are addiction, illness, death due to overdoses, and viruses passed through the blood using shared needles.”

The illicit use of opiates has serious health and economic consequences in the United States and other countries. More than 15 million adults are estimated to use these drugs in the early 2000s. One of the most common intervention programs used to stop illicit opiate abuse is sending users to prison. However, this has been shown to be the least effective way to address addiction to these drugs. Strategies that are more effective take a medical approach to addiction and aim to reduce harm to the user. Opiates include heroin and opium, which are prohibited nearly everywhere. These drugs have a sedating effect and are highly addictive. Addicts typically use them for many years. Heroin accounts for more than half of illicit opiate use and is usually injected. Law enforcement efforts typically reduce the supply of the drug, thereby increasing its price and discouraging its use. People who use heroin despite these policies often turn to injection as the most efficient way to use an expensive drug. Moreover, users often share needles,

putting them at risk of blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C. The three major health consequences of heroin use are addiction, illness, death due to overdoses, and viruses passed through the blood using shared needles.

Heroin addicts have an increased risk of premature death from drug overdose, violence, suicide, and alcohol-related causes. Heroin-related deaths occur mainly among young adults and account for a large number of life years lost in the United States and other countries.

In countries with a high prevalence of HIV infection, AIDS is a major cause of death among opiate users. In parts of Asia, Eastern Europe, and the United States, sharing contaminated needles accounts for a substantial proportion of new HIV infections.

People who inject drugs are also commonly infected with hepatitis B and C viruses; more than 60 percent of users in Australia, Canada, China, the United States, and Europe are infected, and 75 percent of the infections are chronic. Up to

one-tenth of those with hepatitis C, develop liver cirrhosis, which is often fatal.

Preventing Heroin Use

Governments use a variety of intervention methods in hopes to preventing people from starting illicit drug use:

- Controlling the supply of opium in source countries
- Making the possession, sale, and use of the drugs unlawful
- Enforcing these sanctions through fines and imprisonment; and
- Supporting mass media and school-based education campaigns about the health risks of illicit drug use

Because legal sanctions are often used to curb illicit drug use, imprisonment is the most common intervention tool used for heroin users. Treatment options include voluntary

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Preventing Heroin Use (continued from front)

programs that use a combination of supervised withdrawal, counseling, self-help, and substitute medications, as well as involuntary treatment imposed by the criminal justice system. If carried out humanely and effectively, treatment also can reduce harm to users of heroin and other opiates.

- Detoxification is supervised withdrawal from a drug to minimize withdrawal symptoms.
- Abstinence-oriented treatments provide some type of intervention after withdrawal to reduce the high rate of relapse to opiate use. The interventions may include social and psychological support—through self-help groups such as Narcotics Anonymous, drug counseling, or mental health services provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis.
- Oral methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) substitutes a long-acting, orally administered opiate for the shorter-acting heroin, with the aim of stabilizing heroin addicts so that they are amenable to counseling and behavior change
- Imprisonment is the most common intervention for heroin users in the United States and other countries. It is not a health intervention; in fact, studies have shown high rates of relapse among imprisoned heroin users.
- Legally coerced treatment is most often given as an alternative to prison, with the threat of imprisonment if the person fails to comply with treatment. A consensus report prepared for WHO states “compulsory treatment is only legally and ethically justified if due process is followed and the treatment provided is ethical and humane.” Studies have shown that drug users who joined therapy groups or received drug counseling or MMT under legal pressure did as well as those who did so voluntarily.

For More Information

Hall, W., C. Doran, L. Degenhardt, and D. Shepard. 2006. “Illicit Opiate Use.” In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, 2nd ed., ed. D. T. Jamison, J. G. Breman, A. R. Measham, G. Alleyne, M. Claeson, D.B. Evans, P. Jha, A. Mills, and P. Musgrove, 907-931. New York: Oxford University Press.

Visit us on our website

Our mission is to extend a helping hand to those we serve in Georgia through education, advocacy, prevention and intervention.



This newsletter is published to provide timely information to readers. Its content is not intended as advice for individual problems. Editorial material does not imply endorsement by the owner, publisher, editor or distributors. The reading of this newsletter is equivalent to 10 minutes of employee training for Drugs Don't Work members. For questions regarding your newsletter or DDW program contact DDW Representative, Sherielle Sands at (478) 953-5675 ext. 234

Defensive Driving

Defensive Driving Classes will be held on Aug. 8th and 22nd from 9am – 4pm.

You must register in advance. Cost of class is \$75.00 cash or money order. You can get points off your driving record, or get your license reinstated, or get a discount on your driving insurance.

Hodac's Victim Resource Center seeks volunteers for Volunteer Response Teams

Attention!

Must be 18 with own transportation

Must submit to Background check

Must pass a Drug Screen

Please call Hodac, Inc. at 478-953-5675

United Way of Central Georgia

For help with . . .

- counseling - childcare
- shelter - food - and more

United Way



Drug Free Work Week: October 19-25, 2009

Drug-Free Work Week is a dedicated time each year to highlight the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities. And, it's a time to work toward making every week a drug-free work week! It spreads the word that working drug free works to prevent accidents and make workplaces safer; improve productivity and reduce costs; encourage people with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. According to recent research, it's a message that many workers need to hear. 75 percent of the nation's current illegal drug users are employed—and 3.1 percent say they have actually used illegal drugs before or during work hours. 79 percent of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed—and 7.1 percent say they have actually consumed alcohol during the workday. Drug-free workplace programs help protect employers and employees alike from the potentially devastating consequences of worker alcohol or drug abuse.