

# In The Know

A monthly newsletter to keep you current and In The Know on topics related to the Prevention of Substance Abuse

## What does the medical marijuana law really mean?

As most people are aware the New York State Governor signed legislation creating a medical marijuana law. New York State is now the 23rd state with some form of legislation covering medical marijuana. This new law will take effect in 18 months giving the state time for regulations, training of doctors, and the establishing of growing and distribution centers. One provision added to the law allows for its rescinding if at any time the program creates a risk to public safety and that it will expire within seven years, unless lawmakers go through the process to reauthorize it.

The new law has strict guidelines, one of which does not

allow for medical marijuana to be used in smoked form. State Commissioner Howard Zucker stated that "having spent billions of dollars in the effort to eliminate smoking (cigarettes), it goes against all wisdom of public health to turn our backs on all that we have done in this area."

However, marijuana will be available in edibles, oils and vaporization to deliver the intended effective amounts of marijuana. In the future it would take another Legislature vote to include smoking.

Under the bill only those diagnosed with epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases, neuropathies, spinal cord injuries, cancer and

HIV/AIDS are eligible. Any disease can be added or removed at anytime.

Those wishing to receive medical marijuana will receive an ID card to be carried at all times and will cost \$50 per year (hardship waivers available). It is thought that prescriptions will not be covered under most insurances because marijuana is still illegal at the federal level.

Not every doctor is going to be able to prescribe medical marijuana either as they will have to go through a training process and receive a special certification and state registration allowing them to prescribe and the patient

must be a part of their continuing care.

So what about people obtaining medical marijuana from less than honest doctors? The state has also taken this into consideration and made provisions. Prescribing marijuana for patients who do not qualify will be a felony and a doctor could spend up to four years in jail. Also, anyone trying to distribute medical marijuana without the licensing will be charged with a misdemeanor.

For more information on medical marijuana you can contact us at (607) 776-6441.

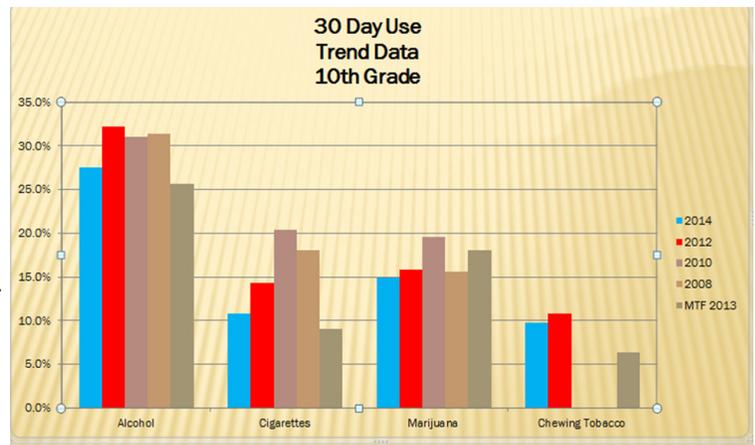
## Key findings from the 2014 Risk and Protective Survey

In March 2014, the Steuben Prevention Coalition (SPC) distributed a Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey to some of our youth in Steuben County. The youth were comprised of 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders from 9 different school districts in our county. There were a total of 2278 students surveyed with an almost even split of 49.6% male and 50.4% female. The Coalition has completed this survey bi-yearly since 2008 in order to gather information regarding student's involvement in problem behaviors. The sur-

vey asks the students questions pertaining to several different risk factors and protective factors that could be present in their lives. Examples of risk factors could be the availability of drugs and family conflict. Protective factors for students could be the ability to bond with family, peers and members of the community. The survey was scientifically compiled and the results summarized for the Coalition by Bach Harrison L.L.C. There were numerous results obtained but the 30 Day Use trend

data of our 10<sup>th</sup> graders can be summed up in the chart provided. If you would like more information about the

survey and the Coalition you can contact Pam Aini, SPC Program Assistant at [paini@dor.org](mailto:paini@dor.org).



Do you or someone you care about need help because of Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling call:

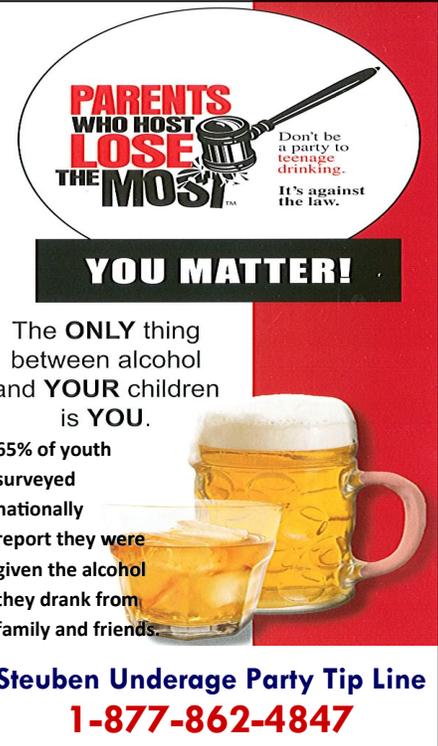
**1-877-8HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week \* Free & confidential information and referrals.

# In The Know and By The Numbers

A look at current statistics and figures relating to marijuana.

- About 9% of people who try marijuana will become addicted to it. The number goes up to about 1 in 6 among people who start using marijuana as teenagers, and to 25-50% among daily users. ([www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana-medicine](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana-medicine))
- An average marijuana cigarette contains nearly 50% more of the cancer-causing chemical benzopyrene than the average tobacco cigarette.
- The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) found adolescents who smoke pot 85 times more likely to use cocaine than their non-pot smoking peers.
- CASA also found that 60% of youngsters who use marijuana before they turn 15 later go on to use cocaine.
- The daily use of 1 to 3 marijuana joints can produce the same lung damage and potential cancer risk as smoking five times as many cigarettes. ([www.intheknowzone.com/substance-abuse-topics/marijuana/statistics.html](http://www.intheknowzone.com/substance-abuse-topics/marijuana/statistics.html))
- Marijuana is the second most frequently found substance in the bodies of drivers involved in fatal automobile accidents. ([www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/marijuana/international-statistics.html](http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/marijuana/international-statistics.html))



**PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST**

Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

**YOU MATTER!**

The **ONLY** thing between alcohol and **YOUR** children is **YOU**.

65% of youth surveyed nationally report they were given the alcohol they drank from family and friends.

**Steuben Underage Party Tip Line**  
**1-877-862-4847**

## Catholic Charities Steuben Prevention Services

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Phone: (607) 776-6441

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Prevention Educators:

Barb McCollum, Stacey O'Dell,  
Nicole Jordan, Michele Sexsmith

Administrative Assistant &  
DDP Coordinator: Diana McIntosh

Clerical Assistant: Peggy Wurzer

Drug Free Communities Coordinator:  
Norm McCumiskey

Drug Free Communities Program  
Assistant: Pam Aini

**Bath Hope for Youth Counselors:**  
Sherry Sutton—Campbell-Savona  
Bridgette Lanphere—Hammondspport  
Jennifer Beaty—Haverling

## The Council Corner

Steuben Council on Addictions would like to thank Prevention Educator Nicole Jordan for her outstanding dedication to the people we serve for the past two years. She has worked in multiple locations throughout Steuben County and has impacted the community and local schools to make healthier decisions and live healthier lives. Nicole has done a tremendous job supervising and participating in the JSYRC Summer Youth Program successfully for two years. She will be missed greatly. We appreciate all of her diligence and dedication to SCA and JSYRC. We wish Nicole the best of luck as she pursues her future endeavors!



Steuben Council on Addictions secured a \$500 grant from the Tyrle Beach Fund for educational resources geared toward youth ages 5-17. Games, puppets and educational materials will be purchased. The materials will enhance the delivery of our vital programs in schools and community setting benefits the students by increasing skills. A Tyrle Beach award was also granted to the John Southard Youth Recreation Commission for \$500 to be used for field for the Summer Youth Program. We appreciate the continued support from Tyrle Beach, the Steuben County Youth Bureau and WVIN.

Steuben Council on Addictions is a division of Catholic Charities Steuben. In The Know is a regular monthly update about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help in the prevention of substance use and abuse. For more information please contact Stacey O'Dell, Prevention Educator at [sodell@dor.org](mailto:sodell@dor.org).

Catholic Charities  
Steuben County