



TOGETHER FOR JACKSON COUNTY KIDS

Together for Jackson County Kids

Danger Right Under Your Nose

It's been used by more teens than any other illegal drug except marijuana. It can kill the first time it's used. Kids can get it without any problem. "It" is the class of drugs collectively known as inhalants, and as a current ad campaign from the partnership for a Drug-Free America notes, the chemicals used in this deadly form of substance abuse aren't only found on the street—they're right under your sink.

"It's all the stuff we worried about when they were toddlers," said Anne Rickards, whose 14-year-old son was found dead in an Essington, Pennsylvania park with a butane canister in his hand. "We would say, 'No, get away from that,' stuff we thought they would swallow. Well, the spray can also kill them as teenagers."

That's what happened early this year on a road outside Philadelphia,

where the coroner says an honors student inhaled aerosol fumes and lost consciousness while driving. Her car plowed into a tree, killing her nearly two years to the day after five other girls from the same region were killed in a car crash blamed on inhalants.

"I'm afraid that huffing has become more of an in-thing for kids to do," said Chester County coroner Rodger Rothenberger. The numbers suggest he's right: according to the 2000 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, 21 percent of all teens in America—one in five—have tried inhalants. Only alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana have been tried by more kids.

"Young people think inhaling a gas is harmless," said Chattanooga, Tennessee, addictions counselor Pat Fitzpatrick. "It doesn't look like a drug."

But the reality is that inhalants can kill, and they have also been linked to brain damage, liver and kidney problems, hearing loss and limb spasms—all risks linked to chasing a high that often lasts just a matter of minutes.

Inhalants can be found in hundreds of common products, including nail polish remover, cleaning fluids, hair spray, gasoline, the propellant in aerosol whipped cream, spray paint, fabric protector, modeling glue, air conditioner fluid (freon), cooking spray and correction fluid. The fumes can be sniffed, snorted, inhaled from a plastic bag or "huffed" from an inhalant-soaked rag, sock, or roll of toilet paper or sniffed directly from the container—and access to products kids can abuse is easy.

"A person doesn't have to go somewhere seedy to get this stuff," said Harvey Weiss, executive

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I'm interested in more information on Together for Jackson County Kids

Name _____
 Agency/Organization _____
 Address _____
 E-mail address _____
 Office phone# _____
 Home phone# _____

Mail To: Together For Jackson County Kids
 227 S. 11th St.
 Black River Falls, WI 54615
 715-284-4257

Wanted: Planning Partners

Every year, Together for Jackson County Kids plans a youth-friendly coalition event. In the past, these events have included festivals, healthy choices fairs, teen jams, and more.

This year's event will take place in June and the coalition is forming a planning committee. Your ideas are needed!!!

If you would like to participate in the planning committee and help to choose the theme for the event, please contact Lisa Hodge at:

lhodge000@centurytel.net

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) is a model program that Together for Jackson County Kids hopes to implement in the new Drug-Free Communities Grant 5-year cycle.

The program involves mobilizing the community to make institutional and policy changes that reduce youth access to alcohol and improves the overall health of the community.

Other communities implementing CMCA have reported decreases in substance

use among 18-20 year olds and decreases in this age group providing alcohol to younger teenagers.

They also noted significant declines in arrests for teens driving under the influence and increases in the proportion of bars, restaurants, and liquor and convenience stores checking age identification of buyers who appear underage.

TFJCK will be notified of grant awards in September 2008. If the coalition is awarded the grant, CMCA implementation will follow.

Danger Right Under Your Nose (continued)

Continued from page 1

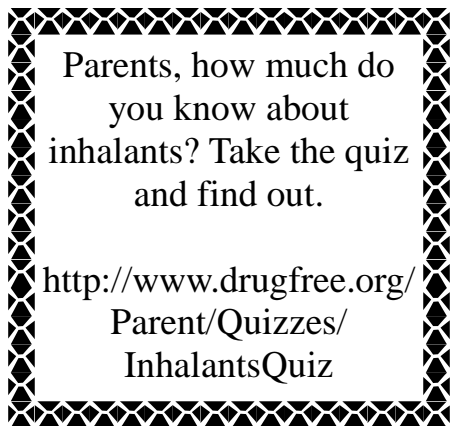
director of the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition. "Kids have died from inhalants in schools and in church. It can happen anywhere."

However, many parents are unaware of the risks inhalants pose. Nearly four out of ten don't think it's extremely dangerous to sniff things like spray paint or gasoline once or twice. Further, just three percent of

all parents think their child has tried inhalants.

"I looked under my own kitchen sink and found 15 chemicals that my children could abuse," said Sandra Hampton, a substance abuse counselor outside Atlanta. "We need to be honest with our kids and warn them about the risks."

—taken from Partnership for a Drug-Free America web page: <http://www.drugfree.org>



Parents, how much do you know about inhalants? Take the quiz and find out.

<http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Quizzes/InhalantsQuiz>



Get Connected

After Too Many

"Welcome to Unhappy Hour.

"The price of entry is five drinks (sometimes more). It can be located anywhere. And, unfortunately, almost anyone can get in. It's Unhappy Hour and it's brought to you by a host of influencers—everything from peer pressure, to

irresponsible adults, to alcohol companies with deep pockets.

"All of which you have control over."

This is the opening web page for the web site titled "Unhappy Hour,"

<http://www.aftertoomanymany.org>

part of an advertising campaign educating teens about the dangerous realities of underage binge drinking.

The site also offers ideas for how students, parents, and educators can encourage change in their communities.

Study: Parental Drinking Encourages Youth Alcohol Use, Hurts Discipline

Older adolescents' drinking decisions are strongly influenced by their parents' drinking habits, and parents who drink often suffer breakdowns in monitoring youth alcohol use, the Washington Post reported February 4.

Finnish researchers studied more than 4,700 male and female adolescents and their parents, questioning the teens about their alcohol use at ages 14 and 17.5 and querying parents about their current rates of alcohol use and intoxication and alcohol-related problems over their lifetime.

Researcher Shawn J. Latendresse, of the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at Commonwealth University and colleagues found that parental monitoring and

discipline played a stronger role in drinking behaviors among the younger youths, whereas parental drinking habits had a stronger effect on the older teens, who often increased their drinking when parents attempted to discipline them.

"With respect to individual aspects of parents, our analysis show that parental alcohol use, intoxication, and problem-drinking symptoms are consistently associated with decreases in monitoring and increases in discipline," Latendresse said. "Decreases in monitoring are related to higher levels of adolescent alcohol use at age 14 and more frequent intoxication at both 14 and 17.5. Likewise, increases in discipline are linked to

more frequent use and intoxication but only when adolescents are 17.5."

"It is important to note that excessive discipline may actually have the unintended effect of conveying greater risk for alcohol-related behaviors among adolescents as they get older and are seeking a greater sense of autonomy," Latendresse added.

The research was published in the February 2008 issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*.

—Taken from Join Together, <http://www.jointogether.org>

TFJCK Meeting & Event Calendar

April



2—TFJCK Leadership Team meeting. 3:15 PM at the School District Office Board Room

8—Jackson County Tobacco-Free Coalition meeting, NOON at the Skyline

17—TFJCK Membership meeting. 3:30 PM at Jackson County UWEX (bring a dish to pass)

May

6—TFJCK Leadership Team meeting. 3:15 PM at Jackson County Health & Human Services

13—Jackson County Tobacco-Free Coalition meeting, 1PM at Jackson County UWEX

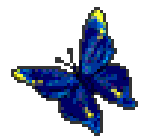
15—TFJCK Membership meeting. 3:30 PM at Jackson County UWEX



June

3—TFJCK Leadership Team meeting. 3:15 PM at Jackson County Health & Human Services

10—Jackson County Tobacco-Free Coalition meeting, 1PM at Jackson County UWEX



19—TFJCK Membership meeting. 3:30 PM at Jackson County UWEX

July

No TFJCK or TFC meetings will be held in July.

For up-to-date calendar information, please visit us at <http://www.tfjck.org>.

TOGETHER FOR JACKSON COUNTY KIDS

227 South 11th Street
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Phone: 715-284-4257

Fax: 715-284-2394

Email: lhodge000@centurytel.net
jckids@tfjck.org

***A youth-adult partnership,
promoting healthy lifestyle
choices***

**We're on the web:
www.tfjck.org**



OUR MISSION

Together for Jackson County Kids, a countywide partnership of concerned citizens, is committed to enhancing community wellness by promoting positive values and choices and eliminating the negative impact of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, violence and related youth risk behaviors. We draw upon private, public, adult and youth resources.

News & Notes

Diane Skoug, a community member with a passion for supporting youth in making healthy choices, has been contracted to coordinate the Strengthening Families program for the Drug-Free Communities Grant. She will soon be trained as a Strengthening Families facilitator and will also be helping with the Community Mentoring Project.

Mara Waldera has served Together for Jackson County Kids as a VISTA volunteer since the summer of 2007. She recently accepted a position as Program Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County, where she will use her past experience working with youth to provide positive programs during out of school time programs.

TFJCK's application for the new round of **Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grants** has been completed. Lisa Hodge, DFC Grant Director, led a sub-committee including: Kristi Hanson, Christine Hovell, Wendie Libert, Monica Lobenstein, Michele Schoolcraft, Joni Thur, and Mara Waldera. Announcements about grant awards are expected in September 2008.

Monica Lobenstein has served Together for Jackson County Kids as the DFC Grant Program Coordinator since summer 2007. She recently accepted a position as 4-H Youth Development Agent for Jackson County's UW-Extension Office where she will help to actively involve county youth in programs encouraging healthy choices and positive risks.