



TOGETHER FOR JACKSON COUNTY KIDS

Together For Jackson County Kids

Stopping a Kid Killer

A concoction called 'cheese' has led to 21 deaths in the Dallas area, and authorities worry it will spread.

Nick Cannata finally seemed to be pulling his life together. A bright kid and talented artist, he had plunged into a spiral of drug use in his early teens after his parents' divorce—marijuana, cocaine, then methamphetamine. But after attending a drug-rehab program in the fall of 2004, he seemed cheerful and motivated. By early 2005, he was doing his homework, going out with a new girl and testing drug-free. "Everything was falling into place," says his father, Dave Cannata, who lives in Coppell, Texas, outside Dallas. Unbeknownst to Dave, however, **Nick was likely taking a new, sometimes hard-to-detect drug concoction called "cheese"—a mixture of heroin and cold medication.** One Saturday night in June that year, Nick, 16, came home from a party in an apparently altered state. Dave was worried, but decided to let his son sleep it off. The next day, when Nick failed to emerge from his room, Dave went in. "It was not pretty," he recalls. "He was already gone."

Nick is now one of the first fatalities believed to be linked to cheese. **Cheap, addictive and often deadly,** the new drug has spread virulently in the Dallas area. Since 2005, the year of the first confirmed cheese death, **an estimated 21 people have died from the drug. Most of them were young, white or Hispanic males.** Cheese arrests among students in the Dallas Independent School District jumped from 90 in the 2005-2006 school year to 145 so far in 2006-2007. The drug's surge in Dallas bucks the national trend in heroin consumption, which declined from 94,000 users age 12 to 17 in 2002 to 60,000 in 2005, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. **Now the Drug Enforcement Administration is worried that cheese will spread to other parts of the country.** The agency is investigating a few possible cases, including one in California.

Cheese is made by grinding up cold medication and mixing it with black-tar heroin, which is typically smuggled in by Mexican drug cartels. **A \$30 purchase of heroin can yield 40 to 50 cheese hits, each costing about \$2—more affordable for users and more profitable for mixers.** The drug, which is **snorted,** derives its name from a **supposedly Parmesan-like appearance, though in reality, it looks more like coarse sand.** **Because the amount of heroin in cheese is sometimes small—as little as 3 percent—the drug rarely shows up in field tests.** But the heroin quantity can be inconsistent. "Kids will be scoring 3 percent and all of a sudden, they get 9 or 10 percent, and you are dead," says James Capra, Special Agent in charge of the DEA's Dallas field division.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18628591/site/newsweek/>

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

Tips for Teens: The Truth About Alcohol

Slang--Booze, Sauce, Brews, Brewskis, Hooch, Hard Stuff, Juice

Alcohol affects your brain. Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts.

Alcohol affects your body. Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of life-threatening diseases, including cancer.

Alcohol affects your self-control. Alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, such as driving when you shouldn't, or having unprotected sex.

Alcohol can kill you. Drinking large amounts of alcohol at one time or very rapidly can cause alcohol poisoning, which can lead to coma or even death. Driving and drinking also can be deadly. In 2002, 29 percent of drivers age 15 to 20 who died in traffic accidents had been drinking alcohol.

Alcohol can hurt you--even if you're not the one drinking. If you're around people who are drinking, you have an increased risk of being seriously injured, involved in car crashes, or affected by violence. At the very least, you may have to deal with people who are sick, out of control, or unable to take care of themselves.

Know the law. It is illegal to buy or possess alcohol if you are under age 21.

Get the facts. One drink can make you fail a breath test. In some States, people under age 21 can lose their driver's license, be subject to a heavy fine, or have their car permanently taken away.

Stay informed. "Binge" drinking means having five or more drinks on one occasion. Studies show that more than 35 percent of adults with an alcohol problem developed symptoms--such as binge drinking--by age 19.

Know the risks. Alcohol is a drug. Mixing it with any other drug can be extremely dangerous. Alcohol and acetaminophen--a common ingredient in OTC pain and fever reducers--can damage your liver. Alcohol mixed with other drugs can cause nausea, vomiting, fainting, heart problems, and difficulty breathing. Mixing alcohol and drugs also can lead to coma and death.

Keep your edge. Alcohol is a depressant, or downer, because it reduces brain activity. If you are depressed before you start drinking, alcohol can make you feel worse.

Look around you. Most teens aren't drinking alcohol. Research shows that 71 percent of people 12-20 haven't had a drink in the past month.

How can you tell if a friend has a drinking problem? Sometimes it's tough to tell. But there are signs you can look for. If your friend has one or more of the following warning signs, he or she may have a problem with alcohol:

- Getting drunk on a regular basis
- Lying about how much alcohol he or she is using
- Believing that alcohol is necessary to have fun
- Having frequent hangovers
- Feeling run-down, depressed, or even suicidal
- Having "blackouts"--forgetting what he or she did while drinking

Public Library News

For School Age Kids...

Tuesday July 3: Investigation

Tuesday July 10: Mystery of the Iditarod dog sled team

Tuesday July 17: Disguises with Diane

Tuesday July 31: Private Eye Club party and prizes

Thursday July 12: Great Estimations

Thursday July 19: Who dunit Puzzles & finger prints

Thursday July 26: Self defense class with Todd

**Programs begin at 12:30 p.m. for approximately
one hour.**

For everyone

Tuesday July 24

2:00 p.m.

Magic Show

BRING YOUR LIBRARY CARD WITH YOU WHEN PLANNING ON
CHECKING OUT BOOKS.

Four and Five Year Old

Storytime at the Public Library

Thursday Mornings

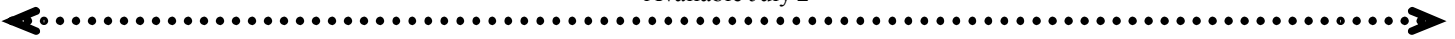
10:30 to 11:00

July 5, 12, 19, 26

Stories, activities.

“Read to Me” Packet

Available July 2



May/June/July 2007 TFJCK Meeting Schedule...

Coalition meeting-Thursday, May 17th, 3:30pm, UW-Extension office

Leadership Team meeting– Thursday, June 7th, 3:15pm, Location TBA

Tobacco Free Coalition meeting– Tuesday, June 12th, 1pm, UW-Extension office

Coalition meeting-Thursday, June 21st, 3:30pm, UW-Extension office

NO MEETINGS IN THE MONTH OF JULY

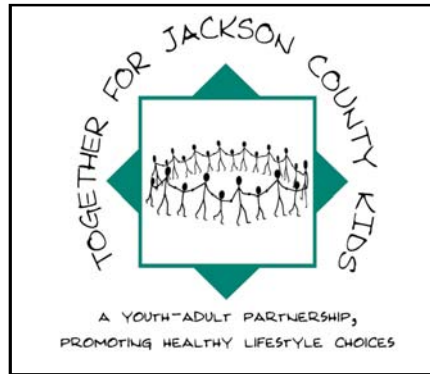


**TOGETHER FOR
JACKSON COUNTY KIDS**

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



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT**

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.

We're on the Web!
www.tfjck.org

We need your help!! TFJCK is looking for volunteers to join our Coalition Event committee. Every year TFJCK hosts an event aimed at youth education and participation. In the past these events have been a Teen Carnival, Teen Jam, and IPODD (Improvements Promise Open Doors and Dreams). This year we are looking at hosting another Teen Jam! We need help with recruiting bands, posters, flyers, set-up, take-down, and resources. Please contact us using the above contact information ASAP. This could be the **EVENT OF THE YEAR!!**



Spring Is Here