South Florida Drug Observatory and the NIDA Community Epidemiology Work Group

NIDA Community Epidemiology Work Group
62nd Semi-Annual Meeting June 2007

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Center for the Study and Prevention of Substance Abuse
Nova Southeastern University
Davie, Florida USA
Network Meetings and Interpretation of Data
Established 1976
Community Correspondents Group
Heroin Focused
Mission:
Monitor Drug Abuse Trends by Tracking Existing Data Sources Within and Across 22 Local Areas in USA
Goals:

• To Characterize Changes in Drug Use
• To Provide Early Identification of New Patterns and Emerging Drug Abuse issues
CEWG Meets Twice A Year

- **June Meeting** – 3 ½ Days
- **January Meeting** – 2 ½ Days
- **Location Rotates among the 19 Sentinel Cites**
Each CEWG Member Prepares

• 15-20 Page Written Report
• 20 Minute Presentation
CEWG Meeting Agenda

- 22 Community Presentations: 1 1/2 days
  - Regional Discussions
  - Specific Drugs and Special Topics Discussion
- Panel: Emerging issues from previous CEWG meeting
- Panel: Host city researchers
- Update on Federal data sets
- Patterns & trends in other countries
CEWG Highlights

- Polysubstance Abuse Major Emerging Trend
- Fueled by Nonmedical Use of Rx Drugs
- Methamphetamine Consequences Peaked 2005
- Cocaine: Low Prevalence, High Consequences
- Heroin Indicators Down
- Replaced by Rx Opiates
- Marijuana: #1 Prevalence, #2 Consequences
- Ecstasy (MDMA) Rising after Decline Since 2001
USA Experiences in Establishing Drug Information Networks
Challenges and Successes
Community Epidemiology Surveillance Networks DENs

- What are DENs
- History
- Purpose
- Advantages
- Sources of Information
- How DENs are organized
- Guidelines for 1st Meeting
- Who to Invite
- Tips on setting up and maintaining DENs
Data From Different Sources

• **Surveys**
• **Treatment**
• **Hospital**
  - ED
  - Admit & Discharge
• **Mortality**
• **Other Health**
  - Poison Control Center
  - Telephone Helpline
  - Infectious Disease
• **Criminal Justice**
• **Qualitative Research**
• **University Researchers**
Networking and Reporting

• Relationships with Info Sources
  - Public vs. Private
  - Making Contact
  - Developing Relationships
• Reporting
• References
• Web Sites with Data & Info
The Community Drug Epidemiology Network
History

- Started in Miami 1987
- As part of NIDA CEWG Com Epi Work Group
- 1989 Linked to The Miami Coalition Information for Action
- 1998 Broward County United Way Commission on Substance Abuse
The Local DEN - Composition

*(Drug Epidemiology Network)*

- Health Sources
- Criminal Justice Sources
- Ethnographic Sources
The Local DEN - Composition

• Health Sources
  - Medical Examiner or Coroner
  - Hospital Emergency Department (ED)
  - Poison Information Center, or 911, or EMT
  - Addiction Treatment Admissions
  - Public Health Department
The Local DEN - Composition

- Criminal Justice Sources
  - Enforcement
    - Police & Intake
    - Driving While Intoxicated
  - Courts and Jails
    - Juvenile Assessment
The Local DEN - Composition

• Ethnographic Sources
  Treatment Clients
  Treatment Counselors
  Educators
  Helpline
  Youth
  Arrestees
  Domestic Violence & Rape Counselors
A Local DEN
Drug Epidemiology Network

- Explores the Nature and Extent of Substance Abuse at the Community Level
- Linked to State and National Epidemiology Work Groups
DENs Provide Information for Action

SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework Steps

- Profile local drug abuse, resources, and readiness to address needs
- Mobilize and/or build capacity to address needs
- Develop a Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- Implement programs and activities
- Monitor, evaluate, and improve plan and activities

Sustainability & Cultural Competence
Florida’s State Epidemiology Workgroup

State Epidemiology Website

http://www.cdrc.med.miami.edu/x58.xml

Select County Data and Maps
The Community DEN

Application

- Applied Epidemiology
- Linked to Community Coalition
- Information for Action
Florida’s DEN School
(Drug Epidemiology Network)
Community Teams

- Prevention Providers
- Community Coalitions
Epidemiology Work Group Simulation

**AGENDA**

8:30 – 8:45  Intro to Epidemiology

8:45 – 9:00  Simulation orientation

9:00 – 10:00  Round One: Epidemiology Work Group Simulation

Room Setup for Epidemiology Work Group Simulation
**Indicator Teams**

A. Florida Medical Examiners 2007 Report

B. Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities and Injuries 2006

C. 2006 Florida Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)

D. Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2007

E. US CDC&P Youth Risk Surveillance 2007

F. 2004-2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Sub-State Data by Age
Report Topics

I. Underage Alcohol (< 21)
II. Adult Alcohol (21 and over)
III. Tobacco among Youth (< 18)
IV. Tobacco among Young Adults & Adults
V. Marijuana among Youth (< 18)
VI. Marijuana among Young Adults & Adults
VII. Any illicit drug use
VIII. Cocaine
IX. Heroin
X. Methamphetamine
XI. MDMA ("ecstasy")
XII. Prescription Opiates
XIII. Prescription Benzodiazepines
XIV. Other Pharmaceuticals (Rx & OTC)
XV. Risk and Protective Factors
Report Topics

I. Underage Alcohol (< 21)
   A. Florida Medical Examiners 2007 Report
      1. Key Finding
      2. Other Findings
   B. Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities and Injuries 2006
   C. 2006 Florida Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)
   D. Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2006
   E. US CDC&P Youth Risk Surveillance 2006
   F. 2004-2006 National Survey on Drug Use & Health Sub-State Data
   G. US DEA National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS)

II. Adult Alcohol (21 and over)
   A. Florida Medical Examiners 2007 Report
      1. Key Finding
      2. Other Findings
   B. Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities and Injuries 2006
   C. 2006 Florida Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)
   D. Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2006
   E. US CDC&P Youth Risk Surveillance 2006
   F. 2004-2006 National Survey on Drug Use & Health Sub-State Data
   G. US DEA National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS)

III. Tobacco among Youth (<18)
   A. Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2007 Report
      1. Key Finding
      2. Other Findings
Epidemiology Work Group Simulation

AGENDA

10:30 - 10:45  BREAK
10:45 - 11:05  Community Drug Epidemiology Network (DEN)

11:05 - 12:00  Round Two: County DEN Teams

Room Setup for County DEN Simulation
Epidemiology Work Group Simulation

AGENDA

10:30 - 10:45    BREAK
10:45 - 11:05    Community Drug Epidemiology Network (DEN)
11:05 - 12:00    Round Two: County DEN Teams
Epidemiology Work Group Simulation

AGENDA

11:05 – 12:00 Round Two: County DEN Teams

Analysis

• Key Findings
• What’s missing
• Local Resources
Guidelines on Preparing National Reports
CEWG Area Reports Format

- Organized By Drug
  - Cocaine,
  - Heroin,
  - Rx Opiates,
  - Methamphetamine,
  - Marijuana,
  - MDMA & Club Drugs,
  - Benzodiazepines
CEWG Area Reports Format

- By Indicators (Consequences)
  - Deaths,
  - Emergency Department Reports
  - Addiction Treatment Admissions,
  - Price and Purity,
  - Crime Lab Cases, and

- Prevalence Surveys

- Infectious Diseases
The percentage of Broward County youth using drugs has declined over the five-year period from 1999 to 2003. Nonetheless, consequences of drugs have increased as patterns of abuse have intensified among an aging population of users. A significant increase in marijuana consequences suggests problems linked to higher potency of cannabis and its role in poly-drug abuse patterns. Medication abuse including narcotic analgesics and benzodiazepines has risen dramatically in this period along with increasing heroin problems since the mid-1990’s as Colombian heroin has flowed into the region. New poly-drug use patterns reported within all age groups have been among the primary changes in substance abuse observed locally and nationally over the past five years. Cocaine remains the drug with the highest number of medical emergencies that have also continued to increase over the past three years. The key factor in the rising rates of health consequences with these major drugs of abuse has been poly-drug use.
**Broward Briefings**

Substance Abuse Information for Action

Volume 1 Issue 6  
October 1, 2007  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**Ecstasy Escalating**

Broward County Crime Lab cases for MDMA (Ecstasy) increased 984% between the second half of 2005 (14 cases) and the first half of 2007 (149 cases) following an 88% decline between the first half of 2001 (132 cases) and the second half of 2005 (14 cases). Ecstasy supplies and use declined as post-911 airline security curtailed the flow of the drug from Europe to US via air passengers. Yet, ecstasy indicators have been rising in the past 18 months. MDMA-related deaths in Florida rose 148% between 2005 (27 deaths) and 2006 (67 deaths). Current MDMA use by Broward high school students doubled from 0.8% in 2004 to 1.2% in 2006 (source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey).

**Broward MDMA (Ecstasy) Crime Lab Cases 2000 - 2007**

Source: Broward County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Jan 2000–June 2007

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Volume 1 Issue 10
May 12, 2008

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Most Opiate Abuse in Broward Related to
Prescription Narcotics

Opiate abuse includes both heroin and the non-medical use of
prescription narcotics like Oxycodeone and Hydrocodeone. In
Broward County, 85% of opiate-related emergency department
(ED) reports in 2007 involved medications as compared to 15% for
heroin. Likewise, 81% of opiate crime lab cases in 2007 were
pharmaceuticals while heroin accounted for 19%. During 2007,
98% of the 282 Broward opiate deaths were linked to a narcotic
analgesic. In contrast, Miami-Dade County reported heroin in 60 %
of opiate ED reports, 80% of opiate crime lab cases, and 14% of
opiate deaths.

(Updated - June 13, 2008)

Heroin and Rx Opioid Consequences
in Broward County 2007

Sources: Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Division EDs DAWN Live! OAS, SAMHSA,
Broward Sheriff’s Office Crime Lab, and Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2007
Report on Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners

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Telephone: (786) 242-8222 E-Mail: upfrontin@aol.com Website: drugfreebroward.org
Alcohol Energy Drinks Targeted To Youth

The latest effort of the beer industry to lure new customers is the introduction of malt liquor products containing high doses of caffeine and alcohol. Examples include Anheuser-Bush’s Bud Extra and Tilt and Miller Brewing Company’s orange-flavored Sparks malt liquor. While these products have not been widely advertised, they are promoted on youth-oriented websites targeting underage drinkers.

A key problem is that the packaging of these malt liquor products closely resembles that of non-alcohol energy drinks. In fact, the malt liquor-energy drinks generally cost 50 cents less than those without alcohol. Store clerks arrested for selling these products to minors said they were not aware that they contained alcohol.

The mixture of alcohol and caffeine is also seen in cocktails of liquor and non-alcoholic energy drinks as well as in the new fruit flavored malt liquor products containing elevated levels of caffeine. A recent Wake Forest University study found that those drinking alcohol mixed in energy drinks were twice as likely to:

- Drink more,
- Be drunk,
- Ride with a driver who had been drinking,
- Commit a sexual assault,
- Be a victim of a sexual assault,
- Be hurt or injured, and
- Require medical attention.

The reason for these problems is that the stimulant effects of high dose caffeine in energy drinks masked the feelings of being intoxicated from the alcohol. Thus, people drank more and experienced more consequences. To see a recent WFOR-Channel 4 news story about these products visit: http://news4.com/seemore/teaaimiller2.541528.html

To learn more about this issue and others related to alcohol and youth, contact the Underage Drinking Task Force in your county:

- The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community (305) 854-4515
- United Way of Broward County’s Commission on Substance Abuse (954) 780-7007
- The Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition (561) 627-6603

The South Florida Drug Observatory is a program of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Substance Abuse which is a community partnership with the United Way of Broward County’s Commission on Substance Abuse, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Nova Southeastern University, The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community, and Up Front Drug Information Center.

Regional Drug Alert may be copied without permission.

Please visit the Center for the Study and Prevention of Substance Abuse

Telephone: (786) 242-8222    E-Mail: upfrontin@aol.com    Website: drugfreebroward.org
Top 25 Dispensing Practitioners of Oxycodone in the U.S. by County

Ranking by County by Units Dispensed:

Oxycodone Units Dispensed
- 3,383,200 (Broward)
- 852,800 (Palm Beach)
- 393,900 (Miami-Dade)
- 126,990 (Hillsborough)
- 116,800 (Manatee)

ALL 25 dispensing practitioners are in Florida, and are concentrated in the 5 Counties. Broward holds 68% of the top practitioners and 69.4% of the total units dispensed.
The Community DEN

Sample Reports

Visit

www.drugfreebroward.org
CEWG First Alerts

- MDMA - 1984
- Crack Cocaine - 1985
- Methamphetamine - 1988
- Rohypnol - 1992
- GHB - 1994
- Rise of Ecstasy (MDMA) - 1996
- Fall of Ecstasy (MDMA) - 2001
- Rx Drug Non-Medical Use - 2002
- Return of Ecstasy (MDMA) - 2006