

METH AND KIDS: A 21st Century Challenge

WYOMING SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY ASSN.
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Objectives

- Discuss the history, evolution, and challenges of the meth epidemic.
- Provide information about the Drug Endangered Children concept.
- Discuss the role schools could play in creating an “anti-meth” culture.

Drugs of Abuse

- 7 Categories of Drugs (DIPCSHN):
 - CNS Depressants
 - Inhalants
 - PCP and its analogs
 - Cannabis
 - CNS Stimulants
 - Hallucinogens
 - Narcotic Analgesics

Objective Signs and Symptoms

- Behaviors
- Identifiable Physical Reactions

CNS Depressants

- Most abused and used of the seven categories
 - Examples: ETOH, Barbiturates, Non-Barbiturates, Tranquilizers (major and minor), Anti-depressants
- Slows down the body's functions
- Soma, Halcion, Valium, Rohypnol, Xanax, Prozac

Inhalants



- Common household or industrial items
- Three types: Anesthetic gases, Volatile Solvents, Aerosols
 - Examples: Nitrous, Whip-its, Toluene, glues, paints
- Short lived symptoms

Inhalants



- Extremely dangerous, suffocates the brain from having oxygen
- Long term brain damage or death may occur
- Highest use amongst urban middle class teens

PCP

- Phencyclidine—Angel Dust, Sherms
- Chemical analogs (Ketamine)
- Dissociative Anesthetic
- Illicitly manufactured or Ketamine stolen from veterinarians

Cannabis



- Marijuana, Hashish, Hashish Oil
- Issues with *divided attention*
- Can show effects for days later-2 active ingredients
- More impairment than society recognizes
- De-motivation syndrome in youth

CNS Stimulants



- Pharmaceutical and illicitly manufactured
 - Examples: Ritalin, Cylert, Methamphetamine, Cocaine
- Elevates the body functions
- Highly addictive, rehabilitation difficult

Hallucinogens

- Natural or illicitly manufactured substances
 - Examples: MDA, MDMA (Ecstasy), LSD, Psilocybin, Mescaline, Peyote
- Sensory distortion-Synesthesia
- Piloerection, Statements
- Secondary hazards of injury or death



Narcotic Analgesics

- Pharmaceutical, synthetically and illicitly manufactured
 - Examples: Morphine, Oxy Contin, Heroin, Fentanyl, Methadone, Codeine
- Relieves pain, physical addiction, causes withdrawals, only more stop withdrawals
- Highly addictive
- On-the-nod

Child Development

- Traditional Theorists
 - Erik Erikson: Social/Emotional Development
 - Jean Piaget: Cognitive Development
 - Lev Vygotsky: Social Construction

Child Development

- Traditional Theorists
 - Erik Erikson: Social/Emotional Development
 - Identity, Trust, Relationship
 - Jean Piaget: Cognitive Development
 - Knowledge through Experience/Environment
 - Lev Vygotsky: Social Construction
 - Social Interactions, Experience

How Children of Substance Abusers May Behave

- Problems in school
- Social misfit
- Runaway
- Withdrawn
- Attempts to be perfect
- Acts out after visits with the parent(s)
- Class clown
- Takes on adult responsibilities
- Experiments with alcohol / drugs
- Controlling
- Physical aggression
- Gang involvement
- Doesn't trust authority figures
- Psychosomatic health problems
- Depressed / anxious

How Children of Substance Abusers Feel

- Sad
- Afraid
- Lonely
- Isolated
- Traumatized
- Angry
- Worried
- Responsible
- Confused
- Depressed
- Anxious
- Hopeful
- Guilty
- Embarrassed

Statistics

- 51% of high school students see the school drug situation getting worse.
- 56% of 17 year-old students know a drug dealer at school.
- 84% of 12 year-olds would report a student using illegal drugs at there school compared to only 31% of 16 year-olds.
- 80% of 12 year-olds would report a student selling illegal drugs compared to only 27% of 15 to 17 year-olds.

Culture

- **The values, norms, customs, rituals, and practices that guide and influence attitudes and behaviors in a given society.**

Culture

- Do nations have unique culture?
- Do organizations have unique culture?
- How does culture evolve?
- Can cultural evolution be guided?

Video Example: U.S. Culture

- The Flintstones selling cigarettes:
 - Does this represent the current “values, norms, customs, rituals, and practices” of our society?
 - What factors “guided and influenced attitudes and behaviors” to change cultural attitudes?

Quote:

- **Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**

– Margaret Mead