

BSAAS Priority: Reduce prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse.

Overview

In order to stem the tide of misuse and abuse, Bureau of Substance Abuse & Addiction Services (BSAAS) will begin a prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse initiative. BSAAS will establish a state-level task force to identify and recommend evidence-based prevention interventions and law enforcement strategies to reduce availability and illegal access to prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Based on the recommendations of the task force, BSAAS will support strategies that meet local and regional needs. This coordinated effort will result in the reduction of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse.

Rationale

Prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse have become an increasingly widespread problem in the U.S., leading to dangerous abuse and misuse, addiction, and fatalities. Federal agencies have focused attention and resources on this issue. Research shows that Michigan has one of the highest rates of teen prescription drug abuse in the country. The Michigan Treatment Episode Data Set shows a 248% increase (1,929 to 6,719), from 2002 to 2008 in the number of persons admitted to Michigan's publicly-funded treatment system for addiction to prescription drugs. The primary substance of abuse is opiate-based synthetics.

In 2007, it was reported that 12% of teens in Michigan reported using drugs in the past year obtained from a prescription not written for them. This rate of usage indicates Michigan is one of the top states in prescription drug abuse among teens. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, from 2004-2006, an estimated 474,000 people in Michigan reported non-medical use of any prescription psychotherapeutic drug.

According to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):

- 10% of the youth reported taking barbiturates without a prescription one or more times in their lifetime.
- 6% of the youth reported taking barbiturates without a prescription during the past 30 days.

Key Steps and Timeline

1. Coordinate a statewide initiative to combat prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse in Michigan; kick-off initiative via a one-day summit – March 27, 2009.
2. Establish a task force and convene first meeting – Spring 2010.
3. Develop and distribute a written strategy based on task force recommendations – Summer 2010.
4. Develop an implementation plan – Fall 2010 and ongoing.
5. Develop a statewide community awareness campaign – Summer 2010.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTION SERVICES
2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY DESCRIPTION

6. Distribute strategy and community awareness materials to media and communities – Summer/Fall 2010.
7. Hold Town Hall meetings – Summer/Fall 2010
8. Develop and issue Public Service Announcements – Fall 2010.