



Narcotics Abuse Task Force

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Priorities Presentation

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Creation of The Task Force

- ◆ Established as a result of an apparent abuse of prescriptions drugs & numerous related deaths
- ◆ A volunteer group of concerned community leaders from a variety of professions
- ◆ Goal of Task Force to analyze and develop strategies to limit abuse and provide framework for community awareness



What We Found

- ◆ Prescription Addiction is an issue throughout North America. Newfoundland reports 400 % increase in OxyContin use
- ◆ In 2003 pharmacists prescribed 2.8 million Oxycodone (two tablets per person in Ont)
- ◆ Ontario Coroners Office report a ten-fold increase in OxyContin deaths over the past decade
- ◆ Locally between 1999 & 2003 GSPS investigated 116 deaths involving medication. Oxycodone 4 times most common drug in overdose deaths



Societal Cost of Addiction

- ◆ Loss of health and potentially life
- ◆ Social costs associated to addiction programs, research, medical detox
- ◆ Increased criminal activity from street level to organized crime. Cost to criminal justice system
- ◆ Loss of employment and becoming unemployable



Who Is Using Prescription Narcotics

- ◆ Not restricted by age, race, social status
- ◆ Evidence shows middle class Canadians to drug users have become addicted
- ◆ People have gone into great debt to purchase OxyContin on the street
- ◆ Significant co-relation between criminal activity and narcotic addiction



Some Important Facts

- ◆ Lack of coordinated response by community
- ◆ Significant lack of understanding of how dangerous prescription drugs are (methods of use can lead to HIV and Hep C)
- ◆ Increased use by young people
- ◆ Available through legitimate and criminal means (robbery, theft, fraud)
- ◆ Action needed

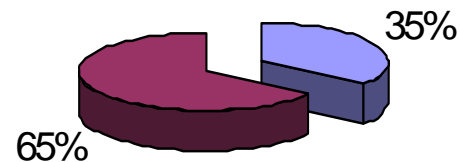


Area School Board Survey

- ◆ Seven hundred and forty-five students grade 7 to 12 asked two questions:
 - 1) Have you ever taken a prescription drug that was not prescribed to you by a doctor (OxyContin, Morphine, Codeine, Tylenol 3, Dilaudid, Percocet)?
 - 2) Have you ever taken a prescription drug to get high?

Survey Results

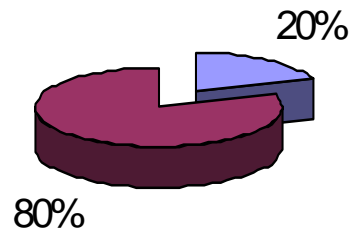
Percentage of Students that have taken a prescription narcotic that was not prescribed to them by a Doctor



■ YES ■ NO

Survey Results

Percentage of Students that have taken a prescription narcotic to get high



■ YES ■ NO



Our Framework & Strategies

- ◆ Harm Reduction
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Enforcement
- ◆ Rehabilitation



Task Force Target Audience

- ◆ Students
- ◆ Parents, grandparents & guardians
- ◆ Medical and pharmaceutical profession
- ◆ Law enforcement
- ◆ Street workers, addiction counselors and related service providers



Task Force Next Steps

- ◆ Education and Awareness Campaign
- ◆ Communication to all stakeholders
- ◆ Target hardening
- ◆ Enhanced awareness of safe disposal of medication
- ◆ Continuing to work in a coordinated and focused manner



Narcotic Abuse Task Force

Thank-you
Questions?