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Friday FACTS

22 February 2002

"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Washington, DC 20503

- WHAT:** The teleconference on marijuana postponed from its original date in September has been rescheduled for February 28, 2002. This is the fourth of a five-part series of live satellite broadcasts on illicit drugs designed for members of community coalitions, community leaders, drug prevention and treatment providers, parents, caregivers and educators. A panel will talk about myths surrounding marijuana use, including false perceptions of safety and harmlessness, the assumption that "everyone" is using it, and the role that pop culture plays in influencing those myths. Viewers will have the opportunity to call or fax questions to the panelists.
- WHO:** Sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the National Guard Counterdrug Office, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Panelists will include:
- Marijuana prevention and treatment professionals
 - Dr. Alan J. Budney, a leading marijuana researcher
 - Recovering teen marijuana users and parents of teen users
- WHERE:** Viewing sites must register in advance to receive the necessary satellite coordinates. Sites may register through the Internet by logging on to a new web site, www.counterdrugtv.com. The program will also be web cast on the SAMHSA Clearinghouse site, <http://www.health.org/multimedia/webcasts/mythfactseries/marijuana.htm>
- WHEN:** **February 28, 2002 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. (EST)**
- WHY:** Marijuana remains the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. According to recent data, many American teenagers today do not believe that smoking marijuana is dangerous. It is critical that communities know and understand the truth about marijuana. Consider these facts:
- Close to 50 percent of all high school seniors reported using marijuana at least once in their life according to the 2000 Monitoring the Future Study (MTF). The MTF also showed that 16 percent of 8th graders, 32 percent of 10th graders, and 37 percent of 12th graders used marijuana in the past year.
 - Back-to-school transitions, particularly the change from elementary to middle school, mark a major increase in the rate of drug use. In 6th grade, approximately 1 in 13 kids has tried marijuana. By 7th grade, the number is approximately 1 in 5, an increase of nearly 300 percent. (*Partnership for a Drug-Free America, "Partnership Attitude Tracking Study," 1998*)
 - Recent research findings indicate that long-term use of marijuana produces changes in the brain similar to those seen after long-term use of other major drugs of abuse. (*NIDA, 2001*)
 - A study of college students has shown that critical skills related to attention, memory and learning are impaired among people who use marijuana heavily, even after discontinuing its use for at least 24 hours. (*NIDA, 2001*)
 - According to SAMHSA's Treatment Episode Data Set, in 1998 over 208,000 people entering drug treatment programs reported marijuana as their primary drug of abuse.

DEADLINES APPROACHING

Just a reminder...NEHC Command Excellence in Health Promotion Award packages must be postmarked by 1 March! Also, the deadline for requesting a quota for the Navy Health Promotion Director Course scheduled for 29 April-3 May 2002 at Club Coronado, San Diego, CA is 8 March. Any questions regarding these deadlines should be directed to Sally Vickers at vickers@nehc.med.navy.mil