

National Summit on Rx Drug Abuse Track Descriptions

Education/Prevention

The National Institute on Drug Abuse tells us that everyday in the US, an average of 2,000 teenagers use prescription medication for the first time without a physician's guidance. This trend has a very real and lasting impact on families, communities and the education system. Themes for this track will include: data driven prevention programs that work, teaching at-risk youth, the cost to schools, tell-tale behaviors of addiction, signs and symptoms of prescription drug abuse, truancy, school safety, drug testing in schools, athlete's drug use trends, education for school nurses, day treatment and alternative schools, and steroid use. Speakers discussing the contamination of schools by children from methamphetamine labs will also be considered since pseudoephedrine is now a controlled substance in some states.

Treatment

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA), a new report shows significant growth in substance abuse treatment and admissions related to prescription opiates from 1999 to 2009. Opiate admissions for prescription drugs rose from 8% in 1999 to 33% in 2009. In addition, benzodiazepine abuse treatment admissions have tripled from 1998 to 2008. In the Treatment track we will explore: treating patients in times of budget cuts; strategic policy needs; latest addiction research; innovative treatment programs; motivational interviewing; detox; chronic pain and addiction; continuity of care; healing families; generational drug use; the marketing of treatment service; treating those with poly drug addiction; involuntary treatment; drug courts; dual diagnosis; mental health and substance abuse parity; treatment retention; and building community support for treatment, among other topic matters. Speakers in this track will include drug and alcohol counselors, social workers, researchers, and policy experts.

Law Enforcement

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription drugs are the second most abused category of drugs behind marijuana and ahead of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs. Law enforcement officers working narcotics investigations, as well as street patrol witness the devastation of these drugs each and every day. Themes for this law enforcement track will include: officer safety and undercover investigations; drug trafficking organizations and pill mills; narcotics task forces; prescription drug trends; prescription drugs and jails; justice system and prescription drugs; border/homeland security issues; public corruption; community support for law enforcement; and, related policy issues.

Health Care

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the devastating impact substance abuse has on individuals, families, and communities is visible to most Americans; however, less visible but still significant is the impact substance abuse has on the health care system. Medical professionals spend a great deal of their time and resources treating patients with injuries and illnesses that resulted from substance abuse. Unfortunately, health care providers often do not have the training or resources to identify and treat patients' underlying issues. Health care providers can play a crucial role in reducing drug use and its consequences. Health care providers must have the education and sufficient training to identify substance use problems and get patients the treatment they need. Themes for these sessions will include national and state policy issues, patient education regarding addiction, medical professional education, prescription monitoring programs, cost to health care, insurance fraud, violence in the workplace, and legal consequences for medical professionals. Speakers in this track will include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dentists, psychologists, psychiatrists, hospital administrators, pharmacists, and others interested in the impact of prescription drug abuse upon the health care industry.

Advocacy

Do you have a family member struggling with drug addiction? Have you lost a child and want to make certain prescription drug abuse is an issue taken seriously at the local, state and federal level? Do you work tirelessly at the local level raising awareness and helping those affected by addiction? We would love to hear from you. These sessions will include: engaging the faith based community; prevention programs that make a lasting impact; working together across county and state lines; advocating policy change; the impact of prescription drugs on communities; rallying and motivating volunteers; pill mills and drug pipelines and how to address them at the grassroots level; reaching at-risk youth; utilizing social media; changing social norms; and marketing & media.

Pain Management/Pill Mills

According to a recent study by Geisinger Health System, there is a high prevalence of prescription pain medicine addiction among chronic pain patients. The Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy from the Center for Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence (CLADD) calls for ongoing monitoring of patient opioid therapy. During these discussions, best practices in pain management will be explored. Several states have taken the initiative to regulate pain management clinics and have vowed to get more aggressive in cracking down on "pill mills". Topics include assessing abuse risk level for patients; checking prescription monitoring program data; treatment agreements; urine testing for specific drugs; responsible pain management; and, pill mill regulation. Speakers in this track will include physicians, physician assistants, drug and alcohol counselors, nurse practitioners, pain management specialists, and pain clinic operators.

Private Industry

The 2010 US Department of Justice National Drug Threat Assessment indicates that the economic cost of drug trafficking and abuse is \$215 billion in the United States every year. According to the Center for Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence (CLADD), insurance companies lose \$72.5 billion per year because of the diversion of opioids alone. These sessions will provide successful solutions of prescription drug abuse programs in the workplace; assisting employees with a prescription drug issue; insurance fraud by individuals and organized rings; drug testing on the job; and the economic impact of prescription drug abuse.