



Emerging Issues Subcommittee

Spotlight Reports

Prescription Drug Abuse
First Quarter 2009

Background and Authority

Formed in 2007, the Emerging Issues Subcommittee seeks to identify emerging issues through a combination of statistical data and practical community experience. Due to the significant impact of substance abuse on our state, it has become critical to identify emerging substance use and abuse issues before they devastate our communities. This can be achieved by utilizing the expertise of practitioners as well as valuable community experience to inform the collection of data. Previously, the collection of statistical evidence has informed practice but practice has not informed data collection to the same extent. The relationship between data and practice needs to be a reciprocal one (i.e., the experience of practitioners and others who become aware of emerging substance abuse issues should lead to the formal collection of data related to these emerging patterns and this data should be shared with practitioners and other interested parties so that they may use this information to educate communities and combat substance abuse in their populaces).



Outcomes

- The Emerging Issues Subcommittee is currently administering a survey of School Resource Officers (SROs) to determine substance abuse patterns seen on Arizona's campuses.
- Spotlight reports on several emerging issues, including co-occurring disorders and the resurgence of heroin, will be forthcoming in the beginning of 2009.

Activities

- Conducts analyses of individual emerging substance abuse issues and responds to ad hoc requests on issues of critical importance to the populace.

For additional information please contact the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families—
Division for Substance Abuse Policy
(602) 542.3456

<http://gocyf.az.gov/SAP>