

Alcohol and Drug Issues in Rye Brook

Harry Burg, Assistant Director of Pupil Services

Eugene Wolotsky, Director of Pupil Services

Mary Mediate, Director of Guidance

Vincent Galasso, High School Principal

Angela Marciano, Project SUCCESS Counselor

Maureen Braren, Jane Citron, Julie Hartman, Wendie Seguljic, Parent Members of Project Prevention

We Made the News...

**Substance Use in B.B. High,
Statewide Study Shows
-Westmore News, June 12, 2009**

Review of Last Year

- Surveyed Grades 7-12 N=571
 - ❖ *New York State Youth Development Survey*
- Survey assessed risk factors and protective factors
 - individual/peer
 - school
 - parent
 - community

We are Not Alone!

A Prim Suburb Rallies to Curb Teen Drinking

-Scarsdale,NY, Christian Science Monitor, July 22, 2003

16 Westchester Teenagers Charged at Drinking Party

-Edgemont,NY, New York Times, February 5, 2003

The Story Continues...

Westchester Passes Law to Curb Underage Drinking

-Westchester.com, August 12, 2008

Westchester Continues Underage Drinking Initiative

-North Country Gazette, July 14, 2009

What Do All of the Stories Have in Common?

They are all about Westchester teens living in small, affluent communities and their substance use.

Why are Students in Blind Brook, as in Other Affluent Communities at Risk?

Research indicates:

- BB fits the profile for Caucasian, affluent, suburban community with pressure to excel, not only academically but also socially – to be well liked and to fit it.
- Alcohol and drug use are glamorized. Students model what they see in the media and in their homes.
- Emphasis on achievement –parents may not see the signs of use
- Negative risk factors for addiction are invisible in this district like most of Westchester (i.e.: gang involvement, poverty, violence)

A Closer Look at Our Data

Good News :

- 7th and 8th grade report ZERO use of cigarettes or marijuana in last 30 days

- 7th and 8th Grade Alcohol Use/Abuse - past 30 days-
BB **County
 - ❖ 1.7 for 7th grade
 - ❖ 5.7% for 8th grade 21%(only reported for 8th grade)

- 95.8% 7th-12th grade understand there is a risk of harm from tobacco use

- Over 95% -report parental disapproval for middle school aged teens

Closer Look Continued...

Bad News:

- **83.1% 12th grade Alcohol use /abuse –past 30 days*
- **52.7% 11th and 12th grade Binge Drinking defined as 5 or more drinks in one sitting*
- **77% feel that their parents would disapprove of alcohol use and that number drops to 59% for parents of seniors*

**New York State Youth Development Survey April 2009*

So, What are we doing?

Prevention Plan 2009-2010

Individual/Peer Domain:

- K-12 Character Education Program
- K-12 Teachers embedding character education themes into the curriculum
- Service Learning
- Prevention Education Series in 9th grade -8 sessions
- Project Success Counselor-available for prevention activities, counseling and intervention on Tuesdays and Fridays

School Domain

- Student Leadership Seminar (middle and high school)
- SADD
- Community Coalition
- TDAC - Teen Drinking Action Council
- Continuation of DARE at the elementary school and the introduction of the DARE Program at the BBMS
- School wide awareness activities-Red Ribbon Week
- Project Prevention
- Community Coalition

Parent Domain

- **Implementation of Project SUCCESS Outreach**
 - -Letter to HS Community and section on Website
 - -Grade 9 Orientation “Let’s Talk” DVD
 - -Guidance Newsletter
 - -HS Back to School Night
 - -Principal Coffees
 - -Parenting Prevention Newsletter
 - -Project SUCCESS Counselor in on Tuesdays and Fridays as a confidential resource for parents at 937-3600 ext 3144

Parent Domain (cont.)

- **Upcoming Parent Programs**
 - “Teens, Parents, Drugs and the Law” Panel Discussion
 - “140 Days Until Graduation”
 - “High Performance”
 - “Staying Connected to Your Teen” –Parent Support Group
 - Westchester DA Presentation on Underage Drinking and Drug Abuse

Resource and Referrals

- **Project SUCCESS Counselor to Begin Accepting Referrals in October for Individual and Group Counseling**
- **Faculty, Parents, Students, Community Members may refer students to Project SUCCESS Counselor for counseling, consultation, or outside referrals**

Something to Consider:

The #1 place adolescents say they get their alcohol from is their own homes and the #1 place they drink alcohol is at other people's homes.

-“Every Parent’s Responsibility,” Pamphlet produced by the Office of Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore

Our Biggest Source of Optimism

Teens whose parents talk to them regularly about drugs and alcohol are 42% less likely to use.

-“Every Parent’s Responsibility,” Pamphlet produced by the Office of Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore

***“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”***

Henry Ford

***It takes a village to raise a child.
We are all this together.***