

This three hour forum will present the first of several public forums on substance abuse in Sheridan County. This first presentation will present 7 adolescents speaking out to educate the public on the use of substances and their struggles in recovery.

As alarming as the national statistics are in regards to underage drinking, the statistics involving Wyoming youth are of even greater concern. **Wyoming youth lead the nation in the following survey categories*.**

>1st (in the nation for drinking) alcohol, other than a few sips, **BEFORE THE AGE OF 13.**
WY – 34.7% US – 27.8%

>4th in the nation for **BINGE DRINKING** (more than 5 alcoholic beverages within a couple of hours in the past month)
WY – 34.6% US – 28.3%

>5th in the nation for **DRIVING AFTER DRINKING** alcohol
WY – 19.2% US - 12.1%

>6th in the nation for current (past 30 days) alcohol use **WY – 49% US – 44.9%**

*As reported in the 2003 Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey results



James H. Biela

ADS,MSW,PCSW126



Laura Burrell

Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist



7 Adolescents

Adolescents in recovery speaking on the use of substances in Sheridan



**Adolescents
Speak **out** on
Substance Use
in Sheridan
County**

Northern Wyoming Mental Health Substance Abuse Program & WYSTAR
(Wyoming Substance Abuse Treatment Recovery Center)
PRESENTS:

**UNDERAGE DRINKING
AND THE USE OF SUBSTANCES
IN SHERIDAN COUNTY.**

Date: MARCH 5, 2005

Time: 10:00AM @ 1043 Coffeen Ave—Suite B—2nd Floor

Located across the parking lot of Subway near Wild West Cellular

Northern Wyoming Mental Health Substance Abuse Program & WYSTAR
(Wyoming Substance Abuse Treatment Recovery Center)

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Educating the public on underage drinking and use of substances with adolescents

One of the behavioral issues facing many parents with adolescents today is the high rate of drug and alcohol experimentation. Parents tend to avoid this behavioral and health issue more than any other when it comes to their teenagers. It is difficult for parents to face the idea that a child could be experimenting with mood-altering substances.

The tendency to ignore signs and symptoms of substance abuse can delay treatment significantly. The longer you wait to deal with a teen who is experimenting with alcohol or drugs, the more difficult and serious the problem can become.

Youth access to alcohol is a serious problem in Sheridan. The consequences are unhealthy, unsafe and even life threatening. This public forum is the First of Several community awareness: **EVENTS:**

Addressing and Preventing further substance use among adolescents—Power Point presentation on Alcohol. Laura Burrell NWMHC Substance Abuse Prevention

Awareness to Community leaders, judicial leaders including attorney's, school officials, students, and families in the scope of adolescent use of substances. Presented by Aaron Holst, Sheridan Juvenile Drug Court & Lisa Kaplan, MSW, PCSW—WYSTAR Clinician

Seven adolescents will address the community in their perspective of the alarming concern regarding use among adolescents.

CALL TO ACTION!

Look Around You

Children draw conclusions about alcohol use from what they see and hear around them - in their families, in their homes, and in their communities. Alcohol use is often portrayed as a regular feature of leisure activities, and children see ads and billboards not only reinforcing that concept but often specifically targeting underage drinkers. Children may also attend local or family-focused events, which are sponsored by alcohol companies or for which drinking alcohol is part of the customary procedures of the event. In these ways, society tells children that alcohol use is accepted, expected, and even essential to having a good time.



Families working together to stop underage drinking and substance use

Registration

Date: MARCH 5, 2005
TIME: 10AM—1:00PM
WHERE: 1043 Coffeen Suite B—2nd floor

PLEASE REGISTER BY Faxing or Calling the numbers below. Registration due by February 25, 2005.

Name

Address

Phone

Northern Wyoming Mental Health Substance Abuse Program & WYSTAR

Contact person: James Biela or Laura Burrell

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