Substance Abuse

STATISTICS:

- The 2000 Michigan Drug and Alcohol Population Survey estimates the number of Michigan citizens with alcohol dependency and abuse at over 550,000 and those with illicit drug dependency at 326,000 with an additional 92,000 people classified as illicit drug abusers. An estimated 100,000 children under the age of 18 are in need of substance abuse treatment.

- Alcohol abuse alone is associated with motor vehicle crashes, homicides, suicides and drowning – the leading causes of death among youth. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning reports that 36% of fatal crashes in 2002 involved drunk and drugged drivers.

- The 2001 National Household Survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) states almost half of all Americans age 12 and over are current drinkers and more than one in ten reported driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department
(906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913
www.didhd.org

Coordinating Agency Assessment Service
(906) 779-1999

Another resource for people with little or no money and no insurance who need treatment for substance abuse is SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator (http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov). Use a Detailed Search or List Search and check the boxes for "sliding fee scale" and "payment assistance." Then call the facilities to determine their policy.

You can also contact call one of the Referral Helplines operated by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:

1-800-662-HELP
1-800-662-9832 (Español)
1-800-228-0427 (TDD)
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Alcohol Abuse
Prolonged, heavy use of alcohol can lead to addiction (alcoholism). Sudden stopping of long term, extensive alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions. Long-term effects of consuming large quantities of alcohol, especially when combined with poor nutrition, can lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and liver. In addition, mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine is a powerful synthetic stimulant. It is known by a variety of names including meth, peed, crystal meth, and crank. The drug comes in chunk, powder, pill, and capsule form. The binge-and-crash cycle that the drug creates can lead to addiction after only a one-time use. Severe exhaustion, depression, and a strong craving for more of the drug accompany the crash. Methamphetamine users typically don’t understand the risks of the drug, and they can’t recognize their need for help. It’s up to family members, friends, co-workers or other concerned persons to work with substance abuse professionals to get the user into treatment.

RESOURCES:

Michigan Substance Abuse Treatment Referral Line
For information on treatment programs in your area
1-888-736-0253

Michigan Meth Watch Program
http://www.michiganmethwatch.org

Partnership For a Drug-Free America
http://www.drugfree.org

SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator
http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov