GCADA Launches Statewide Awareness Campaign

The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) has launched a statewide awareness campaign, "Addiction Does Not Discriminate" to help fight drug abuse by showing that no one is immune to the deadly drug problem.

To supplement this campaign, the state has also launched the website KnowAddiction.nj.gov. These initiatives provide New Jersey residents with information on preventing abuse, recognizing those at risk, and finding treatment.

The Council's public awareness activities include the use of well-known communication strategies including letters to the editor, opinion pieces and press releases, as well as maintaining an active presence on Facebook.

Please go to KnowAddiction.nj.gov to learn more.

Synthetic Marijuana Overdoses Increase

A new government report finds emergency room visits related to synthetic marijuana more than doubled between 2010 and 2011. These statistics include both teens and adults.

Pamela Hyde, of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration noted “These products are especially dangerous because there is widespread misconception these drugs are safe and legal. These products cause significant harm.”

Users may experience severe paranoia, delusions, hallucinations and increased agitation. Its long-term effects are unknown.

The Synthetic Drug Prevention Act of 2012 specifically prohibits the sale or possession of some types of synthetic marijuana.

Unfortunately, manufacturers of these compounds continue to modify their chemical structures in an attempt to evade current laws.
Marijuana Candy: A Danger To Children, Especially At This Time of Year

The use of marijuana candy has been increasing in NJ and nearby states. This poses serious health risks to users, especially to children during Halloween.

It is possible that children could accidentally receive marijuana candy. Adults should check for strange odors in candy received by children.

Marijuana candy contains THC and is sold as medical marijuana on the internet. The candy looks like hard or gummy candy or chocolate. The THC level in these products may be as high as 90%, compared to 10% to 20% found in marijuana cigarettes.