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Cocaine

Cocaine/Crack:

In 1996, cocaine-related episodes comprised 30 percent of all hospital emergency room drug-related visits, with "dependence" commonly being reported as the motive for drug use.

Heroin:

An estimated 2.4 million people use heroin at some time in their lives.

Inhalants:

According to a 1995 survey, when reporting on first use, inhalants was mentioned as the substance most often tried before the age of 13 (30% of the respondents).

Critical Issues Related to Substance Abuse:

Crime:

By the year 2000, if current trends continue, this nation will break the \$100 million per day barrier in money spent to incarcerate individuals with serious drug and alcohol problems.

Employment:

In 1994, more than 69 percent of those reporting use of illicit drugs were employed full time. Respondents were between the ages of 18 and 49. Of those reporting heavy use of alcohol (five drinks or more on five or more occasions in the past 30 days), 77.4 percent were employed full time.

Welfare:

Following treatment, clients receiving welfare declined from 40 percent to 35 percent – an almost 11 percent overall decrease.

Perceptions:

Children are now less likely than ever to believe that using drugs is "dangerous" and that people on drugs "act stupid."

Availability:

More than half of youths age 12-17 reported that marijuana was easy to obtain in 1996, and about one

quarter reported that heroin was easy to obtain. Fifteen percent of youths reported being approached by someone selling drugs in the month prior to being interviewed.

Center For Substance Abuse Treatment National Helpline (800-662-HELP):

Through this toll-free, confidential service, supported by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, trained specialists provide information on alcohol and drug abuse and available treatment options. They also provide referrals to treatment programs, self-help and family support groups, and crisis centers nationwide.

Wilkes Community College has adopted a drug and alcohol prevention program (see catalog and fall semester schedule). Throughout the school year WCC will sponsor educational activities geared toward prevention of drug abuse and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **For further information, contact Cathy Annas, Counselor, Student Services Office.**

Sources:

Recovery from Substance Abuse and Addiction: Real People Tell Their Stories. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 1997.

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Behind Bars: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1998.

Year-End Preliminary Estimates from the 1996 Drug Abuse Warning Network. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1997.

Treatment Episode Data Set Advance Report #12, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1997.

An Analysis of Worker Drug Use and Workplace Policies and Programs. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1997.

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