



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE TRENDS Registration Deadline is August 6, 2010

Every day, 2,500 youth ages 12-17 abuse prescription drugs for the first time fueling the growing problem in cities and counties across the country.

David Mineta, Deputy Director of Demand Reduction for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), will be joined by local experts to highlight the latest trends at a Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Summit taking place August 13, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton San Diego, 8110 Aero Drive.

The event is sponsored by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), the Prescription Drug Task Force of San Diego County, and the Drug Enforcement Agency, San Diego Field Division. Parents, educators, prevention specialists, youth organizations, and the faith community are encouraged to attend.

Interested participants may register by calling (800) 628-2880 or visiting www.pph.org and clicking on "Classes & Events" and "Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Summit." The registration deadline is Friday, August 6.

"Prescription drug-related deaths shot up more than 60 percent from 2005 to 2009 in San Diego County, according to data from the San Diego Medical Examiner's Office," Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price said. "In fact, the data shows that prescription drugs were involved in roughly 40 percent of the top 10 drug-related overdose cases. This summit serves an important purpose to educate various interest groups on a growing concern."

The Prevention Summit will provide an overview of the prescription drug abuse problem throughout San Diego County, including specific information related to the issue within the college campus system, the aging community, adolescents and law enforcement.

According to ONDCP, prescription drugs—pain relievers, tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants—are the drugs most often abused by teens after marijuana and misuse increases as they grow older.

"The Summit will provide statistics about prescription drug abuse in high schools, colleges, and the general population," said Nick Macchione, HHSA Director. "Participants will spend the afternoon developing regional plans to prevent this growing issue through a multi-disciplinary approach."

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