



Veterans Against Drugs

A collaborative effort between American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Community-Coalition On Drug Awareness, Montana Elks Drug Awareness Program, the faith community, law enforcement, and educators to reduce underage drinking, tobacco use, and illegal drug use throughout Southwest Montana.

What you don't know you don't know.

- ✚ Excessive alcohol use includes binge drinking, heavy drinking, any alcohol use by people under the age 21 minimum legal drinking age, and any alcohol use by pregnant women. 25% of Gallatin County Adults report excessive drinking, above the state average of 21% and well above the national average of 18% - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Random Digit Dial Telephone Survey
- ✚ Vaporizer Pens (E-cigarettes) have become the new way for drug users to not only get high, but do it discreetly – at times right under the noses of police, parents, and teachers.
- ✚ Painkillers actually kill more Americans than heroin and cocaine combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control, but heroin is still one of the top killers of illegal drug users.
- ✚ Heroin use has increased across the US among men and women, most age groups, and all income levels.
- ✚ Mexican drug trafficking organizations are the primary manufacturers and distributors of methamphetamine in the U.S.
- ✚ Domestic independent laboratory operators also produce and distribute methamphetamine on a smaller scale. Of particular concern is the toxic waste associated with these labs and the fact that many individuals, including children, are at risk of exposure to these toxic chemicals.
- ✚ The “one pot” meth manufacturing process has been around for several years, but as a vehicle to making meth, this method has grown briskly across America over the last couple of years.
- ✚ Synthetic stimulants that are marketed as “bath salts” are often found in a number of retail products. Many of these products are sold over the Internet, in convenience stores, and in “head shops.”

- ✦ GHB or Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (C₄H₈O₃) is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant that is commonly referred to as a “club drug” or “date rape” drug. GHB is abused by teens and young adults at bars, parties, clubs and “raves” (all night dance parties), and is often placed in alcoholic beverages.
- ✦ LSD (d-lysergic acid diethylamide) is one of the most potent mood-changing chemicals. LSD is sold in tablets, capsules, and occasionally, liquid form; thus it is usually taken orally.
- ✦ Psilocybin -The active compounds in psilocybin-containing “magic mushrooms have LSD-like properties. The psychological consequences include hallucinations, and an altered perception of time, and an inability to discern fantasy from reality.
- ✦ Molly (MDMG) is a synthetic, psychoactive drug that has similarities to both the stimulant amphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline.
- ✦ Spice (K2) refers to a wide variety of herbal mixtures that produce experiences similar to marijuana (cannabis) and that are marketed as “safe,” legal alternatives to that drug.
- ✦ Katamine is a dissociative anesthetic that has some hallucinogenic effects. Distribution of ketamine typically occurs among friends and acquaintances, most often at raves, nightclubs, and at private parties.
- ✦ The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. Higher THC levels may explain the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use.
- ✦ A newly popular method of marijuana use is smoking or eating different forms of THC-rich resins extracted from the marijuana plant is on the rise. Users call this practice “dabbing”. Users have used butane to make extracts at home have caused fires and explosions and have been seriously burned.



Drug endangered children efforts originated out of concerns about the extreme dangers faced by children living in meth lab homes.

However, because any type of drug abuse may create dangerous environments for children – not just the manufacture of meth – the efforts quickly expanded to include all drugs of abuse, including legal substances such as alcohol and prescription drugs.

Rick Gale
Veterans Against Drugs
American Legion Post #14

rickngale@gmail.com