

Infographics

KSPA STATE COMPETITION 2010

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THIS IS A CARRY-IN CONTEST. PLEASE ATTACH THE CONTEST NUMBER ASSIGNED TO YOU ON THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE ENTRY. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ENTRY. IF YOU DO, YOUR ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO REQUEST HELP OR ADVICE FROM ANYONE OTHER THAN THE KSPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. ALL WORK MUST BE THAT OF THE CONTESTANT.

OVERVIEW

Description

You are a staff member of Sunflower High School's *The Standard*. Your newspaper editor has asked you to prepare an infographic based on the story provided.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School

Location: Aspera, Kansas

Enrollment: 950 (grades 9-12)

School Colors: Green & Gold

Mascot: Box Turtles

Name of Yearbook: *Honeybee*

Name of Newspaper: *The Star*

DIRECTIONS

Assignment

Using the information provided in the story (which you will find on page 2 of this entry), design an infographic that is 4 inches wide by any depth. Entries should be computer generated and may incorporate clip art or other graphics to enhance the design. The graphic may be submitted in color or black and white and should be printed on 8.5 x 11 inch paper.

ARTICLE

Survey: Teen use of alcohol, marijuana rises, reverses a trend

WASHINGTON — Alcohol and marijuana use among teens is on the rise, ending a decade-long decline, a study being released Tuesday found.

“I’m a little worried that we may be seeing the leading edge of a trend here,” said Sean Clarkin, director of strategy at The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, which was releasing the study. “Historically, you do see the increase in recreational drugs before you see increases in some of the harder drugs.”

The annual survey found the number of teens in grades 9 through 12 who reported drinking alcohol in the last month rose 11 percent last year, with 39 percent — about 6.5 million teens — reporting alcohol use. That’s up from 35 percent, or about 5.8 million teens, in 2008.

For pot, 25 percent of teens reported smoking marijuana in the last month, up from 19 percent.

Until last year, those measures for pot and alcohol use had been on a steady decline since 1998, when use hovered around 50 percent of teens for alcohol and 27 percent for pot.

The study also found use of the party drug Ecstasy on the rise. Six percent of teens surveyed said they used Ecstasy in the past

month, compared with 4 percent in 2008.

If parents suspect their teen is using, they need to act quickly, Clarkin said. Monitor them more closely, talk with them about drugs, set rules and consult outside help, like a counselor, doctor, clergy or other resource, he said.

The researchers asked teens how they felt about doing drugs or friends who did them. The study found a higher percentage of teens than in the previous year agreed that being high feels good; more teens reported having friends who usually get high at parties; and fewer teens said they wouldn’t want to hang around kids who smoked pot.

Stacy Laskin, now 21 and a senior in college, said marijuana was everywhere during her high school years. Laskin said she tried pot and drank alcohol in high school, but didn’t make it a habit like other kids she knew.

“The behavior I saw people go through — and to see how far people can fall — really turned me away more than anything else,” Laskin said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Her close friend from high school died in 2008 from a heroin overdose. Laskin, a psychology

major at Salisbury University in Maryland, was so torn by her friend Jeremy’s death that she decided to help others and is working on her second internship at a drug treatment center.

“Just seeing the negative impact made me want to get involved,” she said.

Other findings:

- Teen abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter cough medicine remained stable from 2008 to 2009. About 1 in 7 teens reported abusing a prescription pain reliever in the past year; and about 8 percent of the teens questioned reported over-the-counter cough medicine abuse in the past year.

- Teen steroid and heroin use remained low at 5 percent for lifetime use.

The Partnership’s “attitude tracking” study was sponsored by MetLife Foundation. Researchers surveyed 3,287 teens in grades 9 through 12. Data were collected from questionnaires that teens filled out anonymously from March to June 2009. The study has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.

The New York-based Partnership is a nonprofit group working to reduce the use of illicit drugs.