

Crystal Methamphetamine Survey

Background and Objectives

In the Fall of 2006 a Methamphetamine Task Force was created to serve as an advisory committee for the Coordinator, in order to help facilitate a Community Connections' project to increase public awareness and education about Crystal Meth in Revelstoke.

One of the first objectives for the project was to survey individuals in the community of Revelstoke to help determine three key areas of information:

1. Overall knowledge of Crystal Meth
2. Knowledge of the effects of Crystal Meth use
3. Ideas for future direction of the project.

Methodology

The Crystal Meth Survey was adapted from a survey conducted in Golden, BC by the Golden Methamphetamine Task Force. Over a period of one month, the surveys were placed at the Revelstoke Community Centre, Pharmasave and Community Connections to be completed by community members.

In addition, during one block period at Revelstoke Secondary School, surveys were given out to all students to complete and surveys were brought to a Rotary Club meeting and completed by members at that time.

A total of 476 surveys were collected. Surveys were separated by gender and age and grouped into specific categories; a random sampling was then taken from each category.

The categories are as follows:

- Females 12-15 / Males 12-15
- Females 16-18/ Males 16-18
- Females 19-40 / Males 19-40
- Females 41+ / Males 41+

Surveys were collected in Mid- December 2006 and collated and analyzed by the Methamphetamine Task Force coordinator, Karley Trauzzi.

Data and Analysis

Overall Knowledge of Crystal Meth

Overall, the majority of individuals surveyed answered, Yes to Crystal Meth being in Revelstoke and the data shows that Revelstoke has a high knowledge of Crystal Meth; knowing especially that it is not hard to make, it is not expensive and it is not easy to be treated for. All survey categories had heard other names for Crystal Meth in Revelstoke, such as Jibb, Ice, Speed, Crank or Meth and the majority reported

that most people get Crystal Meth at parties, out of town or from the same people who sell other drugs.

The data showed that individuals heard of Crystal Meth through a variety of sources such as, the news, friends, school and other people in general.

The majority of correct answers generally increased with age and both genders were fairly even. With the exception of the 41+ age group, males were more likely to know someone who had tried Crystal Meth than females, with the 12-15 age group having the highest percentage overall, 90%.

Knowledge of Effects of Crystal Meth

Revelstoke has a very high knowledge of the effects of Crystal Meth, such as physical effects, addictive factors and typical users. The data shows that an overwhelming majority of responses to questions regarding the effects of Crystal Meth were correct; at least 70% with the majority of responses being 100% correct.

Males 12-15 knew slightly less than the other age groups, Females 41+ knew slightly more than the other female age groups and Males 16-18 had the highest number of correct answers overall all age groups of both genders. Overall males knew slightly more than females, however, although these differences are slight, there were no significant differences between age and gender.

Future Direction

The data shows that the majority of individuals surveyed, by at least 60% think that Revelstoke needs more education on Crystal Meth. In addition, a significant amount of individuals also reported wanting a public forum on Crystal Meth.

The community of Revelstoke sees a significant need for more education about Crystal Meth, for youth, parents and people at risk of using the drug. Individuals also see a need to provide opportunities and programs for youth and an emphasis on policing in the community.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The data shows that Revelstoke seems to have good knowledge of Crystal Meth and is aware that it is available in this community. The majority of individuals have a clear understanding of the basic effects of Crystal Meth; however there is always room to learn more specific information as the drug has many detrimental effects and has a history of a strong influence on small communities.

Revelstoke seems to have an interest in preventing Crystal Meth from having a larger impact on the community and see education as the primary form of intervention.

I think there is a need for further awareness and education on all types of drugs in Revelstoke and substance abuse in general. Because Crystal Meth is so often cut

with other drugs, i.e. cocaine and ecstasy (two popular drugs in Revelstoke), there needs to be prevention and awareness on these drugs as well.

Overall, the survey results show that individuals in Revelstoke are relatively aware that Crystal Meth is in the community and they have a good knowledge of the adverse effects of the drug. Therefore, the focus on future Crystal Meth projects may need to focus more on education about the complex effects of the drug, prevention methods and treatment options.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karley Trauzzi'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'K' and a cursive 'Trauzzi'.

Karley Trauzzi, BSW RSW