

Education/Prevention Highlights

The Educators of the Ohio Poison Control Collaborative Network

The Educators of the Ohio Poison Control Collaborative Network (EOPCCN) consists of personnel from the Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus centers. The mission of this collaborative is to facilitate on-going, consistent poison prevention outreach for the State. This was the second year of working toward community-based process strategies.

This year most of our efforts targeted possible commitment from the State by incorporating a standard poison prevention curriculum through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) programs. Working with ODH would mean that each county would receive the same poison prevention message through such programs as Head Start and Welcome Home.

EOPCCN has chosen to establish a project as a yearly undertaking, which will coincide with National Poison Prevention Week. This year bookmarks and phone stickers were made available through the state library system. The bookmarks are marked as a ruler on the front. Printed on the front is "Rule Out Poisoning! Here's How to Measure a Poison Safe Home." Printed on the back is "Ways to Prevent Poisoning:" followed by nine points and region specific phone numbers for the poison control center.

Pharmacist Rehabilitation Organization

DPIC is the base for the southern region of the Pharmacist Rehabilitation Organization (PRO). PRO monitors rehabilitating pharmacists and acts as the liaison for the professional to the State Board of Pharmacy. The staff of DPIC has been hailed as professional, confident, timely, accurate and pleasant while monitoring pharmacists. PRO and DPIC offered seminars dealing with drug abuse issues, addiction and "Legal Issues and the Rehabilitating Pharmacist."

DPIC has also been providing interstate monitoring and advocacy. Combining efforts have proven effective and national organizations are exploring DPIC as a model for advocacy of rehabilitating health professionals.

Prevention Alliance

The DPIC, the Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area (ACCA), Crossroads Center and the Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) work in cooperation as the Prevention Alliance. After three years of collaborative work in the western portion of Hamilton County, the Prevention Alliance has established itself as a trusted resource in that community.

DPIC's role has been to provide prevention services through public and private schools, nursing homes and senior centers, churches, health care facilities and businesses. Offering services to such diverse groups supports the idea that prevention must be worked into all facets of life: a continuum of consistent age-specific messages.

Teaching

- A series of three lectures (Poison Control, Street Substance Abuse and Substance Abuse Prevention) and two related experiential programs were presented to 32 first-year pediatric residents.
- As part of the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine elective in Toxicology, nine medical students and three residents rotated through DPIC.
- Four Pharmacy Externs and seven nursing students rotated through DPIC.
- Twelve medical students on their pediatric emergency medicine rotation received applied toxicology experience through DPIC.
- DPIC faculty and staff “team taught” two quarters of Pharmacology for the University of Cincinnati, College of Evening and Continuing Education.
- Three DPIC staff members successfully passed the American Association of Poison Control Center’s Certified Specialist in Poison Information exam.

Poison Prevention Week

Each year Ohio’s Southwest Regional Drug and Poison Information Center (DPIC) coordinates an extensive initiative for poison prevention awareness during National Poison Prevention Week. As in past years, the local media (television, radio and newspapers) have been cooperative by broadcasting interviews, public service announcements, segments and talk shows and also through articles in print media. Local hospitals, pharmacies and professional organizations have helped by having poison prevention displays and presentations and by having articles published in their newsletters. This year’s activities also integrated National Inhalant Abuse Prevention with Poison Prevention Week. On the local level, DPIC targeted elementary and secondary schools for poison and drug abuse prevention messages. This series of presentations was in conjunction with the NOMAD (No More Alcohol and Drugs) van.

Toxicovigilance

DPIC identified a new and alarming drug abuse trend. Teenager and young adults, mostly 13- to 19-years-of-age, are deliberately ingesting large amounts of Coricidin HBP[®] for Cough and Cold. Some take as many as 15 or more tablets at one time. The teens are seeking what they describe as an LSD-like “high” from the dextromethorphan, a non-prescription cough suppressant.

Most discovered the practice from the Internet or from friends at school. At least 28 calls about abuse of dextromethorphan, 22 specifically about Coricidin HBP[®] were made to the Cincinnati DPIC during the first six weeks of 2000. Nineteen cases involved ingestions, of which twelve were treated in hospitals. Reported symptoms included increased heart rate, elevated blood pressure, increased pupils size, drowsiness, dizziness, slurred speech, unsteady gait, hallucinations, confusion and nystagmus (involuntary rapid, rhythmic movement of the eyeballs). Most other calls were from health professionals, school officials and law enforcement seeking information about multiple cases of drug abuse or shoplifting of Coricidin HBP[®], or from parents who discovered that their children were abusing Coricidin HBP[®] or other dextromethorphan-containing products.

Due to concern for the safety of teens, the DPIC notified the American Association of Poison Control Centers, the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, law enforcement, the Ohio Health Department, the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board, local Emergency Departments, and the media, including radio, television and press. It was a difficult decision whether or not presenting this information would encourage more experimentation, but the DPIC focused on the need for the community to be aware of this new trend and for children to be warned of the dangers of this drug abuse practice.

Children's Hospital Medical Center (CHMC)

- Ongoing participation in the Injury Prevention Coalition and Injury Free Coalition
- Presented on substance abuse for Brown Bag Lunch Session and Red Ribbon Week
- Presented "The Four XTC's" for Adolescent Clinic Staff
- Participated on the Environmental Health Center Internal Advisory Board
- Participated in development of content for CHMC website regarding poison prevention
- Participated in additional CHMC website development regarding safety issues, including "Safety House"

County/City

- "Drug Diversion, Drug Rape and Raves" presented to the entire Cincinnati Police Department (over 800 participants) for continuing education in 29 sessions
- "Dextromethorphan Abuse" lecture for Coalition for Drug Free Community Task Force
- Multiple presentations on Poison and Substance Abuse Prevention for Department of Human Services Foster Parents Program
- Testified for City of Cincinnati Board of Education on Safe and Drug Free Schools Program
- Substance Abuse Training for new counselors at the 3 Square Music Foundation

Regional

- Hamilton, Butler, Adams, Clermont, Highland, Brown Warren and Clinton Counties: professionals and patients targeted through displays, posters and brochures
- Clermont County: Presentation were done at various senior centers regarding poisonings and medications
- Clermont and Butler Counties: Elementary school children learned about poisonings and early drug abuse awareness
- Clermont and Butler Counties: Visibility at county fairs
- Butler County: Active in Headstart and Safe Kids Coalitions
- Training of 40 pharmacy students, who presented over 70 area Substance Abuse Prevention Programs to local 3rd- to 6th-graders. The program included facilitated discussions on tobacco, alcohol and inhalant abuse.
- Presented "The Four XTC's" for Clinton Memorial Hospital
- Multiple trainings for area paramedic squads
- Collaboration with the American Red Cross Task Force on Carbon Monoxide Safety to have information brochures with prevention tips and DPIC's phone number sent with Cinergy billing to 1.4 million households. Additionally, this collaboration resulted in the distribution hundreds of free Carbon Monoxide Detectors.
- Distribution of stickers, brochures, and pamphlets to senior centers, Meals on Wheels, Health Fairs, Train the Trainers Nurse and Social Worker groups, and ElderReach
- "Drugs/Substance Abuse and Date Rape" presented to students, teachers, counselors and administrators at King's Junior High

- Provided Pharmacy Services for Central Community Health Board and Neighborhood Healthcare, Inc.
- “Street Drug Update” lecture for monthly meeting of Professionals in Substance Abuse
- Lectures on substance abuse pharmacology and applied toxicology for regional science teachers training program
- Presented “Inhalant Abuse/Substance Abuse: From Ping Pong Balls to Fertilizer” at the Northern Kentucky School of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Presented “Household Highs and Lows” and “Club, Mug, Hug and Date Rape Drugs” as part of the 6th Annual Traumascope Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Conference
- Presented on poison prevention for Oxford Ohio EMS continuing education (CE) program
- Presented on substance abuse and poison prevention for AZO Professional Pharmacy Fraternity (CE) program
- Television interviews on Ecstasy, caffeine toxicity, child-resistant closures, dextromethorphan, a pre-teen snorting party, etc.

State/National

- “Coricidin Abuse, Date Rape and Raves” presented to the Ohio Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
- Participated in the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Summit on Inhalant Abuse
- Poster presentations on “Coricidin Abuse in Ohio Teens and Young Adults” and “The Internet: Sometimes Helpful, Sometimes Not” at the American Association of Poison Control Centers’ Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona
- Media interviews: CNN on Coricidin[®] abuse in teens, New York Times on buying drugs on eBay, Associated Press on laws intended to knock out designer drugs, Washington Press on creatine and ephedrine use in teens, Dateline NBC on nitrous oxide abuse
- Participated in National Inhalant Prevention Week Press Conference for Fox, NBC, ABC, NPR and MSNBC
- “Metal chelators: Diethyldithiocarbamate, Prussian blue,” “Case presentation: a family with mercury poisoning,” “Case presentation: a child ingesting copper sulfate,” Midwest Regional Poison Center’s Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 20, 2000
- “Pediatric Poisonings,” Emergency Medicine 2000 Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania November 9, 2000
- “Improving Health Information Delivery in Ohio,” Public Library Association National Meeting, Charlotte, NC, March 31, 2000

Publications

- Bond GR: Black widow spider envenomation, in Ford M, Delaney KA, Ling L (eds): Clinical Toxicology, W.B.Saunders & Company, 2000.
- Bond GR: Antimalarial Drugs, in Ling L, Erickson T, Clark R, Trestrail J (eds.) Toxicology Secrets, Hanley & Belfus, Inc., 2000.
- Ulmer C, Soloway R, Tsipis G, et al. Is it a poison? Biostars: Biology for Students, Teachers and Researchers, Join Hands Educational Foundation, Autumn 2000.