

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE PROMOTES TALKS TO PREVENT

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) sponsors Talk2Prevent, a prevention campaign that provides parents with tools necessary to discuss the topic of alcohol and substance abuse with their children. According to OASAS, Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States. 49% of high school seniors have consumed alcohol in the past 30 Days, 1 out of 3 13-year olds in NYS has tried alcohol and nearly 52% of NY students in grades 7-12 reported their parents had never talked to them about the dangers of underage drinking.

SAFE Inc. is the only prevention agency in Glen Cove dedicated to the elimination of alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. The agency continues to work to change societal norms about alcohol and substance abuse through ongoing prevention, intervention and education activities and events. Through the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, local substance abuse trends are identified and addressed to maintain an ongoing prevention effort. According to Executive Director-Dr. Sharon Harris said, "SAFE's goal is early intervention and prevention education. We provide parents with the proper tools to speak to their children often and early through bi-lingual parent Life Skills Training and through Parent University, free prevention education workshops offered to Glen Cove parents throughout the year."

Dr. Harris continued, "According to the 2014 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, administered to students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades, alcohol use and binge drinking is an area of concern. The 2014 survey data shows that the 8th grade class, 30-day use for Glen Cove youth (18.0%) remains higher than the national MTF average of 12.7%. Binge Drinking is significantly more prominent where 11.9% of survey participants indicate an incidence of binge drinking. This rate is higher than the 2012 8th grade rate (5.9%), and is also higher than the 8th grade national MTF average of 6.4%.

Students were asked the source of their alcohol if they had used in the past year. The most common source of alcohol for students who reported using alcohol at least once in the past year was from a family member or relative other than their parents followed by "I got it from home with my parents' permission" (50.0% of alcohol-using 6th graders).

The SAFE Glen Cove Parent Committee aims to educate parents on the dangers of underage drinking and substance use. It is critical that parents understand the importance of speaking with their kids about the underage drinking early on. According to SAMSHA a teen that begins drinking before the age of fifteen is 7 times more likely to struggle with a substance use disorder later on in life. The SAFE Rides program is one of the many initiatives provided by the Parent Committee in which Student Lifeline cards are distributed to minors within the City of Glen Cove. This card provided free cab rides for teens who need to get home safe when in a high risk situation to reduce the risks of underage drinking and driving.

To find help call 1-877-846-7369 (: 1-877-8-HOPENY) or text HOPENY, the New York State HopeLine, offering hope 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for alcoholism, drug abuse, and problem gambling. All calls are toll-free, anonymous, and confidential.

<http://talk2prevent.ny.gov/parents>

For further information on SAFE, Inc , the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition and their initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at www.safeglencove.org