



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL TEENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN NATIONAL DRUG FACTS WEEK  
JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 2, 2014**

*Join other teens across the U.S. in a week-long effort to shatter the myths on drugs*

(Shelby, NC) — Local teens are encouraged to join forces with other teens and scientists across the United States as part of “[National Drug Facts Week](#)” (NDFW). The week-long health observance, organized by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA), takes place Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. NDFW celebrates the inquisitive minds of teens by giving them a time and place to get factual information from experts about drugs.

As part of the NDFW celebration, the Cleveland County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will be setting up educational booths at each of our local middle schools and high schools on a rotating basis beginning the week of January 27th. These booths will feature educational and interactive materials and resources on various types of drugs including a free booklet entitled *Drugs: Shatter the Myths*. Students are encouraged to visit their school’s booth to pick-up a copy of this colorful, easy-to-read booklet to learn more about the scientific facts about drugs and debunk common myths many teenagers hear. This resource and more is also available on NIDA’s National Drug Facts Week website: <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/resources.php>.

Do you think you already know everything you need to know about drugs? Test your knowledge by taking the National Drug IQ Challenge: <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/iqchallenge2013.php>.

About a third of high school seniors across the country report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. While drugs can put a teenager’s health and life in jeopardy, many teens are not aware of the risks. Even for those teens who do not abuse drugs, many have friends or family who do, and they are often looking for ways to help them.

According to the results of the 2012 PRIDE Student Drug Use Survey conducted in Cleveland County Schools, 39% of seniors reported using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and 11% reported abusing or misusing a prescription medication in the past year. Furthermore, 38% of seniors reported

smoking marijuana, 62% reported drinking alcohol, and 42% reported using tobacco within the past year.

“One of the major risk factors for teen drug use is having a low perception of harm. Many teens are simply not aware of the many dangers associated with drug abuse—especially when it comes to prescription and over-the-counter medications. We want teens to have the opportunity to learn what science has taught us about drug abuse and addiction, so they can make a more informed decision on drug use based upon the real potential consequences,” said DeShay Oliver, Coordinator of the Cleveland County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. “There are so many myths about drugs circulating throughout our culture, many of which are heard in songs, seen on television, or passed along by peers. National Drug Facts Week is for teens to get honest answers about drugs so they can make good decisions for themselves and share accurate information with friends.”

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