



PRESS RELEASE

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Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman Releases the 'Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force' Annual Report

DENVER – Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman has submitted the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force's 2015 annual report to the State Judiciary Committees of both the State Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly. The report highlights substance abuse trends, treatment programs, law enforcement responses and new dangers affecting the citizens of Colorado.

“Our communities continue to struggle with both prescription and illegal substance abuse concerns. There isn't a Colorado family that hasn't been touched in some way by the harmful effects of drug use in our state,” said Task Force Chair Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman. “The findings in the 2015 report show that we've had many successes during the last year, but so much more needs to be done in education, treatment and drug prevention.”

Alcohol, followed by methamphetamine, marijuana and heroin continue to be the substances Coloradans most seek treatment to address, according to the 2015 annual report. The rise in hospitalizations and deaths related to the abuse of heroin is alarming and coordinated efforts are occurring to change this pattern.

Also included in the 2015 annual report are successes that occurred at the local and state levels to tackle the abuse of all drugs in Colorado. Some of the 2015 highlights include:

- Spice Civil Suit Settlement
- Major Heroin Bust
- DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back Events
- Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
- Take Meds Seriously Public Awareness Campaign
- Colorado Medication Take-Back Program
- Naloxone Standing Orders
- Marijuana Education and Training

“The data shows that Colorado communities and law enforcement continue to fight the horrible impacts of methamphetamine use among our young adults, said José Esquibel, Vice Chair for Prevention of the Task Force and Director of the Office of Community Engagement. “It is essential that we use this report to renew our efforts to combat underage drug abuse, and improve access to treatment and recovery services.”

In 2013, the Colorado General Assembly reauthorized the Colorado State Methamphetamine Task Force under the name “Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force” (Senate Bill 2013-244) with representatives of state government, local governments, and the private sectors, including legislators, child advocates, public health officials, drug treatment providers, child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors.

Please find the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force’s 2015 Annual Report attached.

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