

## February TAP/TEG Enews From Community Intervention (February 2004)

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Happy Valentine's! I hope this February **TAP/TEG** Enews finds you healthy, happy and loved. As much as I appreciate the cards, flowers and words of love and devotion that February 14 may bring, the REAL holiday is February 15 when chocolate is 50% off! Life is good.

Thanks to those who responded to my request for information on how you use **TEG**. I am so impressed with the level of commitment, perseverance, and creativity to keep tobacco-using teens in school and to educate them to make healthier choices. Below are samples of some the responses.

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### **Tobacco Trivia: Did you know?** ~~~~~

While smoking incidents observed in movies declined from 10.7 incidents per hour in 1950 to 4.9 in 1980-1982, smoking incidents returned to 1950 levels (10.9 per hour) in 2002. American Journal of Public Health, February 2004)

Smoking during breastfeeding increases the risk of iodine deficiency-induced brain damage in children. (Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, February 2004)

Women who smoke are twice as likely to develop lung cancer as men who smoke. (Lung Cancer Journal, February 2004)

Adolescents with both parents who smoke are four times more likely to be a smoker compared to adolescents with parents who had never smoked. (Preventive Medicine, March 2004. Research available online December 2003.)

### **TEG Unplugged!** ~~~~~

Katie Thompson, Health Education Specialist, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, Louisville, KY: Students caught using tobacco have a choice between **TEG** and suspension. **TEG** is held after school once a week for eight weeks. **TEG** is also offered in child welfare group homes as part of the chemical dependency group for teens who smoke.

Allison Counts, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Belgrade, MT: If a student is caught using or in possession of tobacco at school or a school function, police are called and the student receives an MIP (Minor in Possession) for tobacco. The student is suspended for one to three days and is required to attend **TEG**. Even students observed by staff using tobacco off school grounds during school hours are reported and the police called. If police ticket a student outside of school, the court automatically refers the offender to **TEG**, providing the young person is enrolled in the Belgrade School District. Alison conducts **TEG** during lunch two times a week for four weeks. She says, "I use lunch time in order to take away a smoking time for

the referred students and to help them understand that they can make it through a whole day without smoking."

A **TEG** facilitator who prefers to remain anonymous: A child caught in possession of tobacco at school or in the community is referred to law enforcement and ticketed for MIP Tobacco. Municipal and circuit courts also refer MIP Tobacco offenses to TEG. Compliance is monitored by the County Youth Probation Officer through the **TEG** instructor. Repeat offenders attend **TEG** again with additional penalties, such as a fine or community service.

Bruce Baldwin, Project Manager, Butte County Office of Education, Oroville, CA: The schools created their own "ticket" book, which is really a referral form. A student caught using tobacco on school property is given a "ticket" and referred to **TEG**, which takes place after school for eight days. If the student completes **TEG**, they get the referral "signed off." If a student does not complete **TEG**, the school resource officer issues a ticket. A commissioner reviews such cases and the student is given the option of a \$75 fine or Saturday school. Most referrals are cleared up at the school level.

Kim Crawford, King's Daughter Hospital, Madison, IN: Students caught using tobacco can choose suspension or attendance at **TEG**. Most parents won't let their children choose suspension. **TEG** takes place every Thursday for 1.5 hours at the hospital and teens must attend four times.

Gwen Valentine, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, Clinton, TN: In two schools, students caught using or in possession of tobacco pay a \$50 fine and are required to attend **TEG** from 4:30 to 7:30 pm on two days. If the student's parent also attends **TEG**, then the class is free!

#### **Grant Opportunity**

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This year, the Drug-Free Communities Support Program will provide \$100,000 grants to approximately 180 community-based anti-drug coalitions nationally. Grants will be given to programs that work to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse for youth. Online applications are due March 26.

Click here for more information: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs>

#### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

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March 14-20 National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation >>  
<http://www.aacvpr.org>