



National Institute on Drug Abuse
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/>

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*****NEWS ADVISORY*****

**Drug Czar, Top Federal Experts Use Virtual Town Hall Event to Announce
Success of Major Community Based Drug Prevention Effort**

New Nationwide Study Shows Reduced Risk of Substance Abuse in Children

To promote community-wide involvement in drug abuse prevention efforts, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, will host a live virtual town hall meeting Wednesday, Sept. 9, to showcase effective evidence-based drug abuse prevention approaches.

Health, science and justice reporters in particular are encouraged to attend or view the live webcast (at <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/drugabuse-TownHall/>) to learn how effective approaches are changing U.S. communities.

The virtual town hall will offer top federal prevention experts a chance to interact with citizens and community representatives who have seen impressive results in their own communities.

This event follows the Sept. 7 release of results from the *Community Youth Development Study*, the first randomized trial of the model for implementing prevention programs known as *Communities That Care* (CTC). The study was supported by a research grant from NIDA with co-funding from other NIH Institutes including the National Cancer Institute, the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute of Mental Health; and from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Communities That Care* is distributed by CSAP.

The Virtual Town Hall will also let community leaders know how to access details about a host of other effective prevention approaches. The event will originate at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., with dozens of citizens participating via satellite from Maine, where several communities have experienced successful results with CTC.

WHAT: *Virtual Town Hall on Drug Abuse Prevention.* Learn about the latest science-based approaches to drug abuse prevention, with a focus on the Communities That Care (CTC) System.

WHO: Representing the White House:
Mr. R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

Representing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
Dr. Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health (NIDA/NIH)
Ms. Fran Harding, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (CSAP/SAMHSA)

Representing the Community Youth Development Study:
J. David Hawkins, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator, Social Development Research Group
University of Washington, Seattle

Representing communities that have seen prevention successes:
Study participants from five Maine communities (Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville and Rockport) as well as citizens in the states of Washington and Illinois, will join via satellite to discuss their success with the CTC prevention model.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 9, 2009
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

WHERE: Live online at: <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/drugabuse-TownHall/>

To attend in-person at the National Press Club, please contact [Jeff Levine](#) or [Stephanie Older](#) at 301/443-1124.

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The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at www.drugabuse.gov. To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's new *DrugPubs* research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or fax or email requests to 240-645-0227 or drugpubs@nida.nih.gov. Online ordering is available at <http://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov>.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — *The Nation's Medical Research Agency* — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a public health agency also within the Department of Health and Human Services. The agency is responsible for improving the accountability, capacity and effectiveness of the nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and mental health services delivery system.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President, was established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. The principal purpose of ONDCP is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the Nation's drug control program. The goals of the program are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences.