

Drugs:

Drug abuse and addiction are a major burden to society. Estimates of the total overall costs of substance abuse in the United States-including health- and crime-related costs as well as losses in productivity-exceed half a trillion dollars annually. Addiction is a chronic, often relapsing brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use despite harmful consequences to the individual who is addicted and to those around them. Research shows that combining addiction treatment medications, if available, with behavioral therapy is the best way to ensure success for most patients. Treatment approaches that are tailored to each patient's drug abuse patterns and any co-occurring medical, psychiatric, and social problems can lead to sustained recovery and a life without drug abuse.

Attached are links to assist with information on drug abuse:

http://kidshealth.org/teen/drug_alcohol/

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/deadlyhighs/#que>

<http://www.addict-help.com/>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/headsup/facts/index.asp?article=medications>

Most identified drugs used in schools: "Gateway Drugs"

- **Marijuana;** The most commonly used illegal drug in the U.S. The main active chemical is THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). Street name; Pot, ganga, weed, grass, and many others. Short-term effects include memory and learning problems, distorted perception, and difficulty thinking and solving problems.

http://www.answerbag.com/c_view/976

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/DrugPages/marijuana.html>

- **Alcohol;** (see section on alcohol)
- **Xanax ;** XANAX is a prescription medication for the treatment of patients with panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia. XANAX XR belongs to a group of medicines called benzodiazepines, which have helped many people feel better. (See more information on prescription drugs)

<http://www.drugs.com/xanax.html>

<http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-9824-Xanax+Oral.aspx?drugid=9824&drugname=Xanax+Oral>

Prescription Drugs

Prescription drugs are only safe for the individuals who actually have prescriptions for them. Teens are often getting caught raiding their parent's or grandparent's medicine

cabinets in order to get high. More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. In addition, stimulants, such as medications for ADD and ADHD – Ritalin® and Adderall® --are being abused by many teens to “help study better” in response to excessive pressure to do well in school or to suppress appetite for weight loss. These medications can be addictive, cause feelings of fear or paranoia and lead to serious health problems.

http://kidshealth.org/teen/drug_alcohol/drugs/prescription_drug_abuse.html

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/01/eveningnews/main5128584.shtml>

http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/prescr_drg_abuse.html

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/prescription.html>

Alcohol:

Similar to many other mental health disorders, alcohol abuse and dependence are likely due to a wide variety of environmental and biological factors. The cultural traditions surrounding the use of alcohol in family, religious, and social settings, especially during childhood, can affect both alcohol use and the likelihood that alcohol problems may develop:

<http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm>

<http://www.addict-help.com/>

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070904145740AAVs5Mt>

Tobacco:

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States. Between 1964 and 2004, cigarette smoking caused an estimated 12 million deaths, including 4.1 million deaths from cancer, and 5.5 million deaths from cardiovascular diseases. The use of tobacco products is not only addicting, but is directly related to a number of health problems and diseases.

http://www.drugfree.org/Portal/drug_guide/Tobacco

http://www.abovetheinfluence.com/facts/drugs-tobacco.aspx?id=search_properTobacco#fireworks=1

<http://www.tobacco-facts.info/>

Fighting, Physical Contact and Assault

As defined by Katy ISD, physical contact will not be tolerated on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related event on or off school property. If an individual is physically confronted by another student, the individual should avoid striking back and find an adult or administrator that can handle the situation. Regardless of who starts a fight, if both students participate, both students will be disciplined accordingly. A claim of self-defense is not a justification to avoid disciplinary action and/or police intervention unless there is documented evidence that the student could not flee. Anytime one person makes physical contact with another with the implied intent to harm, the act – depending on the severity – may be considered “physical contact,” “assault by contact,” or “assault with bodily injury.” However, at the point when the receiver of the physical contact retaliates, the infraction then becomes “disorderly conduct/fighting in public” for both students. If a police officer is called, both students involved will be ticketed for the same offense, as appropriate. Reference to KISD Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Management Plan;

[Physical Fighting Among Teenagers - Student Safety Center](#)

<http://www.keepschoolsafe.org/students/fighting.htm>

[Fight Crime: Invest in Kids - After-School Policy](#)

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00016064.htm>

Dating Violence

Teenagers often experience violence in dating relationships. Statistics show that one in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship. In dating violence, one partner tries to maintain power and control over the other through abuse. Dating violence crosses all racial, economic and social lines. Most victims are young women, who are also at greater risk for serious injury.

Teen dating violence runs across race, gender, and socioeconomic lines.

- *Both males and females are victims, but boys and girls are abusive in different ways.*
- *Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick;*
- *Boys injure girls more severely and frequently;*
- *Some teen victims experience violence occasionally;*

<http://www.acadv.org/dating.html>

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/topics/dateviolence.asp>

Hazing

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an education institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. Frequent misconceptions about hazing include the idea that hazing is nothing more than harmless pranks and that it is a practice largely isolated to college fraternities. The reality is that hazing activities occur in many different arenas. As [a recent study](#) indicates, hazing takes place in both men's and women's organizations and is common among student groups in middle/high schools—particularly athletic teams. To date, there has been Hazing traditions range from subtle behaviors to outright harmful "pranks," but regardless of the severity of the acts, the motivation behind them is always the same: the need to elevate one's power status by degrading or humiliating another person of "lower" standing.

<http://privateschool.about.com/cs/students/a/hazing1.htm>

http://www.stophazing.org/high_school_hazing/index.htm

<http://hazing.hanknuwer.com/hs2.html>

Racism

Racism is belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and those racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.^[1] In the case of institutional racism, certain racial groups may be denied rights or benefits, or get preferential treatment, while Reverse discrimination favors members of a historically disadvantaged group at the expense of those of a historically advantaged group. Racial discrimination typically points out taxonomic differences between different groups of people, even though anybody can be racialized, independently of their somatic differences.

<http://www.oppapers.com/essays/Racism-Schools/110859>

<http://www.adl.org/hate-patrol/racism.asp>

<http://socyberty.com/ethnicity/school-racism/>

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/racism>

Bullying

Bullying is a problem that affects millions of student's everyday. Bullying is intentional tormenting in physical, verbal, or psychological ways. Often people dismiss bullying among kids as a normal part of growing up. But bullying is harmful. It can lead children and teenagers to feel tense and afraid. Children and adolescents who bully thrive on controlling or dominating others. They have often been the victims of physical abuse or bullying themselves

http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/bullying

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullying>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/bullying.html>

Cyber-bullying:

Cyber-bullying is using technology or technical devices for posting harmful images or using the internet as a form of harassment. 1 in 10 kids are bullied electronically, and that girls are more likely to be victims than boys.

<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/>

<http://cyberbullying.us/blog/>

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/hscout/2009/06/29/hscout628463.html>

Gangs:

Kids join gangs for power, status, security, friendship, family substitute, economic profit, substance abuse influences, and numerous other factors can influence kids to join gangs. Gang members also cross all socio-economic backgrounds and boundaries regardless of age, sex, race, economic status, and academic achievement. The term gang almost always connotes involvement in disreputable or illegal activities.

<http://www.222antigang.org/ResourcesforParentsProfessionals/GangIdentifiers/GangSigns/tabid/145/Default.aspx>

<http://www.222antigang.org/ForParents/GangIdentifiers/Tattoos/tabid/144/Default.aspx>

<http://www.222antigang.org/ForParents/GangIdentifiers/Graffiti/tabid/147/Default.aspx>

<http://www.222antigang.org/ForParents/GangIdentifiers/Clothing/tabid/148/Default.aspx>

<http://www.222antigang.org/ForParents/GangIdentifiers/GangLanguage/tabid/146/Default.aspx>

<http://www.222antigang.org/ForProfessionals/EntertainmentAdvisory/tabid/93/Default.aspx>