



**Prevention Resource & Media Center**  
 1237 West Divide Ave Suite 1D  
 Bismarck, ND 58501  
 Phone: 701-328-8919  
 Toll Free: 800-642-6744  
 Fax: 701-328-8979  
 E-mail: [ndprmc@nd.gov](mailto:ndprmc@nd.gov)  
[www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention)

Contact: LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**National Inhalant and Poisons Awareness Week is March 18-24**  
*Department of Human Services has prevention materials available*

Bismarck, N.D. – **National Inhalant and Poisons Awareness Week** is March 18-24. It provides an opportunity to increase understanding about the use and risks of inhalants and to initiate community dialogue.

The N.D. Department of Human Services’ Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has created an educational inhalant abuse prevention toolkit for community leaders, parents, schools officials, and other professionals. The toolkit is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/inhalant-toolkt.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/inhalant-toolkt.pdf) and can be shipped to interested individuals at no cost. For a kit, contact the department’s Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8918, toll-free 800-642-6744, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

“Inhalant Awareness Week provides an opportunity to take action,” said Pamela Sagness, prevention administrator for the division. “It is also a time for all of us to look around our homes, workplaces, and communities to ensure we are creating a safe environment for our children.”

Sagness said it is important to teach youth about the safe use of products and to always stress that some products are dangerous poisons when used inappropriately. Inhalant use among North Dakota middle school students is 7.4 percent and 11.6 percent among high school students (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011).

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is the leading resource for substance abuse information and prevention efforts in the state. The department’s Prevention Resource and Media Center offers a variety of free brochures and pamphlets as well as other resources including DVDs that can be checked out and used all year long to support prevention efforts in schools and communities.

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Prevention Administrator  
 Pamela Sagness, LAC  
 701-328-8824  
[psagness@nd.gov](mailto:psagness@nd.gov)

Prevention Resource & Media Center [PRMC] Administrator  
 Laura Anderson, MPH  
 701-328-8918  
[lauranderson@nd.gov](mailto:lauranderson@nd.gov)

Prevention Media Specialist  
 Amber Jensen  
 701-328-8747  
[aljensen@nd.gov](mailto:aljensen@nd.gov)

Prevention Education Specialist  
 Rachelle Loda, Ed.S., NCSP  
 701-857-8576  
[rloda@nd.gov](mailto:rloda@nd.gov)

Prevention Specialist  
 Jessica Brewster, MS/ LAC  
 701-328-8747  
[jbrewster@nd.gov](mailto:jbrewster@nd.gov)

Prevention Specialist  
 Patrick Joyce  
 701-328-8919  
[patrjoyce@nd.gov](mailto:patrjoyce@nd.gov)

Community Prevention Specialist  
 Thomas Volk  
 701-220-1264  
[tmvolk@nd.gov](mailto:tmvolk@nd.gov)

Community Prevention Specialist  
 Crystal Kraft  
 701-328-8602  
[crykraft@nd.gov](mailto:crykraft@nd.gov)

