

## Prevention First, ACE Team Up for Inhalant Initiative

Nail polish remover, hair spray, aerosol deodorant, whipped cream, gasoline, cooking sprays and computer dust spray all have something in common: Kids are misusing these items to get high.

The entire inhalant list includes more than 1,400 products found in households, businesses and offices that are potentially dangerous when inhaled. When used as intended, they are supposed to provide a better quality of life; however, in recent years they have become deadly when intentionally inhaled to get high.

The Alliance for Consumer Education (ACE) is taking a leadership role to prevent kids from using inhalants by distributing its Inhalant Abuse Prevention Kit, containing information and handouts for parents, school officials and any individual in the community who wishes to inform others on this issue. The kit serves as an educational tool about the dangers of inhalants, identifying warning signs indicative of inhalant use and offering talking points for adults to broach the topic with youth.

ACE also teamed with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America to develop television public service announcements (PSAs) demonstrating the devastating effects of inhalant abuse, and has launched inhalant education initiatives in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. Prevention First, the Illinois affiliate of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, joined with ACE in May 2007 to introduce the educational materials and PSAs in Illinois.

According to a recent report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1.1 million kids have used an inhalant in the past year. The results can be devastating: Addiction, irreversible damage to vital organs or even "Sudden Sniffing Death." It is estimated that 1 in 5 children in the United States will abuse inhalants by eighth grade.

"No parent should have to find out about inhalant abuse like many do – after their child has been severely or fatally harmed," said Colleen Creighton, Executive Director for ACE. "For many parents who overlook inhalant abuse for what is perceived as more serious or the newest forms of substance abuse, a little education can go a long way."

The kits are electronically available through ACE's Web site, [Inhalant.org](http://Inhalant.org). Hard copies may be requested by sending an e-mail through the Web site.

