

Blindspots

Accompanying Document to Power Point Presentation

Slide 1: Blindspots: Things change so fast as the cycle of drug use changes, and so does the culture surrounding it. Blindspots is a program for adults, designed to create awareness, and help an adult who might suspect that a child is using alcohol, marijuana, or other substances to become more aware of suspicious indicators.

Slide 2: Our Teen Bedroom: CAPE's version of the teen bedroom. We have tried to make the room gender neutral. Each parent/adult's experience will be individual. There are more than 80 items and/or indications that a teen may be using and/or experimenting with one or a variety of substances. Please understand, we are not saying that all teens are using substances. We just want to educate adults and make them more aware of what is going on in our communities with our teenagers.

Slide 3: The Bed, On It: Looks like a typical bed. Pillows, stuffed animals, clothes, and schoolbooks. But at closer glance, there may just be hints to the use of certain substances.

Slide 4: A Closer Look: At closer glance, if you suspect that your student may be using a substance and trying to hide this from you, consider checking under pillowcases, in zippered compartments of pillows, and in the opened seams of stuffed animals. In our bedroom you should find: (1) Under the pillow a pack of rolling paper; (2) besides the marijuana leaf design on the throw pillow, unzip the case to find a packet of heroin; and (3) inside the underside of the teddy bear, simply by undoing a few threads, a hiding place is created.

Slide 5: The Clothing: Clothing is a great indicator that your student is at least aware of a "drug culture". What kid doesn't have a t-shirt, cap, or even a lanyard with perhaps a beer logo, or an image of rainbows, or the red-yellow-green color combination (associated with marijuana culture)? The question might be WHERE did they get these items? Many events (such as electronic music festivals) offer free giveaways advertising their sponsor's items. Besides the obvious, there are many companies that are specifically marketed to a substance using population.

****Interesting Fact 1:** The "Bob Marley/Rasta" colors each have their own meanings which are interpreted as follows: **Red** stands for the blood of martyrs, people that have given their lives to help others.

Green represents the beauty, fertility, and green vegetation that Ethiopia holds within its boundaries.

Gold (or yellow) stands for the wealth of Africa. So, these colors have a lot of meaning behind them.

****Interesting Fact 2:** Bob Marley followed the path of the Rastafari's. Rastafari's were a peaceful cult who had their own set of beliefs and included being vegetarians, not swearing, not harming any animals (including insects) and also smoking copious amounts of marijuana.

Slide 6: Under the Bed: Because boxes come in such a variety of sizes, it is recommended that you check under beds and in closets, inside shoeboxes (or photo boxes). You should find: (1) a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black, and (2) a container of Butane.

Slide 7: The Walls: How many insinuations can you spot in these posters and signs?

Poster 1: Alice in Wonderland, "Feed your Head"... Most people know that Lewis Carroll was rumored to have abused substances. Alice in Wonderland is riddled with drug reference. The most obvious here (besides the text) is the caterpillar smoking from a Hookah while sitting upon a mushroom.

Poster 2: "The Grim Reefer"... A play on words to the *Grim Reaper*. Vape trails and marijuana leaves abound.

Wall Art: The “420 Way” street sign...420 (pronounced four-twenty) is a code-term in cannabis culture that refers to the consumption of cannabis, especially smoking cannabis around the time 4:20 p.m., and smoking cannabis in celebration on the date April 20 (which is 4/20 in U.S. form).

****Interesting Fact 3:** Currently another emerging numeric phrase is 710. Can you figure out why? (Hint: Turn 710 upside down)

Slide 8: And the Floors: What do you notice about this rug? Looks like a puppy, but at closer look we can see that the puppy’s tongue is hanging out, he is wearing dark glasses, and the design features a marijuana leaf. Check under the rug- here you should find a bag of cocaine taped under the rug.

Also checking garbage cans for pen caps, foil, syringes and/or caps, folded up paper with white powdery residue, cut up straws, the innards of a cigar, cigar and cigarette wrappers, etc. Because of the e-cigarette trend, you should also look for the e-cigarette cartridges, particularly the Juul cartridges and caps.

Slide 9: The Backpack and the Gym Bag:

Inside the gym bag: You should find (1) a joint in a “doob tube” (2) hair gel (it’s a flask!) (3) a lanyard with the Corona logo; In the side pocket (4) “Rock Star” energy drink.

In the front pocket: (1) a Juul package (2) a Juul device (**It is a known fact that Juul pods (which contain Nicotine) can be opened, emptied and replaced with Marijuana oil). (3) Clear Eyes/Visine (used to clear irritated and blood shot eyes).

In the backpack: (1) A binder with suspicious doodles and stickers (2) A prescription bottle of Codeine (Prescription bottles can indicate that one is taking pills, or it can be being used as a “stash” container) (3) A text book (Hint: Open it up)

Slide 10: The Desk Top: There is an expression many of us have heard of: **“HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT”**. Keeping this in mind, what jumped out at you right away? What did you miss? Look for FIFTEEN items and /or references!

Slide 11: The Desk Top; Uncovering Our Blindspots:

- (1) The sticker on the lap-top. (Marijuana reference, looks like the McDonalds logo)
- (2) The mouse pad (a Dab Pad)
- (3) The scented candle (May be used to disguise the odor of marijuana)
- (4) The dabbing container (Could look like a contact case to the untrained eye)
- (5) Photo 1: “Ship-faced” a play on words with the expression “Sh**t-faced”. Beer bottles behind the banner.
- (6) Photo 2: Friends drinking and smoking....Taped behind the frame-a bag of weed
- (7) Jolly Ranchers (used with Mountain Dew and cough medicine [Codeine, DM, and/or Tussins] to create a stimulant known as **DRANK** or **LEAN**)
- (8) Mountain Dew Code Red (Purple Drank)
- (9) Pringles can (self-made stash can containing marijuana paraphernalia and a joint)
- (10) Empty water bottle (with burn hole)-Home made water pipe
- (11) Metallic stash jar (filled with marijuana)
- (12) Vaporizer
- (13) Glass water pipe (bong) disguised as pencil holder (or sometimes as a vase). In the “pencil holder” find a dab tool, and hollowed out pens

Slide 12: Zooming In For a Closer View: As per the 2018 Youth Survey results, teens report drinking and using marijuana (dabbing, vaping and smoking it), more than any other substances. We can see how very pervasive the innuendos are.

Slide 13: Don't Let Them Fool You: Look for: Water bottles with burn holes and/or brownish moldy-smelling liquid.

Look for Robitussin, DM (Dextro Methorphan), and Tussin Bottles... **Unfortunately, these items are available at your local DOLLAR STORE!!! So, it doesn't take much money for a teenager to buy the necessary items to create a substance to get high.**

Slide 14: Dresser/Night Table #1:

The Surface: (1)The cups-"Double-cupping" is a process used to mix the ingredients (sprite, cough syrup, jolly ranchers) used to create Purple Drank/Lean, by using a back and forth motion-cup to cup. Notice the images on the cups. The "cats in space" image is very common, representing a relaxed, spaced-out state of being, floating, etc. Images such as rainbows and unicorns are also indicators of this mindset. The cats also represent the drug Ketamine (Kat) (mostly widely used in the tranquilizing of horses and other large animals).

(2)The bottle of Ibuprofen could be innocent enough, but this one is stuffed with a bag of marijuana.

Drawer #1: **In the drawer taped to the underside of the surface is a bag of marijuana. (1)Notice the tank top says "Hustler 69"-a sexual innuendo. (2) Also, tucked under the shirt there is a Juul device, and (3) a pack of rolling paper (EZ Wider). There is also (4) a bottle of prescription Codeine, (5) a small funnel, and (6) a dab ball (container for marijuana tar) that looks like a lip balm container (with the Pokemon logo).

Drawer #2: (1) The magazine is opened to a page featuring a CBD oil product. (2) The suntan lotion bottle is a flask.

Drawer #3: The bottom drawer is most indicative of paraphernalia used for cocaine and/or heroin. You should find (1)cut up straws with a white powdery residue, (2)a bag of heroin (a light brown powder), (3)hollowed out pens, (4)pen caps, and (5)a rolled up dollar. **Note: You should also look out for syringes, syringe caps, cord, and razorblades (we did not include these items for safety issues).**

Slide 15: Dresser/Night Table #2: This dresser is filled with an array of items that may or may not be a reason for concern....

Slide 16: A Closer Look: Items of Concern:

The Surface: Make note of the items circled in **RED. These may be red flags.** (1) Tissue Box, (2) The Keychain (a bloodshot eyeball), (3) The lip balm pot with the Starbucks logo ("Spend My Bucks on Weed")-This is a marijuana grinder, (4) The Chocolate-100 mg of THC!

Slide 17: A Closer Look: Not necessarily Concerning, But Worth Being Aware Of:

The Surface: Make note of the items circled in **White. These are not necessarily of concern.** (1)Cannabis and Opium scented incense. These scents can have a relaxing effect and may mean nothing at all. (2)*Hempz* brand hand lotion-Products containing Hemp extracts are known to soften skin. Hemp is a high-growing plant, typically bred for industrial uses such as oils and topical ointments, as well as fiber for clothing, construction, and much more. Hemp CANNOT make you high.

Slide 18: Inside the Drawers of the Dresser #2:

Drawer #1: (1) The bangle is a flask; (2) the shot glasses and (3) the ping pong ball suggest drinking games (4) the tampon and (5) the suntan lotion are both flasks (6) a small funnel is behind the bangle. (The funnel is for filling the flasks) (7) Robitussin (8) Look closely in the bag of teabags. Did you spot the bag of marijuana?

Drawer #2: A glass pipe is hidden between the clothes

Drawer #3: A few packs of Heroin. Heroin is often bundled and wrapped with a rubber band. The wrapper might have an image stamped on it (eluding to a strain and/or particular dealer). Heroin can be white, grey (like cement) or have a yellowish hue (like cornmeal)

Slide 19: A Closer Look at the Items in Our Room:

Marijuana can be smoked, vaped, and ingested by mouth. Smoking can be done via “bowls” or pipes, water pipes, rolled like a cigarette or in cigar wrapper (known as “Blunts”, “Spliff”, “L”)

E-Cigarettes come in a variety of forms. The most popular is the Juul. Currently, you will hear people refer to “Juuling”-it seems this process has become a verb!!

Dabbing is the process of vaporizing concentrated marijuana, usually in the form of wax or hash, by placing it on an extremely hot metal object called a nail and inhaling the vapors produced. The nail is usually heated via blow torch. Inhaling this harsh and concentrated form of marijuana often causes one to cry and wipe one's tears away while coughing and passing a bong.

Slide 20: Stash Container: Stash containers can be made to look like everyday items. The ones above were featured in our room, but you can also find: popular food and drink items, health and beauty items, jewelry, accessories and clothing items all with hidden stash compartments. All these items are readily available on the internet and at your local smoke shops. Although the smoke shops may be hesitant to sell to minors, the internet has no regulation whatsoever.

Slide 21: The Clothing: There are a number of companies that market clothing to substance users. Not all drug-related clothes are as obvious as these. Some are as subtle as a small logo on a hat or a hidden pouch in a pair of shorts. Understanding logo identification can help you to spot these often subtle references.

Six Brands To Watch Out For: Grassroots, Cookies, Aperture, DGK, Seedless, SRH

Slide 22: The Clothing: Hiding Spots and Innuendos: There are a lot of creative images and stash compartments. What did you notice? What did you miss?

The Green Cookies Tee: Stash pouch under the label

The Cookies B&W Tee: Notice the Time... How ‘bout the leaf design?

The Cap: “Kush” is a slang term for Marijuana

The Dollar Bill tee: Notice: 420 (National Marijuana Smoking Day); 247 Or 24/7 (smoke 24 hours a day, 7 days a week); 365 (smoke 365 days a year)

“Have a Nice Trip” Tee: Notice the design: Is it an island? Or a bloodshot eye, with marijuana leaf palm trees

Grassroots Sweatshirt: Stash compartment in seam of hood

“Trap Lord”: Slang term for a drug dealer

Yellow Logo Tee: Arm and Hammer?

Strawberry Cough Tee: Sativa reference, strawberry cough syrup is a CBD oil flavor

Slide 23: The Accessories... All of these items have stash compartments, including the socks! The two baseball caps from the Grassroots Company have their stash compartments right under the logo! The sneakers have a stash compartment under the tongue.

Drug References: The cap with the cats: Kat is slang for Ketamine;

The knit cap: “Molly” refers to MDMA (methamphetamine);

The cap that looks like honeycombs is actually the chemical compound of THC;

The socks: Reference to Purple Drank.

Slide 24: The Music... Studies have revealed the power of drug suggestion in music is linked to an increase in MDMA use. Open-minded, adventurous listeners can easily stumble upon suggestive lyrics fueling their curiosity about alcohol and other drugs.

Slide 25 and 26: The Lingo... Understanding drug lingo gives parents a key tool in monitoring their teens for drug use and misuse.

Slide 27: Teen Drug Use and the Internet... A new study by the Caron Treatment Centers found that one in 10 messages on the Internet involved teens seeking advice from their peers on how to take illicit drugs. The messages were posted on common online message boards, forums, and social network sites such as MySpace.com. Keep an eye on your child's internet use.

Slide 28: Use your power of parenting to keep your children safe from temptation, negative peer pressure and shady marketing and advertising tactics.

Slide 29: For more information To book a Blindspots presentation for your school or organization please contact our Community Prevention Educator at:

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