

# WYOMING BUSINESS REPORT

## **Wyoming Business Report WY Meth Project unsells meth to young people**

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Drug readily available in central WY

CASPER - The annual Wyoming Meth and Substance Abuse conference drew 500 attendees in early January and presented a variety of nationally-known speakers and breakout sessions on topics ranging from drug testing employees to treatment for Native Americans.

A session restricted to law enforcement officers dealt with prescription drug abuse and diversion investigations. Alcohol abuse was also addressed, but the overall focus of the conference was methamphetamine and hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Jean Davies is director of the Wyoming Meth Project, a prevention effort modeled after the Montana Meth Project. "Our work is aimed at large-scale prevention work among young people," Davies said. "The public messaging is based on research that has guided our television and print announcements."

She noted that more than half of all children have never discussed meth with their parents. "When parents and their children can talk about the risks of meth they will learn how to make better decisions," Davies said. She noted that Wyoming was once ranked first in the nation for meth use by kids over 12 years of age; second for meth use in the 12-17 age group; and, first for meth use in the 18-25 year old group. She said surveys have shown that 45 per cent of young people say the highly-addictive drug meth is readily available. And, Davies said, one in four teens see no risk in trying meth, according to surveys.

In some communities, meth use comes with an increase in the use of ecstasy and prescription drugs - usually stolen from parent's medicine chests. Some speakers at the conference discussed teens who organize parties where prescription drugs and other illicit substances are tossed into a large bowl and kids can just reach in and take whatever they want in any quantities.

More information about the Wyoming Meth Project can be found at [www.wyomingmethproject.org](http://www.wyomingmethproject.org).

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