

# "Pass It On"

Prevention  
Newsletter

January 2013

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**"KEEP KIDS DRUG FREE"** receives a portion of the revenues from the sale of the State of Florida KEEP KIDS DRUG FREE specialty license plate. These funds assist alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention programs throughout Florida. The goal is to support families and communities in their goal to be healthy and dynamic.

Click tag below for info, and to order



Click below to RENEW  
[www.GoRenew.com](http://www.GoRenew.com)

[www.KKDF.org](http://www.KKDF.org)

## GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



The new Prevention Newsletter, "Pass It On", will update readers on timely prevention news, statistical information, upcoming events, and articles of interest for adults and adolescents. We hope you will find it informative and interesting.

### By Supporting National Health Observances, you can:

- Educate the public about health risks
- Organize successful health promotion events and campaigns
- Get new ideas, information and resources on health topics of interest

#### National Glaucoma Awareness Month

<http://www.metrocreativegraphics.com/public/sections/calendar-details.php?National-Glaucoma-Awareness-Month-9>

#### National Birth Defects Prevention Month

<http://www.nbdpn.org/bdpm2013.php>

#### American Heart Month

[http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/General/2012-Go-Red-For-WomenHeart-Month-Kickoff\\_UCM\\_320383\\_Event.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/General/2012-Go-Red-For-WomenHeart-Month-Kickoff_UCM_320383_Event.jsp)

#### National Blood Donor Month Find a blood drive near you.

Click below

<http://www.redcross.org/news/event/January-is-National-Blood-Donor-Month>

### Local Events/Meetings

#### Quilt Exhibit at MOSH, on display now 1025 Museum Circle, 904-396-7062

Remembering Florida's Fallen Soldiers  
Serving in Afghanistan and Iraq

<http://www.themosh.org/Home.html>

#### Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Health Fair

Jan. 15th, 9am—1:30 pm

Information booths include:

American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, Hospice, UNF Health Education, American Red Cross, and more...

[http://www.zvents.com/jacksonville\\_fl/events/show/234566864-health-fair](http://www.zvents.com/jacksonville_fl/events/show/234566864-health-fair)

#### Riverside YPG (Young People's Group) AA group for young people

Every Tues. 7—8:30 pm

Methodist Church, 16511 Talbot Ave.

For more info. call Intergruop—399-8535  
or Shane—345-9294

#### Celebrate Recovery of Greater Jacksonville

A Christian Based 12 Step  
Recovery Program. Visit website for  
Events and Meeting Schedule.

<http://crjacksonville.com/>

## Strawberry Meth

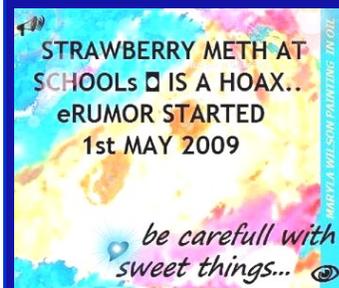
We first heard of strawberry meth in 2007. Warnings began to circulate alerting us of a new threat that was supposed to be a sweetened and flavored form of methamphetamine called *Strawberry Quik*. There were also reports that it resembled “pop rocks” or “rock candy,” giving the impression this new deadly concoction was designed to target our children. The main fear was that it might fool children or teens into mistakenly thinking it was candy or, not as addictive or dangerous as other forms of drugs.

Those early warnings about strawberry meth quickly worked their way to the public through police, schools and news media. Today, we are seeing reports of the “strawberry meth” circulating again. The scare has hit office emails, Facebook, the media and continues to work its way through our information highways. During our research to try and validate these claims, we concluded that the alarm being heard through our community is more of a rumor and perhaps began with a very concerned but over-zealous parent trying to warn others of a possible danger that was not verified. Before lowering the threat meter on this recent alert however, we wanted to try and obtain an official statement from the arena of Law Enforcement. We called upon the local office of the *North Florida HIDTA* (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) to ask if they could offer any information. *Mr. Ralph Little*, a Crime Intelligence Analyst from the local field office offered some very helpful information to shed light on this recent scare:

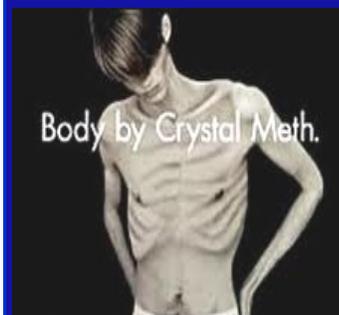
In 2008, DEA noted that strawberry meth had received extensive press but their laboratories had received very few submissions. That does seem to indicate some samples existed, but there is no further reference. It is likely there have been isolated events nationally. Again, in 2009, DEA reported the first confirmed sample of flavored methamphetamine submitted to their laboratories. However, it was grape and there is no further reporting available to me that references the use of flavoring in meth.

There are circumstances that may fuel rumors of the existence of a strawberry variation of meth. There are instances of colored, but not flavored meth from *Mexico*. It is colored by various cartels in order to “brand” their product and some have used pink, but it has no taste and is not a youth targeting mechanism. Also, one of meth’s street names is “Methlies Quick,” a play on Nestle’s Quik, a variety of which is strawberry. But the street name has no connection to a flavor. In more recent times, flavorings are used in synthetic cannabinoids which may give unwarranted credibility to them being used on meth.

What is true in the emails I’ve seen, is that historically there are many examples of techniques to market drugs to youth using colors, flavors and popular characters or designs. And it is always good advice to teach children to avoid taking sweets from strangers or even their



Artwork by Maryla Wilson  
<http://snoobe.blogspot.com/>



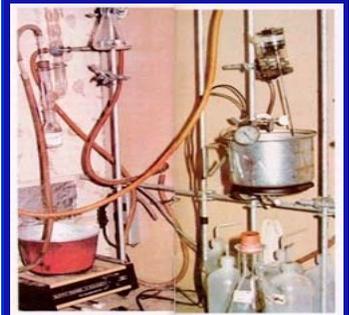
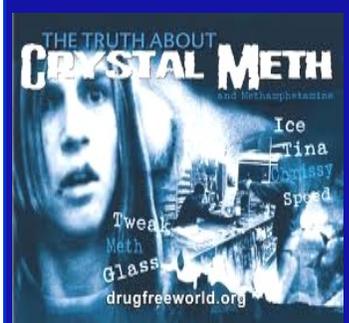
acquaintances. I can't categorically say strawberry meth isn't out there, but it does not currently seem to be a variation that is in more than incidental circulation – like most anything else imaginable. The “Detailed Analysis” available on the Hoax Slayer website at <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/strawberry-quick-meth.shtml> presents the results of their independent investigation into the recent rumors. It is also true that like hackers who misuse the capabilities of the Internet, there are some people that use it just to see what they can make happen.

While this lowers the flame on the heightened anxiety level expressed by those in fear of this “child targeting” new “strawberry flavored poison,” we should not forget that this does not minimize the threat that methamphetamine has on our society. This drug is deadly and does not discriminate regarding gender, race, culture or...age.

Mr. Little references synthetic cannabinoids in his statement. For those not familiar with this term, it is a psychoactive designer drug made up of natural herbs sprayed with synthetic chemicals that, when consumed, allegedly mimic the effects of marijuana.

We would like to close this article by thanking Mr. Ralph Little and the local North Florida HIDTA field office for working with us and providing us information that allows us to keep our readers more informed. We look forward to working with them in the future.

<http://www.snopes.com/medical/drugs/candymeth.asp>



## Duval County is a HIDTA

The *High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)* program provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the Nation.

HIDTA-designated counties are located in *45 states plus Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia*. Through the HIDTA program, representatives of Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies in each HIDTA region coordinate and collaborate to address the specific drug threats of that region.

In January of 2001, the Director of the *Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)* declared designated counties of northeast Florida as the *North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NFHIDTA)*. *Duval County* was included on that list.

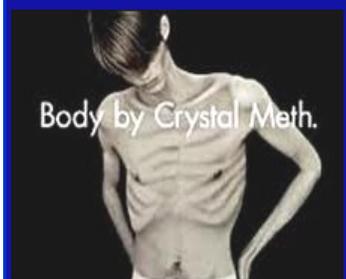
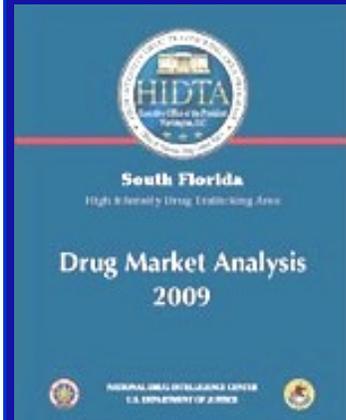
The *Florida HIDTA* region, particularly *Jacksonville*, is a significant transshipment area for illegal drugs transported north from *Miami*, to east coast drug markets such as *Boston, Massachusetts, New York, New York* and *Savannah, Georgia*, and for drugs transported south from *Atlanta* to drug markets throughout *Florida*. *Jacksonville* is the primary drug market in the *North Florida HIDTA* region. As such, drug trafficking and drug abuse activities in the *Jacksonville* area have a considerable influence on drug markets in the entire region. *Jacksonville* is one of the principal ports of entry (POEs) for travelers, mail, and cargo into the continental *United States*; millions of tons of commercial truck and maritime freight and parcels as well as high volumes of commercial and passenger vehicles transit the HIDTA region daily. A large international airport, numerous international parcel transshipment hubs, and a large commercial seaport facilitate high levels of legitimate commerce as well as drug trafficking activity. The *NFHIDTA* region has a highly developed transportation system, including major roadways such as Interstates 10, 75, and 95, which link it to drug distribution centers in *Atlanta* and *Miami* and to major eastern U.S. drug markets.

This information was taken from the 2008 National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Dept. of Justice <https://www.hsdil.org/?view&did=31366> and is the most up to date data we could find. The *NFHIDTA Duval County* field office will begin work shortly on the 2011 threat assessment and we look forward to viewing it's content. It will be the most current information on the local and interstate threats to our community available.

On June 15, 2012, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) closed. To provide access to historical materials, an archived version of the NDIC website is available at <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/>

Below is the link to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Report to Congress submitted June 2011. However, Duval County was not included in this report.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/hidta\\_2011.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/hidta_2011.pdf)



Gateway's Northeast Florida  
Keep Kids Drug Free (KKDF)  
Prevention Center:

- Hand-out material and resource information
  - Supports and houses Gateway's Prevention Team
  - Implements evaluated and effective programming
  - grant and training coordination
  - innovative universal services.
- ⇒ Project Success  
⇒ Life Skills  
⇒ Celebrating Families  
⇒ Second Step  
⇒ Older Adult Puppet Skits  
⇒ September Recovery Month

to name a few...

*The Northeast Florida  
Keep Kids Drug Free  
Resource Prevention  
Center Coordinator:  
Freda Colley  
904.387.3749 ext. 1601  
Fax – 904.388.1918*

[fcolley@gatewaycommunity.com](mailto:fcolley@gatewaycommunity.com)

## *Florida's Keep Kids Drug Free (KKDF) Regional Prevention Centers,*

- Regional Prevention Centers were established in 2000 as a response to the increasing need to put the best resources directly in the hands of Florida's prevention professionals.
- Modeled after the *Federal Centers for the Application of Prevention Technology (CAPPT)* and the *Texas Prevention Resource Centers (TPRC)*.
- Directly provides statewide coverage of Prevention/Outreach services, training, technical assistance, grants and funding guidance.
- Meets Governor's Drug Strategy Objectives.

### Keep Kids Drug Free Foundation's Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life for residents of the State of Florida. Our flexible grant making resources allow us to respond to current and emerging community needs and opportunities. We approach our grant making not solely in terms of Program categories, but rather with a focus on community building. We have committed our resources to trying to prevent substance abuse and strengthen the fabric of our community. We consider all grant proposals in the context of this commitment. Within our mission, the *Keep Kids Drug Free Foundation* makes grants in the broad program area of substance abuse prevention. Although the *Keep Kids Drug Free Foundation* has not established a minimum size of grants, our discretionary grants average \$5000 per award.



## GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

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[www.gatewaycommunity.com](http://www.gatewaycommunity.com)  
[www.gatewayconnect.org/](http://www.gatewayconnect.org/)

**Gateway Community Services, Inc. takes action against addiction through a wide variety of programs and services.** From prevention to transitional housing and clinical research, we have the understanding, care, facilities and know-how to help with every facet of the recovery process.

**Gateway Connect** is your complete online and phone counseling service, bringing technology to treatment.

If you, or someone you know, suffers from alcohol or drug addiction and related mental health issues, Gateway can help. Call us toll-free at **1.877.389.9966**. Call us today and together we will take action against your addiction.