

NP-ASAP welcomes all persons, businesses and organizations, who live or work in North Port, to help create a healthy, drug-free North Port.

Through the passion and the commitment of our members, **NP-ASAP** is making a difference in our community.

NP-ASAP meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm - call 650-4856 for location.

The NP-ASAP and the North Port CHAT are part of CHIP in Sarasota County, Florida. For more information go to www.CHIP4Health.org, or: <http://northportchat.googlepages.com/>



Together, we can build a healthy, drug-free North Port!

NP-ASAP is part of the **North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT)** with community partners throughout the **Southwest Florida regional area.** We are a founding partner in the **Citizens Call for Action-Rx Meds.**

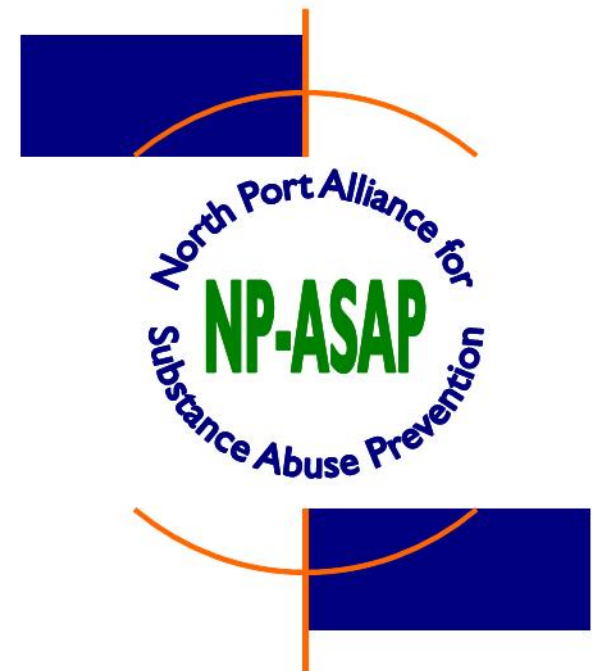
Please contact us for more information on how you can be part of the solution.

<http://northportchat.googlepages.com/>

Contact us for more information:
Phone: 941- 650-4856
Fax: 941-861-2991

Or by Email:
northportchat@chip4health.org

North Port Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention



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How is North Port Affected?

Recent information for our area shows that 1 in 4 high school teens have used marijuana during a 30 day period, and nearly the same number smoke cigarettes. The same information indicates that more than 1 in 3 youth participate in binge drinking. Death by overdosing on drugs, primarily prescription medication, is the number one killer of our youth and young adults in Sarasota county—more than motor vehicle accidents which is the number one cause in national statistics. This is an issue for North Port—and it will take our community working together to change it.

About NP-ASAP

Through the North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT), NP-ASAP brings together community members, organizations, providers, businesses, and city government in a coalition to help create a healthier, drug-free North Port. Using the input and action of this coalition, NP-ASAP works to provide effective activities designed to help reduce the use and misuse of unhealthy substances by our youth and adults. To form this coalition, the CHAT used guidelines for *Drug-Free Communities* shown to be effective in other communities by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Education and Awareness

NP-ASAP is working to educate the community regarding substance abuse issues affecting North Port. Currently the group is working to create and distribute resource and education materials for parents, educators and law enforcement. Additionally, the group is exploring ways to build greater awareness and understanding of the harm substance abuse causes to individuals, families and the community.

Community Responsiveness

Community solutions to substance abuse also require that there are safe places for youth and adults to share and be heard so that individuals do not turn to drugs and alcohol to lessen their stress. North Port Teens attending forums held by NP-ASAP indicated a desire for peer counseling to be available throughout the community. NP-ASAP is working to build a network of peer counselors and helpers throughout North Port by developing effective training and education to North Port's faith-based and civic community on substance abuse issues to build the network.

Supporting What Works

Other community organizations and groups also are working to bring awareness to the issue of substance abuse. NP-ASAP helps reinforce these activities through recognition events and by providing support through member participation and input. Some of these include the North Port Youth Agencies

Coalition, Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), Project Graduation, Citizens Call for Action., and others. Working with other organizations who share this mission is an important part of creating a drug-free community. NP-ASAP is always open to partnering with any organization which has a desire to reduce substance abuse in North Port.

How You Can Help

You can become involved by learning more about the issue of substance abuse and talking with your family and friends about its consequences. You can also become active in the work of NP-ASAP through a gift of your time, skills, or financial support. NP-ASAP relies on members to provide the leadership and action necessary to achieve its goals. Any North Port resident or organization is welcome to join NP-ASAP and the North Port CHAT. You can support a single initiative or all— offer your time for one project or several. It is up to you! For more information, consider attending a meeting; or **call 650-4856**. If you prefer, you can send us an email at: northportchat@chip4health.org.

Visit us on the web at:
<http://northportchat.googlepages.com/>

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