



Press Release

Department of Health, Executive Yuan

Date	Sept. 5, 2007	Dept.	National Bureau of Controlled Drugs	No.	
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Subject : Family support and assistance is most important to prevent drug addict relapse.

According to the statistic data from Ministry of Justice for the period between Jan. to June in 2007, narcotic verdicts have 79.1% relapse rate. This reflect the significance of drug addicts having a tendency to commit narcotic related crimes after coming out of jail. Since the implementation of “2007 amnesty statute” on July 16, some drug addicts die of taking drugs, commit burglar, hurt others or even homicide, just because their family do not accept them or did not offer support. Such incidence of relapse really concerned the society. Based on international report, after ex-drug inmate get out of jail, their risk of adjusted relative fatality is 12.7 times higher than regular citizen within two weeks; meanwhile, narcotic related death within two weeks is 7 times higher than other periods. Death rate of overdose is 10% within three months after getting out of jail.

From the contracted research report by Department of Health, while drug addict serving prison sentence, whether their family members have visited them have significant relationship with relapse rate. For the studied subjects, the relapse rate for people having family members visited them, the relapse rate is 62.1% which is much lower than those without family members visited them (79.5%). This means have family members visited and support them have positive impact to reduce relapse rate after inmates coming out of jail. Another study target on the ex-drug addict inmate indicate more family care, resources of social support and assistance can release live tension and pressure, as a result they will tend to not having misbehaviors or taking drugs again. Therefore, family acceptance and care, plus social support and assistance can effectively enhance the intension of drug addicts not have drug again and increase successful rate for abstention. According to the “Juvenile delinquency report” from local courts in Taiwan, juvenile delinquency can be distinguished into

physical factor, family factor, school factor, social factor and other factors. Among it, most of them is due to family factor which including criminal family, broken family, poor parents relationship, poor parent to children relationship, too many children, loose discipline, poor etc. and represent 42% of total factors. Therefore, family care have significant impact on the a person will commit a crime.

After the amnesty, ex-inmates are set free. At the same time, on top of necessary packages from relevant government agencies, Department of Health also expect their family members can offer acceptance, care and support and utilize related social resources to help their abstention and resume normal life as soon as possible. Department of Health indicated, there are 136 registered rehabilitation centers and 49 of them have substitute programs. Drug addicts can go to these institutes for medical services on abstention and substitute treatment. In order to reduce the harm of narcotic drugs to individual, family and society, Department of Health is promoting Methadone substitute treatment. After evaluation, drug addicts can take substitute treatment to reduce the demand for narcotic drugs and move toward abstention. There are drug prevention centers in each local governments providing medical related resources such as abstention consultant, follow up and consult, medical reference and substitute treatment. Drug addicts or their family members can seek support and consult from these centers.

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