



**For Immediate Release: January 17, 2017**

Contacts:	Catherine Hart Chief Operating Officer Tel.: (631) 385-2451	D. Ray Ward Chief Program Officer Tel.: (631) 385-2451
-----------	---	--

**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care observes National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week.**

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care will be participating in the 2017 “National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week” (NDAFW). This week-long health observance, organized by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), both part of the National Institutes of Health, takes place on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. NDAFW celebrates the inquisitive minds of teens by giving them a space (virtual or physical) to ask questions about drugs and alcohol and to get scientific answers from experts.

About a third of high school seniors across the country report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. According to the December 2015 Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking, approximately 29% of youth in New York State ages 12 to 20 reported using alcohol in the past 30 days and about 17.4% reported binge drinking in the past 30 days. Additionally, Newsday reported that between 2010 and 2015, over 350 individuals on Long Island died as a result of binge drinking, while heroin and pain pill overdoses killed at least 341 individuals on Long Island in 2014.

To help educate teens and young adults about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will be participating in a week-long social media campaign aimed at providing youth with facts about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

This year, support our youth by joining the conversation about drug and alcohol use on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc> and follow us on Twitter at @LIAAC\_inc.

For more information about drug and alcohol use, call our toll free hotline at 1-866-236-3448.

*SINCE 1986*  
**LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.**  
GAIL BAROUH, PhD, PRESIDENT/CEO  
60 ADAMS AVENUE • HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788  
business: (631) 385-2451 • fax: (631) 271-5816 • hotline: 1-877-TO-LIAAC  
[www.LIAAC.org](http://www.LIAAC.org)