

I CHOOSE MY FUTURE

Beyond “Say No to Drugs”

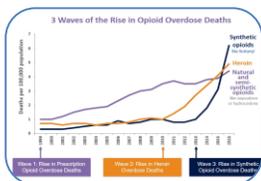
A program by the Drug Enforcement Administration



Overview

- No-cost drug abuse prevention program
- Presented by DEA Agents in English or Spanish
- 60-90 minutes fact-based presentations loaded with powerful images and videos to show students the true nature of drug abuse, and how it impacts individuals, families, communities, countries and the world
- Component 1: 60 minutes; Components 1 & 2: 75-90 minutes

Component 1:



Statistics of Drug Use and Overdose Deaths



Faces and Stories of Overdose Victims



Fentanyl and the Threat of Fake Pills



The Role of Drug Abuse on Crime, Poverty, Child Neglect, and Child Abuse



Specifics On Various Drugs



The Fragility of The Human Brain



How Choices Affect Our Futures

We Only Get One Life, One Body, One Mind, and One Heart.

A Final Reminder

Component 2:

An inspirational personal story of overcoming challenges and pursuing dreams



Our Mission

Our mission is to promote self-motivation in our young people so they can recognize their potential, the importance of education and their intrinsic ability to contribute with their talent to society.

We are focused on the importance of drug prevention, with a perspective that goes beyond the typical “Just Say No to Drugs,” but instead is focused on the empowerment to **CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.**

Tuesday October 29, 2019 • 5:00 – 7:00p.m.
Louis Armstrong Middle School
32-02 Junction Blvd. East Elmhurst 11369
RSVP - Andrew.Labosco@lflmail.org
Questions – Briche.y.lassiter@usdoj.gov



The speakers were excellent and powerful. My [students] were talking about them today. This was a very high impact presentation and it was well executed.

—High School Teacher

The DEA speaker was very powerful. He was a person who right away earned my respect. [His presentation] touched me and rang so true when he spoke of how he wants to be seen by his own daughter. I could tell the students were paying very close attention to him. I don't remember the DEA agent's name, but I will not soon forget him or his talk.

—High School Teacher

I think this assembly had a positive impact on students because all of the other drug assemblies just say not to do drugs because of the negative impact on life but [this] assembly shows us the impact through pictures, videos and a physical display of what drugs can do to you.

— Student

The feedback from my classes about the presentation was overwhelmingly positive. They very much liked the entire program. The more factual and varied presentational approach of the DEA agent touched their minds, and [the inspirational speaker] touched their heart's. It was a good mix, and I know it made a deep impression.

—High School Teacher

Students are still talking about the "real" talk you provided about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. You have a wonderful way of communicating with teenagers to make them feel you are talking to them rather than talking down to them. Even though you spoke to our freshmen class, I feel that your talk is appropriate - and needed - at the middle school and upper grade levels.

—High School Assistant Dean of Students



The assembly inspired me and many of my friends to know that prescription drug abuse will hurt you. I felt it was an appropriate topic considering many teens our age are curious and easily influenced. I went from feeling neutral about drugs to being completely against them.

— Student



Since 2008, "I Choose My Future" has been presented over **400** times, in **7** countries to over **67,000** young people.

I just wanted to send a quick note to let you know how impressed my son was with today's assembly. He reported that this is the first time he has ever left an assembly feeling informed, engaged, and respected and he appreciated that the presenter avoided cheesy over-the-top behavior. Thanks so much for bringing such a quality presentation to the school.

—Parent

I have already received several compliments for you for your presentations this week. Teachers were very impressed with the information and interest you displayed to our students. And so were the students. Students' comments overheard while returning to classrooms indicated strong awareness of what you were talking about. I don't believe I've seen that many of our students hold so still for so long before. I think each and every person in the room these two days was touched.

—High School Teacher

Many students commented that the presentation taught them a lot that they didn't already know about drugs. Students said they were impacted when they learned about: how synthetic drugs are made and all the toxic poisons that are used; how these toxic drug-making environments affect not only the users but families and communities; how drugs are sold and how that affects many people's lives negatively, not just the person who takes the drugs; and the "disturbing" ways that drugs can affect your body and appearance.

— Middle School Counselor



This [presentation] is enough to keep me away from abusive drugs and alcohol use.

— Student

It is truly a worthwhile educational experience that the students will remember. Teachers commented on how engaged the students were during the entire presentation; the students were silent and were really listening to your message. Students and staff both commented that the presentation left a big impression on all because [it] was straight forward without "sugar coating." Students shared that they like the way the presentation not only had speaking, but had impactful pictures, videos and slideshows.

—Middle School Teacher

I worked as the director of a halfway house for alcoholics and addicts prior to becoming a teacher, I spent a dozen years working with at-risk students in our district's continuation high school and I have personally known more than 15 students who have struggled and died from drug overdoses. I've worked tirelessly for two decades to arrange more than 100 speakers to help students live more successfully. [This] presentation stands out above all others in effectively outlining the epidemic of addiction in the country and more importantly, conveying the consequences of the actions students make with an incredibly effective use of personal stories, videos, slides and photos. [The agent's] passion and expertise for both the DEA's demand reduction and supply reduction missions is evident and effective from beginning to end. Additionally, [the agent] raised our students' awareness and got them thinking about the total cost of drugs - personally, nationally and globally.

—High School Teacher

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