Prescription Drug Safety Course

National Youth Prevention Initiative
Executive Summary

The Prescription Drug Safety course provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to make healthy decisions regarding prescription drugs.

The majority of students felt that the course positively impacted their knowledge of prescription drug safety, including how to identify the signs of misuse and abuse, demonstrate refusal skills, and intervene with a friend who may be misusing prescription drugs.

150,000 Students across 950+ schools
To date (since Fall 2017)

49% Average increase in assessment scores after completing the program
About the Network

The Prescription Drug Safety Network is a national coalition of healthcare organizations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, foundations, and state leaders committed to empowering Americans with the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy decisions about prescription medications.

The Network’s mission is to raise awareness and bring an evidence-based prevention curriculum to students across the United States.
Misuse and abuse of prescription drugs led to 63,623 opiate-drug related deaths in 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control, with a significant negative economic impact on our nation ($504 billion in 2015). The many devastating consequences that come from misuse and abuse warrant a thoughtful, diversified, and evidence-informed approach to include both treatment and prevention.

Most addictions begin during young adulthood. With ninety percent of addictions formed during the teens and early twenties, prevention should start early—ideally in high school.
Pillars of the High School Prevention Initiative

Driving a bold initiative that combats prescription drug abuse through a high school prevention program that will scale to reach students nationwide.

1. In-school Activation
   EVERFI’s on-the-ground implementation team works directly with educators to drive school participation in key markets across the country.

2. HS Digital Course
   Bolsters youth understanding of the dangers of prescription drug misuse and abuse through a self-guided digital learning tool that resonates with today’s students.

3. Measurable Impact
   Comprehensive reporting on program reach, knowledge gains, and attitudinal & behavior change.

4. Community Awareness
   Engage a diverse group of community members and communications channels to bring visibility to the positive impact the program is providing.
**Prescription Drug Safety Digital Course**

The Prescription Drug Safety Network’s digital learning experience, created by prevention education innovator EVERFI, provides students with the skills and knowledge needed.

**Course Approach**

- Uses an evidence-based, public health approach to learning.
- Provides an inclusive experience that recognizes the unique needs and experiences of a diverse population of learners.
- Incorporates interactive, true-to-life scenarios that reinforce key learning objectives.
- Utilizes social norms theory to engage the healthy majority and challenge misperceptions.
Implementation of the digital curriculum

- EVERFI’s on-the-ground implementation team helps educators find the best curriculum fit and provides training and ongoing support to ensure a smooth and meaningful adoption of the course.

- Supplemental course materials and a comprehensive data reporting feature help teachers track progress and engage in further discussion with students.
Partner Profile: Walmart
Walmart’s Opioid Stewardship

1. Reduce Amount of Opioids Dispensed
2. Implement policies and tools to help pharmacists identify inappropriate practices
3. Support customer and youth education aimed at curbing abuse
Reduce the Amount of Opioids Dispensed

Walmart and Sam’s Club restrict initial acute opioid prescriptions to no more than a seven-day supply nationwide, with up to a 50 morphine milligram equivalent maximum per day.

The company’s pharmacists provide patients with counseling using CDC guidelines, focusing on using the lowest effective dose for pain management for the shortest time possible.

Walmart and Sam’s Club adhere to state laws that limit opioid fills to seven days or less.
Implement Policies and Tools that Help Pharmacists Spot Fraudulent or Inappropriate Opioid Prescriptions

As of January 1, 2020, Walmart and Sam’s Club will require e-prescriptions for controlled substances.

Walmart and Sam’s Club pharmacists have access to and use the controlled substance tracking tool, NarxCare, in states that allow access.

Walmart conducts opioid training and education for its pharmacists.

In January 2018 – launch of DisposeRX – free accessible disposal solution.

Naloxone available behind pharmacy counters – pharmacists provide naloxone recommendations for patients.
Walmart and Sam’s Club patients receive an opioid safety information brochure when picking up a new acute opioid prescription.

Walmart U.S. helps sponsor *Prescription for Life*, a high school-based curriculum on the risks associated with prescription drug abuse. This program developed by EVERFI is an educational tool that empowers students with information and skills to address the opioid epidemic, should they face it in their community.

Given Walmart’s unique ability to reach audiences across the U.S. who have been greatly impacted by the opioid epidemic, Walmart joined with the Ad Council and the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy to promote the “Truth About Opioids” campaign on Walmart’s internal and external digital experience and social channels.

*Walmart is working with the Mark Wahlberg Foundation and DEA 360 Strategy to host National Youth Summits* to increase awareness among students. Through these summits education will be provided to 20,000 students.
Enforcement

*Drug Take Back Events*

- 20 Counties so far in 2019
  - Five planned for the week of November 26
- 898 people
- Over 3,000 pounds of prescription drugs
Enforcement

Highway Interdiction Teams (HITs)

Through a $1.25 million grant to IDEA, OAG is providing police vehicles and drug K-9s for departments statewide.
Enforcement

Highway Interdiction Teams (HITs)

Departments receiving HIT funds through IDEA:

- Allen Co. Police
- Fort Wayne Police Department
- Dearborn Co. SCU – ISP
- Elkhart Co.
- Lake Co. Sheriff’s Department
- Porter Co. Sheriff’s Department
- Kokomo Police Department
- Lafayette Police Department
- West Lafayette Police Department
- Vanderburgh Co. Sheriff’s Department

A HIT 79 motel interdiction stop
Enforcement

**Highway Interdiction Teams (HITs)**

- As of 9/30/18, 493 arrests in 2018
- Drugs:
  - Heroin: 8618.81 grams (19 pounds)
  - Meth: 6,842.36 grams (15.08 pounds)
  - Cocaine: 1508.72 grams
  - Marijuana: 234,864.06 grams (515.21 pounds)
- Cash: $1,216,243.04
- Other Items Found in August 2018:
  - 71 skimmed credit cards
  - 25 syringes
  - Fraudulent I.D. cards
  - 5 g Spice
  - 62.2 g Ecstasy
Treatment

**Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP)**

JCAP provides a restrictive intervention, pre-trial and post-sentencing, to promote recovery while protecting lives and community safety.

Photos from: WKRC News
Treatment

Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP)

• JCAP is a minimum of 90 days.

• The Program is based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Substance Abuse Counseling.

• JCAP utilizes the “Strategies for Self-Improvement and Change (SSC)” model as its core programming, to be delivered in an intensive inpatient format.
Treatment

**JCAP BY THE NUMBERS**

392

# of offenders JCAP served since 2007.

$13.84

Cost per day of serving a JCAP offender.

47%

This graph shows the cost of serving an offender in the JCAP program compared to at IDOC. The potential column represents the cost of expanding JCAP by increasing the number of beds and adding a therapist.

*Numbers as of 2015*
Treatment

Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP)

• Counties with JCAP:
  – Kosciusko County
  – Shelby County

• Counties preparing to launch:
  – Montgomery
  – Clinton
  – Tippecanoe
Partner Profile: North Central Health Services
North Central Health Services

Improving the Health of Our Region and Developing Healthier Communities

Our Vision:
North Central Health Services will create a healthier community through the delivery of behavioral health care and the support of technological and scientific advancement, education, quality of life, and humanitarian community activities.

Our Strategic Goals:

• Improve Access to Mental Health Care
• Increase Awareness of Mental Health Services and Resources
• Improve Access to Health Care
• Improve Access to Programs and Care Addressing Needs Identified by the Community Health Needs Assessment
Developing Our Strategic Plan
Driven by Results of Community Health Needs Assessment

Top 5 Health Needs in the Community
From the 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment

1. Programs and Resources for Mental Health Improvements
2. Programs and Resources for Substance Abuse
3. Access to Healthcare
4. Programs and Resources for Obesity Prevention
5. Programs and Resources for Chronic Disease
Prevention Efforts in Indiana
Helping Address Health Needs Affecting Youth

**Resilient Youth Initiative:**
NCHS is allocating $2 million to fund planning and implementation grants for proven programs that support social and emotional learning (SEL) and substance abuse prevention for youth.

**Prescription Drug Safety Course:**
NCHS has joined the Prescription Drug Safety Network to help combat the opioid crisis in Indiana by providing digital prevention education to high schools across NCHS communities.

- 20% of Indiana high school students have seriously considered suicide
- 47% of Indiana youth have experienced one or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- 17% of Indiana high school students have abused prescription drugs
After completing the course, 50% more students are confident in their ability to identify the signs of prescription drug misuse or abuse.
National Program Reach 2017 - 2018

57,519 Students
813 High Schools
38,107 Hours of Learning

“Before I took the course, I thought I knew quite a bit about how things like pills can affect a person, but I was mistaken. I didn't know how to identify certain signs, and now I do, thanks to this course.”

High School Student
Reidsville, NC
Students’ Experiences with Prescription Drugs

While the majority of students did not report misusing or abusing drugs, prevalent usage demonstrates the importance of teaching all students how to use prescription drugs safely and avoid misuse.

Self-Reported Use of Common Types of Prescription Drugs Under a Physician’s Order

- Opiates: 25%
- Stimulants: 20%
- Depressants: 13%

Self-Reported Misuse and Abuse of Common Types of Prescription Drugs Under a Physician’s Order

- Opiates: 7%
- Stimulants: 6%
- Depressants: 6%
Students complete assessments before and after taking each module, providing the Network with valuable data on the efficacy of the course. This data can help educators and administrators identify challenges specific to their school, district or state -- and can help inform strategies to effectively address prescription drug misuse and abuse in their communities.

After taking *Prescription Drug Safety*, students increased their scores on assessments by an average of 49%
After participating in Prescription Drug Safety, teachers feel better equipped to have open and honest conversations with the students, and students feel better equipped to identify, address, and intervene in difficult situations involving prescription drugs.

- **73%** The course helped me identify the signs of prescription drug abuse and misuse
- **72%** The course helped me understand the various ways to refuse to participate in the misuse of prescription drugs
- **71%** The course made me more confident in my ability to intervene when I feel a friend may be misusing prescription drugs

**Recommended by Teachers**
83% of teachers surveyed would recommend the course to other educators.*
I really enjoyed how interactive the lesson was. By having all the different things students could click on, reviewing the material more interesting. I also liked how students could work at their own pace.

Teacher  Maryland

Before taking the course, I didn't know much about any of the information given, and now I'm more prepared to handle any situation that was included in the lessons.

Student  Stowe School District, VT

The course provides quality discussion topics and the information relates to our textbook very well. The students enjoyed the videos and I think that helped to make it resonate with them.

Teacher  Maryland

The most valuable thing I learned from this course is that anyone can be addicted to prescription drugs, and that it only takes one time of using them to become addicted and it could change your life forever.

Student  Hillsborough School District, FL
School and Community Events
In-person events bring the community together with elected officials, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.

Awareness Campaigns
Parent and teacher toolkits, infographics, program vignettes, and social content tell the impact story to internal and external audiences.
Thank you to the Network’s founding partners who made this course available during the 2017 - 2018 school year.