

Parents Have Primary Responsibility to Keep Kids Safe and Drug Free ... But School Policy is Vital to Protect All Kids

We all reap the rewards for success, or pay the price for failure, when kids lose or destroy their lives from addiction. Consider:

- Adolescent substance abuse **costs the nation \$700 billion/yr** just in health costs.
- **1.2 million kids drop out of high school** at a lifetime cost of \$392,000 each.
- America has declined to **24th in the world academically**.

1.2 MIL

kids drop out of high school each year.

80%

of prisoners are high school drop outs.

66%

of prisoners are drug addicts; 33% are mentally ill.

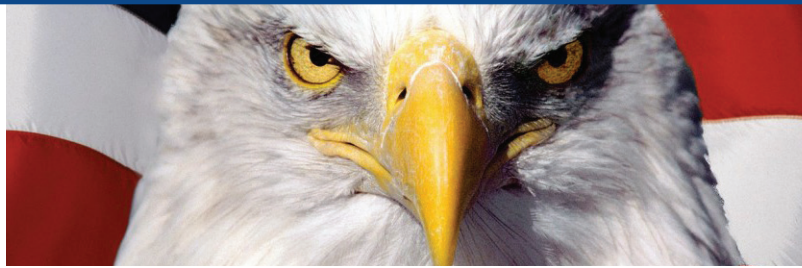
80%

of crime is caused by people under the influence.

- **12.6% of drivers (one in eight) are impaired to some degree by marijuana. 30% of injury accidents are drug related.**
- **More kids (23%) smoke marijuana than cigarettes (19%) and more vape than use conventional smoked products.** Marijuana can cause brain damage, birth defects, addiction and cause suicidal depression.
- **Over 6.1 million children are being raised by grandparents or in foster homes.**
- **Roughly 3,660 Americans die monthly just from drug overdose, almost all of whom started using during adolescence.**
- **The average age of first use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs is 13 yrs old, often long before.**

To prevent the disease of addiction and all of the related social and economic problems, we have to ...

Prevent It Before It Starts.



Parents Have Primary Responsibility To Keep Kids Safe And Drug-Free ... But Schools Are Vital To Protect All Kids.

Alcohol, tobacco and drugs inflict more death, destruction and economic harm on America than all events in modern history, including Vietnam, WWII, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Preventing the problem requires doing what works before the onset of the disease, on average at age 13.

The solution is for parents and schools to work together with community support, even if the solution is unpopular or poorly understood.

Prevention can save lives, cut costs in health, crime, mental illness, education, traffic accidents and deaths, and reduce welfare costs.

Aside from the economic cost, prevention can reduce the death rate and preserve the mental capacity and productivity of our youth. If we care about the future of our great nation, protecting the brains of our youth is no longer an option.

Protect The Kids. Protect The Future

SPOT FOR SCHOOLS OR COMMUNITY COALITIONS
TO ADD THEIR OWN ADDRESS.

TAKE BACK AMERICA CAMPAIGN

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SAFE AND DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAM



Substance abuse:

- Costs over \$1 trillion a year.
- Causes 80% of crime
- Inflates welfare costs
- Diminishes productivity
- Diminishes academic achievement
- Claims over 600,000 deaths annually
- Causes mental illness
- Inflates public health costs
- Increases traffic deaths



The problem almost always starts during childhood or adolescence (average age 13).



Drug Prevention That Works

Based on historic evidence, we know that all kids are at-risk; 44% low, 18% high, and 38% at moderate risk (www.casacolumbia.com)

Parents are the most important in determining a child's risk factor. But kids will confirm that parents are often in denial that their kids would use drugs or alcohol.

Historically a child used drugs for two years before parents even found out, and too often they found out from law enforcement or the morgue. The window of detection today is much shorter owing to the potency of marijuana and other drugs. Since the quality and longevity of one's life is often determined during adolescence, when the brain isn't fully mature, preventing the onset of the disease of addiction is the key.

FOUR THINGS in particular have worked best to prevent adolescent substance abuse:

EDUCATION Presenting facts on marijuana and other drugs cut drug use in half in the 1980's. We need to do it again.	GETTING DRUGS OFF CAMPUS Getting drugs off campus lowers the propensity to use by 4 to 5 times. Sniff dogs work well. (www.casacolumbia.org)
RANDOM DRUG TESTING Reduced drug use in the military by 90%, and 60-70% in the work place. Private schools have all but eliminated drug use with hair analysis, because it has a 90 window of detection and yields accurate results. Fear of detection by parents is the biggest reason kids don't do drugs. Peer pressure is the biggest reason why they do.	STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (SAP) Student Assistance Programs are very important to fill any voids from home. School counselors or mentors can often communicate better with kids than parents, and are vital in many cases to help adolescents through a challenging period in their lives.

One Simple Solution With No Cost to the Schools

This is a non-punitive system designed to keep kids in school, get parents actively involved, and improve education by protecting kids from addiction through high school.

VOLUNTARY HAIR TESTING – For parents who want that extra layer of protection and kids who want a reason to say no to peer pressure. Results from drug tests are held confidential between student, parents and school counselor. Rewards, recognition, discounts at retail shops and recommendations for high education help reward these students for their leadership.

SUSPICION BASED TESTING AT SCHOOL – For all kids from K thru 12, if in the sole discretion of the school there is any cause for concern, the school will administer a hair test (urine or saliva test if more appropriate). The results will be confidential between parent and school counselor. If a positive result, the student/parent will pay for the test, and the parents will be expected to take corrective action.

If the problem persists, the school counselors, parents and child will collaborate and determine a course of action, which can include participation in educational programs, community service, loss of driving privileges, suspension from sports programs or extra curricular activities, rehabilitation/treatment, et al, plus enrollment in a random drug testing program from that point forward.

Consequences can be determined by the parents and school. As a starting point, we can suggest the following:

The School Program Director monitors results in both cases, but parents and the student are responsible for compliance. Additional positive tests suggests addiction. Schools and community groups can help identify resources for treatment. Law enforcement is not involved unless drug dealing or crimes are involved on campus. Records are destroyed on graduation.

Preventing substance abuse can cut costs and leave more resources for what counts, like more schools, teachers and counselors.

A Few Simple Facts About Marijuana

Expecting children to make healthy choices doesn't work. They need adult protection to get them to the starting line of adulthood drug-free and well educated. Consider the following:

- The human brain is not fully developed until age 25, or later. Until then, **marijuana can cause permanent brain damage** and loss of IQ, schizophrenia and paranoia, psychotic breaks, suicidal depression and addiction.
- One ounce of water-soluble alcohol is excreted from the body in 12 hours. Marijuana is fat soluble, and **takes 3-7 days for the body to rid itself of 1/2 the THC (psychoactive ingredient) and 30 days for the balance**, longer than any other drug.
- Continued smoking even if only on weekends stacks the THC in the brain, causing increased problems of memory, cognition, motor skills, maturation, motivation and ability to learn.
- **Marijuana is a causal factor in testicular cancer** and causes mutations in sperm and ova which can lead to fetal damage ... even in future generations.
- The potency of marijuana has increased from 1/2 to 2% in the 70's to as high as 40% in smoked form and 100% as wax or extracts, which is responsible for roughly **500,000 ER room visits**.
- **More people are in rehab for addiction to marijuana than for all other drugs combined, plus its a gateway to drugs that kill 3,660 people monthly by overdose.**
- In some states with "medical marijuana" laws, like California, **18 year old kids can buy marijuana** from numerous dispensaries and distribute to younger kids. Schools, the best education is wasted on an addict. This program will achieve better attendance, less juvenile behavioral problems, reduce dropouts and achieve higher academic success.

Parents, addiction is a horrible disease that can ruin a child and an entire family. **A snip of hair could prevent it all. Please don't gamble.**

