

Background

- Prescription and over-the-counter abuse is an issue in the adolescent population
- Many negative physiological, psychological and social problems occur because of this risky behavior
- The continuum of substance use disorders varies between experimental use, abuse, and dependence or addiction
- Adolescent substance abuse is treatable, but often becomes more difficult as it progresses to a chronic problem

Purpose

- To educate youth on the dangers of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.
- To heighten parents/community awareness of this growing problem and provide supporting tools for message continuum.

Project Timeline

May 2019 –
June 2019

- Develop modules, worksheets and patch
- Meet with BSA to ensure appropriateness of patch

July 2019 –
October
2019

- Review and finalize content
- Promote program and launch during Red Ribbon Week

December
2019 – April
2020

- Run program with trial troop
- Assess program and gain feedback from trial troop

Methods

- We collaborated with the Boy Scouts of America, the Meridian Society, SIUE Chemistry Department, and SIUE School of Pharmacy on developing and implementing this program.
- Five modules were developed:
 - Module 1: Addiction and Other Health Consequences
 - Module 2: Risk Factors
 - Module 3: Social and Legal Consequences
 - Module 4: Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Drugs
 - Module 5: Drugs of Abuse
- Module worksheets and den activities were developed as learning tools.
- Troop Leader and Facilitator Handbook was created to assist in training needs.



Substance Abuse Awareness Chip

Module 1: Addiction and other health consequences



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Begin Course

Results

Since this is the first offering of the patch, we wanted to assess the number of users on the online modules, the number of patches earned, and program promotion efforts. Results are pending as of right now due to the BSA containing this information. However, the trial troop was able to provide constructive feedback during the live, interactive sessions. They commented on the technological issues of the online modules and the usefulness of both activities. After the pilot year, we will consider to assess the level of knowledge gained by the program.

Discussion

Strengths

- True collaborative effort was made
- Timeless program
- Reproducible by other troops, facilitators, pharmacists, and pharmacy students
- Material is also appropriate for ages higher than intended focus group

Limitations

- Technological errors
- Pending results to assess program success
- Small sample size of trial troop
- Order of live, interactive activities

Conclusion

We believe this program will positively impact the community by educating students, parents, and the community about the dangers of substance abuse. The program may be timeless, but there is always room for advancement.

Acknowledgements

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