NARCONON®
Drug Prevention & Education Program

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The need for effective drug prevention has been established for many years. Although families, school administrators, teachers, and community leaders feel that most drug prevention and education methods have failed, the NARCONON® Drug Education Program has demonstrated its effectiveness as a solution to keeping kids off drugs. Our track record over the past two decades is impressive.

THE NARCONON DRUG REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

William Benitez, an inmate of Arizona State Prison, founded the NARCONON program in 1966. Benitez read a book by American author and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard, and by applying the principles it contained on increasing one's abilities, he and dozens of other inmates were able to permanently end their addictions to heroin. Today NARCONON centers around the world are educating hundreds of thousands of people and rehabilitating thousands of addicts.

During the past two decades, the NARCONON Drug Education Program has accomplished the following:

- Delivered our presentations in thousands of schools and youth groups
- Educated over 1,250,000 children ages 6 to 18 years
- Trained thousands of students through our Peer Leadership Program
- Provided specialized training programs to educators, parents and health professionals

Our primary goal is to reduce, and ultimately to eliminate drug abuse in society.

The major objectives of the NARCONON presentation program are:

1) To convey the true information regarding drugs to young people, resulting in their lack of desire or interest in using them, and a comprehension of why drugs are not a solution to life’s problems.

2) To provide students with information regarding peer pressure, communication, how to set and achieve goals in life, and other subjects that they can apply to their lives in order to resist alcohol and other drugs.

PROGRAM CONTENT

In delivering effective drug education, the NARCONON Drug Education program first had to address where drug education efforts have failed in the past.

The basic method used formerly in drug prevention has been the "scare tactic" approach. This was an attempt to scare youth away from drugs. It never worked.

In our presentations in thousands of schools, we have refined an approach that speaks powerfully to kids in their own language. Our professionals, most of whom have experience in drug rehabilitation, speak from their own experiences and give
a realistic picture of drug abuse. Key information on drugs is presented with humor and metaphors appropriate to age level.

We don't just tell kids to "say no", we educate them to come to that conclusion on their own.

Our study of over 175,000 student questionnaires has shown us in kids own writing what information they found which actually:

a) changed their minds from possibly trying or using drugs to a firm decision not to;

b) reinforced their decisions not to use drugs; or

c) made them decide to stop using drugs.

The NARCONON presentations are divided into several topics covering the basic information regarding alcohol and others drugs. Subjects such as setting and achieving goals are covered as a method to avoid falling into the trap of substance abuse. The presentations are geared to the appropriate age groups and focus on the real life situations that often lead to drug use.

Topics covered are:

- The physical effects of drugs on the body.
- How drugs affect the mind.
- Tobacco, smoking and your health.
- The true story of marijuana.
- Alcohol—what it is and how the media affects young people.
- Peer pressure and resisting drug use.
- Establishing and achieving goals in life and how this eliminates the desire for drugs.
- Addiction—how it starts and what keeps a person addicted.

PROGRAM EVALUATION & RESULTS

Following the presentations, each student is given a questionnaire to help us evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The surveys provide vital information that is used to enhance, update and increase the effectiveness of our presentations.

The result is a high impact, hard hitting program that achieves the objective of turning young people away from drugs.

Our success in reaching students is measured by the question, "Did your thoughts about drugs change after hearing our presentation?" To date, the most common responses are:

- Students who thought, "drugs were not that bad", before the presentation, felt drugs are much worse than they thought and they would now never try drugs.
- That their decision not to use drugs had been reinforced.
- Nearly all felt they learned a lot about drugs that they didn't know before.

An independent study of the NARCONON program conducted by FASE¹ in Los Angeles concluded:

"Changes in those who had indicated that they might use drugs were quite pronounced. Responses clearly indicated a heightened awareness of the adverse effects caused by drug abuse. Comments indicating that they would now never use drugs were common."

¹ Foundation For Advancements in Science and Education. By Shelley L. Beckmann, Ph.D., and Sandra L. Chapman, M.A

"Once they realize it's that serious, it can do that much damage — any drug — it'll make them think twice about doing it.

"The message [Narconon] sends is one that needs to be sent. It's something that needs to be done and I think every school should do it."

Tony Del Pinto
Deputy Sheriff
Los Angeles County
The Narconon presentations are geared specifically to the age level of the audience. The appropriate program for a school or group can be determined through discussion with a Narconon representative. Questions and audience participation are encouraged during and after the program.

**DRUGS AND THE BODY**

Drugs and chemicals accumulate in the body. Even occasional use has long term effects. We discuss these effects, the risks involved, and the difficulties of removing drug residues.

**DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND THE MEDIA**

What alcohol is and how it is made. How drugs and alcohol are advertised and how the media is used to get our attention and glamorize drug use.

**HOW DRUGS AFFECT THE MIND**

We demonstrate how drug use reduces our abilities, affects learning, memory and our sense of reality. We explore the emotional damages.

**THE TRUTH ABOUT MARIJUANA**

Dispelling common myths and false information about marijuana, we cover the long term physical effects and how marijuana affects a person emotionally.

**TOBACCO, SMOKING AND YOUR HEALTH**

Smoking and second-hand smoke affects a person physically. We demonstrate how media promotion of tobacco is positioned to attract young people despite known consequences.

**ECSTASY—WHAT IS IT REALLY?**

Recent research has shown the truly damaging affects of this drug so why is it still being glamorized by the media? Here is the truth about Ecstasy.

**LSD-TODAY’S MOST DANGEROUS DRUG**

LSD affects a person by creating permanent changes to their perception of reality and to their memories. We discuss the mind and this drug’s severe effects.

**ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS IN LIFE**

What are goals and why is it important to set them? How can we remain enthusiastic despite obstacles to achieving our goals in life? Stress is unavoidable but does not result in drug abuse when children are given these tools.

**ADDICTION**

When does addiction start? Sooner than you think. We discuss the cycle of addiction based on three decades of results in handling addicts.

**WHAT STUDENTS SAY ABOUT NARCONON**

The Narconon program educate thousands of students worldwide each year with successes pouring in each week. Sometimes the question is raised, "Do we really reach the kids?" or "can we actually prevent them from using drugs?" We know that our program is making a difference in society but feel that the direct responses from the students speak for themselves.

"I think the talk was very helpful and I found out things about drugs that I never knew. And I don't think I would ever want to take drugs again."

High School Student

"Yes, it changed my life. Now I know I should not take drugs."

Elementary School Student

"Well it made me think twice. No other program has actually even made me think about it."

High School Student

"I ain't doing no more. I used to do marijuana, cocaine, meth and crack. The information is going to stay with me for the rest of my life."

High School Student

"Yes (my thoughts changed) because I'm not going to poison myself just from drugs. It's like why did you even get born to kill yourself?"

Elementary School Student

"Yes (my thoughts changed). I always felt like experimenting, but now I don't."

High School Student

"I now have NO desire to try any. I was kinda curious, but not any more."

High School Student

"Yes, my thoughts changed about hearing the talk with you. I'll never use drugs and I'll never smoke. I will remember you when I'm big and, if I have babies, I'll talk with them about using drugs and smoking."

Elementary School Student
# NARCONON Drug Prevention & Education

## References

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Many more references available upon request.

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**WHAT AN EDUCATOR SAYS ABOUT NARCONON**

"The response from our students to your drug education presentations was wonderful. Your presenter actively engaged the students at the beginning and held their attention throughout each of the six presentations. This is a small miracle for any speaker, as this age group does not always embrace new faces who bring new ideas, but your speaker accomplished this feat!"

"The message that Narconon brings to our children is the reality of the impact of drug involvement on young lives. As a follow up to these assemblies, I asked our students what they learned. The messages came through loud and clear: 'It is never right to take drugs and I'm not going to hurt myself or let my friends get involved.'"

"These lessons do not come from books, only human interactions. The impact of this program is a valuable asset to our school and our community."

C.M. Interactive Coordinator