

What is STAR?

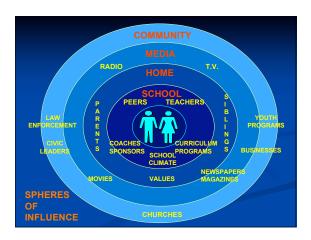
A comprehensive multi-component, community and school program for drug abuse prevention involving youth, parents, teachers, and community leaders

Why Was It Developed?

To improve what works in prevention

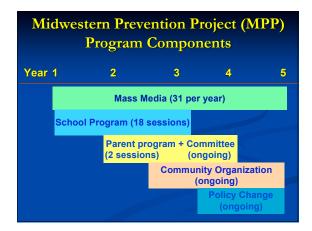
What Works in Prevention?

- ➤ Counteract personal, social and environmental influences on drug use
- ► Follow sound theoretical, process and structural models
- ► Implement with active social learning methods



Arguments for Community Prevention

- Counteract multiple social influences on adolescent tobacco use with programs aimed at each influence (school, parent, community, policy, mass media)
- Reinforce social norms for non-use across the community
- Provide sustained program exposure



PROJECT STAR PROGRAM **COMPONENTS** Media Program Community Press kitsNews seriesStudent video contest Organization Community leader skills training Development of council Video magazineInteractive television Development of task forcesPolicy support School Program Basic classroom program (10-13 sessions) Booster classroom program (5-7 sessions) Policy Program. Needs assessmentGovernment official trainingReferenda on prevention Parent Program Involvement in school program through homework assignments School guidelines policy changes • Policy support Parent skills training (2 sessions)School/neighborhood support

Project STAR School Curriculum 10-13 sessions in transition year to middle school or junior high school (6th or 7th grade) 5-7 booster sessions taught the following year in 7th or 8th grade Each session takes approximately 45-50 minutes Most often taught in health, science, social studies, guidance, and physical education classes, but may be taught in conjunction with any subject Teacher training: two days for Part I, one day for Part II

Implementation Schedule

- Start teaching curriculum 2-3 weeks after teacher training
- Wait at least one month into school, so peer relationships have formed
- Teach approximately 2 sessions per week
- Try to coordinate similar schedule for all classes, to enhance school-wide effect

Social Learning Method

- General principles
- Modeling
- Role playing
- Socratic group discussion with feedback
- Extended practice in real-life setting (homework)

Socratic Method

- No lecturing
- Teacher poses questions to capitalize on students' existing knowledge
- Students draw their own conclusions
- Teacher remains neutral
- Result is enhanced belief in topic by students

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Peer Leader Selection

- Students vote for 5 peer leaders per class
- Students are told that in future class sessions, they will be learning special skills
- Asked to nominate classmates to assist, who are respected and liked and would be good leaders.
- Students are NOT told that it is for a drug abuse prevention program

Peer Leader Training

- Trained prior to start of classroom sessions
- Peer leaders from all classes may be trained together by one teacher
- Trains them in resistance skills so they can model them during classroom sessions
- Motivates them to view their job as important because other students look up to them and respect their opinions

Project STAR Part I Sessions

1		Title	Description	
	1	Consequences	Students identify positive and negative consequences of drug use and non-use, focusing on short-term and social consequences.	
	2	Techniques to Say "No"	Students learn and practice 8 techniques to refuse drug offers.	
		Peer Pressure Resistance	Students discuss types of peer pressure and learn assertiveness skills. They practice being assertive in role plays of pressure situations.	
	4	To Tell the Truth & Prevention Baseball	Students complete a survey which provides statistics on drug use rates within their school. They play a game to learn facts about drugs, their effects, use, and misuse.	

	Companion Violence Prevention Sessions – Part I (Optional)			
#	Title	Description		
11	Anger and Its Consequences	Students learn the difference between anger, aggression and violence, identify positive and negative consequences for each, and role play consequences.		
12	De-escalating Anger	Students identify the cues of anger and learn skills to calm or de-escalate a situation. They practice by role playing situations they have seen or experienced.		
13	Seeking Safety in Conflict Situations	Students learn to recognize when a situation requires seeking safety and help, and identify resources at home, school and in the community.		

Parental Involvement through Homework

- Most assignments require involvement or assistance of a parent or other significant adult
- Gives parents the opportunity to discuss their family values, expectations and views about drug use with their child
- Raises parent awareness of the problems young people face regarding drug use

Sample Homework Session 1: Consequences Part A: Parent Interview

- Directions: Ask your parent the questions below and write his or her answers in the space provided.
 - If you caught me using drugs, what would the consequences be
 - What would the consequences be if I came home drunk?
 - What do you think are some of the most common consequences that can happen to a person my age who uses drugs?
 - What do you think will be the most important benefits to me of not using drugs?

STAR Parent Program

- Starts with formation of Project STAR Parent Program Committee at school
- Committee consists of a minimum of 4-6 parents, 2 student leaders, and the school principal (chair).
- Committee receives a 4 hour training and comprehensive program manual
- Meet regularly throughout school year to plan and implement Parent Program activities

Parent Skills Workshop

- Two hour session held twice during school year (usually in evening)
- All parents of 7th or 8th graders receiving STAR Part II classroom sessions are invited to attend with their children
- Presented by Parent Program Committee members, using instructions in manual
- Teaches parents skills and techniques to help keep their children drug-free
- Fun and interactive; uses role plays, group and partner activities, worksheets and discussion.

Parent Skills Workshop Content

- Student demonstration of resistance skills learned in class, parent role plays of the skills, and suggestions for reinforcing the skills at home
- Strategies to help parents increase awareness of their children's friends and encourage positive friendships
- Skills for improving parent-child communication during the adolescent years
- Techniques for effectively communicating expectations, promoting responsibility, and establishing and enforcing family rules

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Parents: My Plan for Improving Communication Evaluate the progress you made this week by checking the appropriate column: Revealing my feelings without blaming or accusing Understanding my child's From: Parent Program Manual **Community Organization** ■ Community leader skills training ■ Development of council ■ Development of task forces ■ Policy support Get Ready, Get Set, Go! Community Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention A Training Manual for Community Leaders

Table of Contents ■ Community Readiness for ■ Community Organization Development & Strengthening Prevention ■ Activity 1: Agree on your target Population ■ Activity 5: Making Your Public Commitment ■ 2: Your Community's Boundaries • 6: Deciding on a Structure ■ 3: Review your Community's Level of Readiness ■ Initial Strategic Planning ■ 7: Agreeing on a Mission ■ 4: Match Assets to Gaps, Statement Needs to Resources ■ 8: The Planning Matrix Media Program • Press kits • News series · Student video contest · Video magazine • Interactive television **Understanding Media for Prevention Planning** A Training Manual for Community Leaders

Constructing Media Pieces

- Write a 1-2 sentence description of each:
- What is the activity that you want covered?
- Who is it aimed at?
- Where is it to be held?
- Why is your organization doing this?
- When is it being held?

- Constructing a Press Kit
 Personalize your Press Kit
 - Include your organization's mission statement
 - Identify your community (psychological, social & physical boundaries
 - Your logo and structure

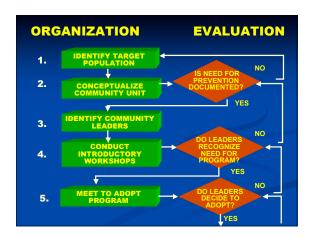
Policy Program

- Needs assessment
- Government official training
- Referenda on prevention policy changes
- Policy support

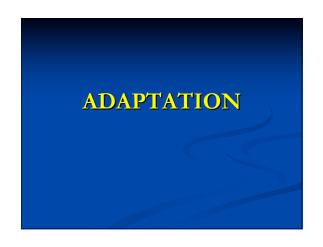
Planning for **ADOPTION**

- Assessing risk and protective factors
- Building community readiness and involvement in prevention
- Assessing current prevention programs

IDENTIFICATION of Leaders and Implementers Snowball Sampling Triangulating snowball x prevention coordinator x prevention organization







Sequencing Program Components		
Situation	Recommended Sequencing	
No coalition	Media, school, parent and community organization, policy	
Existing coalition	Community organization/preparation (include school representative, build school support, media support)	
Competing programs or initiatives	Enjoin coalition and schools to choose (media for support of choice, community organization and school, parent, policy)	

Fitting Program Into Existing Programs and Mandates

- Assess current prevention mandates and funding streams
- Linking program with other existing programs

IMPLEMENTATION

Standardized Training for Fidelity of Implementation

- Train 1 or more days with modeling and practice
- Provide manuals with examples
- Implement 2+ times/week
- Start within 2 weeks of training

How to Adapt Without Compromising Quality of Implementation



Sustaining Fidelity of Implementation

- Strong school prevention coordinator
 Champion at community level
- Community facilitator who is at least partially paid to
- Back up "facilitator training" in the event of facilitator loss
- Encourage implementers to present, share, and model program with others
- Reinforce/honor implementers and participants (e.g., through Parent Skills Night, end of year picnics, school assemblies, radio/local news coverage
- Standardized initial and refresher training

Sustaining Program

- Use of evaluation data
- · Grant writing
- Integrating with other health initiatives
- Taking on other partners in prevention

DISSEMINATION

Program Dissemination

- Co-teach program
- Videotape training
- Identify replacements
- Invite external sites to view implementation

THANK YOU!

For more information, please consult the Blueprints website or email Elizabeth Hoyt at ehoyt@usc.edu