

# School Safety



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**NATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
SAFETY  
CENTER**



Pepperdine University's National School Safety Center is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education. NSSC's goal is to promote school safety, improve discipline, increase attendance, and suppress drug traffic and abuse in all our nation's schools.

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## School Safety

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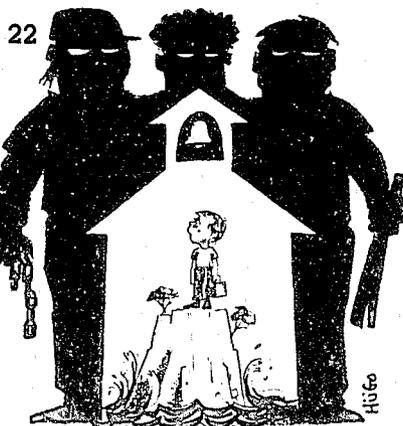
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**About the cover:**

This statue in front of the Philadelphia Police Administration Building exemplifies the positive relationship needed between law enforcers and youth. Photograph by Greg Lanier.

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ACQUISITIONS

BY JOHN C. LAWN

*Law enforcement is combining their efforts to reduce the supply of drugs with education and prevention programs to reduce the demand for drugs.*

## DEA joins team to reduce demand for drugs

Drug abuse threatens to impair the minds and destroy the future lives of many Americans, especially our children. Unless we begin to educate our youth at an early age about the risks and dangers of drug abuse, America may lose an entire generation.

Education to reduce the demand for drugs coupled with vigorous law enforcement to reduce their supply are the key forces that must be allied against the problem of drug abuse in America. To accomplish this, President Reagan's National Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking calls for the full involvement of all levels of law enforcement in drug abuse awareness and prevention. While continuing to provide treatment facilities and encouraging current drug users to stop using drugs, we must give priority to educating our young children, before the fact, to "Just Say No" to drugs.

While the Drug Enforcement Administration is a law enforcement agency, it also has a responsibility to prevent illegal or harmful activities associated with drugs. Although law enforcement has an important role in stopping drug trafficking, it is not the ultimate solution to the drug problem. This country will succeed in halting drug abuse only

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by linking effective drug law enforcement with education for our youth, parents and community leaders. We must succeed in reducing both the supply and demand.

Common economic forces of supply and demand apply to the trafficking of illicit drugs as they do to any product. Law enforcement has had many notable successes in its efforts to reduce the supply of drugs available to users. However, when faced with a shortage in their drug of choice, users will often obtain drugs from a different source or switch to other drugs, conforming to the age-old prophesy "where there is a will there is a way." As a result, the self-perpetuating drug system continues with the dealers providing the supply or "way" for those who have the demand or "will" to use drugs. For this reason, simultaneously reducing both supply and demand is a must. Demand reduction is critical because it is something that drug producers and dealers simply cannot control.

Education and prevention are the vital keys to curbing the demand for drugs. Education can prevent drug use before it starts. Education can assist those already caught in the throes of drug abuse. Education can direct those who need it toward treatment. Our goal, of course, is to educate in hopes of stopping the drug problem before it starts.

Children are particularly vulnerable

to the examples set for them by adults. Tragically, this society has offered our children too many poor role models: individuals who are regular drug users. These adults are beyond prevention and may need a compelling reason - law enforcement - to seek treatment for their abuse.

The 19th century philosopher, Thomas Carlyle, wrote an essay entitled "On Heroes and Hero Worship." That particular essay considered the role of the hero in our society. Americans worship their heroes and many professional athletes are role models for children.

In the face of widely publicized instances of drug abuse in professional sports, many have asked, "Where have all the heroes gone?" While some have fallen and others have tragically died, there are still many heroes to be found in professional sports. These heroes are now speaking out against drug abuse. For example, the "Just Say No - It's Your Decision" video features Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees, and the "Just Say No" public service announcements feature Ralph Sampson of the Houston Rockets and other athletes such as Julius Erving, Bobby Hillen and Mike Tyson.

The Drug Enforcement Administration participates in several major prevention programs, one of which is the Sports Drug Awareness Program (SDAP). Two years ago a high school

coach asked the DEA to assist him in assembling a program to help coaches recognize, understand and prevent drug abuse. That led to the development of the SDAP, which operates in conjunction with the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, the National Football League, the National Football League Players Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and numerous other education and athletic associations.

Inaugurated by former U.S. Attorney General Smith in the summer of 1984, the SDAP concentrates on preventing drug abuse among school-age youth through the support of coaches and student-athletes, as well as amateur and professional sports figures. The program's goal is to reach all of the coaches in the nation's high schools and provide them with training, educational support and literature on drug abuse prevention. The SDAP has been expanding and is now reaching out to junior high and even elementary level coaches to capitalize on "the feeder system" - to reach our students all throughout their school career.

Two key elements of this program are promoted by way of brochures which specifically address the issue of drugs and schools. The first, "For Coaches Only: How to Start a Drug Prevention Program," provides information to coaches on the need for high school prevention programs involving student athletes. The second, "Team Up for Drug Prevention," contains an action plan and guidelines on how to start a drug abuse prevention program involving student athletes. It also has a description of a model high school program in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The SDAP is a proven success and demonstrates that education can reduce the demand for drugs. At Spingarn High School in Washington, D.C., 91 student athletes were trained in drug awareness, prevention and peer counseling techniques during the summer of 1984. Since then, surveys indicate that drug abuse has decreased 75 percent

among the students in the athletic program. At the Forest Hills School District in Cincinnati, Ohio, drug and alcohol use by eighth grade athletes has been reduced from 38 percent to 12 percent. Obviously, this is a program that works.

Immediately after the program was launched, DEA received an overwhelming response from numerous agencies and organizations involved in various aspects of education and sports, as well as from many criminal justice and community organizations. As a result, in November 1984, with support from approximately 40 other groups, DEA launched the second phase of this initiative.

The broadcast industry, through the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), has joined the SDAP. The NAB's more than 850 television and 4,500 radio stations are currently carrying public service announcements featuring sports celebrities such as NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, NFLPA Executive Director Gene Upshaw and Winfield of the New York Yankees.

All the participants are dedicated to preventing drug abuse among the 57 million young people now in kindergarten through college.

As the Sports Drug Awareness Program generated momentum, DEA saw a place for demand reduction in its mission. This past March, the DEA's Drug Demand Reduction Section was introduced to focus on the areas of drug abuse education and prevention.

In addition to the SDAP, this section is involved in the Law Enforcement Explorer program of the Boy Scouts of America, which uses Law Enforcement Explorers to combat drug abuse through peer pressure. From a pilot drug abuse training seminar that had six posts in Texas in 1984, this project has expanded to Law Enforcement Explorer posts worldwide.

The DEA Demand Reduction Section will continue to develop new programs to inform and assist other law enforcement agencies, national associations,

youth groups, private industry and the general public.

DEA's demand reduction programs form a valuable, even vital, part of our mission. There is much to accomplish nationwide, even worldwide, that simply is beyond the scope of state or local entities. Although so many resources are available to help communities develop and implement their own drug education and prevention programs, their eventual success is dependent on the participation of the people who live there.

There are many outstanding state and local drug abuse prevention and education programs around the nation. A few merit special recognition because they capitalize on their communities' resources - including law enforcement.

In Massachusetts, the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs enlisted the participation of more than 200 communities in its first year. State agencies, major media outlets, private health-care providers, professional and amateur sports organizations, police associations and private corporations have sponsored drug prevention programs and provided money for education and teacher training.

The cities and towns in the Alliance have created school and community advisory councils to bring parents, teachers and police together. Their agendas have included review of school discipline codes, the creation of peer and parent education programs and the development of written agreements between school and police officials on the procedures for dealing with drugs in the schools.

In 1978, the Division of Police of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government in Lexington, Kentucky, decided that enforcement and education were equally important. Using narcotics detectives from the Special Investigations Unit, the police developed presentations and literature tailored to the drug problems in the Lexington area. The underlying premise was that drug abuse could be prevented if children

were educated before encountering the pressure of peers and drug dealers.

As the program grew, community support of the police increased, as did the flow of information from the public to the police. The results after six years

were gratifying – a 39 percent decrease in juvenile drug arrests! In addition, half of all the elementary and junior high school classes had been exposed to drug abuse prevention, 36,000 citizens had attended presentations, and only

\$12,000 had been spent.

In New York City, the Police Department and the Board of Education have initiated a joint program to eliminate the sale of drugs in the vicinity of city schools, while simultaneously educating school-age children about the hazards of drug abuse. Code named Operation SPECDA, or School Program to Educate and Control Drug Abuse, this program started in September 1984.

The enforcement aspect involves arrests for the illegal sale of drugs and the closure of "smoke shops" operating within two blocks of the schools. The relatively new Federal statute mandating more severe penalties for distributing controlled substances within 1,000 feet of elementary or secondary schools has been effectively employed. Of the more than 6,000 arrests made since the enactment of that statute, only 4 percent were students, and 78 percent were over 20 years of age.

Control of drug demand through social, religious and medical means has a long history. Not until the passage of the Harrison Narcotic Act in 1914, however, did police agencies across the country begin to address the supply side of the drug problem. Enforcement officials have now entered the drug abuse prevention and education effort because it has become obvious that drug demand reduction must involve everyone in the community.

The law enforcement community has made a firm commitment to drug abuse education and prevention. We have seen first-hand the problems that drug abuse has caused for the family, for the schools and for society overall. Drugs are a safety issue in the home, in the workplace, and in the schools. Law enforcement is going to focus on reducing the supply of drugs from all major sources and be full partners in the war on the demand for drugs.

In time, the war on drugs in the United States can and will be won. Education and prevention together with certain and effective enforcement is the solution. □

## A plan for drug-free schools

"Because of drugs, children are failing, suffering and dying. We have to get tough and we have to do it now."

These words, by Secretary of Education William J. Bennett, introduce a new handbook aimed at helping rid our schools of drugs.

The book, *Schools Without Drugs*, is issued by the U.S. Department of Education and is available free of charge to anyone interested. Bennett has already sent copies to every public and private elementary and secondary school and to every school superintendent.

The 78-page handbook also contains a full-page statement from First Lady Nancy Reagan. "Outside the home, the school is the most influential environment for our children. This means that schools must protect children from the presence of drugs, and nurture values that help them reject drugs."

Aimed at educators, parents and students, the handbook concisely sets up an action plan for achieving a drug-free school environment, spelling out the respective responsibilities of each involved segment.

The booklet outlines successful school and city drug-abuse prevention programs and offers information on how to best utilize available community resources when setting up a prevention program. It offers a useful 12-point recommendation list for "achieving schools without drugs."

A sample includes:

- Teaching standards of right and wrong through personal example
- Being knowledgeable about drugs

and signs of drug usage

- Establishing clear rules and effectively enforcing them
- Implementing a comprehensive drug prevention curriculum
- Utilizing community support

While the booklet's primary thrust is drug prevention programs, it contains valuable information on the stages of drug addiction, the effects of drug usage, and drug usage in relation to learning. "Drug use impairs memory, alertness and achievement. Drugs erode the capacity of students to perform in school, to think and act responsibly. The consequences of using drugs can last a lifetime," writes Bennett in the booklet's introduction.

Supplemental information on how to spot drug users, legal search and seizure guidelines and teaching drug prevention is also included. A concluding resource directory offers listings for toll-free numbers of drug-prevention agencies, available literature and videotapes, community resources, legal information and available adolescent drug rehabilitation programs.

A comprehensive listing of reference materials on topics such as children and drug use, the extent of drug use, what schools can do, how drug use develops and drug use and learning cites numerous articles from trade and medical journals.

Anyone can order the booklet by calling 800/624-0100 (659-4854 for Washington, D.C.) or by writing for copies to: *Schools Without Drugs*, Pueblo, CO 81009.