

## **D.A.R.E. Fast Facts**

### **The Numbers**

- 36M children will benefit this year (26M USA)
- 1,000 new communities started D.A.R.E. in last three years
- 80% of USA school districts and 54 countries teach D.A.R.E.
- 12,000+ communities using D.A.R.E.
- 50,000+ D.A.R.E. officers trained/certified throughout USA

### **The Program**

- D.A.R.E. curriculum developed by educators, taught by trained officers
- Curriculum focuses on self-esteem, responsibility, resisting peer pressure
- Decision to implement D.A.R.E. is community decision
- D.A.R.E. has elementary, middle, high school, after-school, parental components
- D.A.R.E. mandates training for instructors before they enter the classroom
- D.A.R.E. launching new science-based curricula from top researchers and curriculum writers with \$14 million grant from Robert Wood Johnson
  - Research and principle based content
  - Authentic activities
  - Active learning principles and “best teaching” practices
  - More complex reasoning behind decisions and actions
  - D.A.R.E. officers used as facilitators instead of instructors

### **The Science**

- D.A.R.E. has a Scientific Advisory Board led by Dr. Herb Kleber, Columbia U.
- NIDA issued Research Based Guide identifying standards for prevention programs, publication proposed checklist of research-based prevention principles—D.A.R.E. was only program to satisfy all eight categories.
- 30 independent studies published supporting effectiveness of D.A.R.E.
- Study recently published in the Journal of the National Medical Association demonstrates that the D.A.R.E. curriculum is highly effective in prevention of smoking. Students that completed the D.A.R.E. program were five times less likely to start smoking compared to youngsters who did not participate in D.A.R.E.

### **The Cost**

- Cost of educational materials for a D.A.R.E. student K-12 is \$12.00--\$1 per year
- 1% of D.A.R.E. funding comes from Federal government
- Administrative cost of D.A.R.E. America is .1%, closest competitor is 20%

# **THE NEW D.A.R.E. PROGRAM**

## **PROJECT**

- University of Akron developing and evaluating new curricula for middle and high school, based on latest prevention research.
- Funded by 13.7 million dollar grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Goal is to design and test next generation of research based school curricula.
- D.A.R.E. is in 80% of schools, reaches over 36 million young people.
- D.A.R.E. is the most extensive substance abuse delivery system in the United States.
- 80 high schools and 176 feeder middle schools, est. of 50,000 student participants.

## **PROGRAM**

- Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, New Orleans, & St. Louis beginning nationwide study to test new, state of the art substance abuse prevention curriculum.
- Drug use patterns and comparison group to be followed for five years.
- Primary goal of curricula is to prevent use of tobacco/alcohol/illicit drugs/violence.
- 10 classes, curriculum focuses on four areas.
  - Understanding the consequences of use
  - Examining their own beliefs related to consequences and use
  - Develop/use communication and resistance skills
  - Make positive quality of life decisions

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- RWJ funding and U. of Akron drawing on most successful previous approaches.
- Unique opportunity to improve effectiveness of drug prevention across USA.
- D.A.R.E. is the largest drug prevention delivery system in the USA.
- D.A.R.E. has pledged to make delivery of curriculum its highest priority.
- The best prevention science with the most effective delivery system.

## **OLD vs NEW**

- Content is research and principle based.
- Activities are authentic, life-like and problem based.
- Active learning and “best teaching” practices
- Focus on the complex reasoning behind decisions and actions.
- Police officers serve as facilitators in the class
- Longitudinal evaluation to test effectiveness of curricula.