

Youth Engagement Project

Fostering Protective Factors Against
Illicit Drug Use Through the Health
Promoting Schools Initiative

Presentation Objectives

- To outline the project rationale, objectives and outcomes
- To describe the project activities and deliverables
- To gain feedback regarding:
 - What works?
 - What are some of the gaps and barriers?
 - What are some suggestions for the future?

Rationale for the Project

- Ontario Student Drug Use Survey (CAMH, 2007) found that illicit drug use remains an issue for school aged persons
- Alcohol, cannabis, pain relievers, tobacco, solvents, stimulants and hallucinogens are particularly prevalent in students in grades 7-12
- Drug use increases with grade level so there is a need for intervention programs in grades 6-8

Project Objectives

- To assess the needs of public health staff working on school health teams
- To increase the factors that foster resilience and enhance protective factors against illicit drug use within 6 pilot sites
- To increase youth engagement and increase protective factors to reduce student drug use among **grades 6, 7 & 8 students**

Project Activities & Deliverables

- Research
- Needs Assessment
- Target Identification
- Resource Development & Training
- Project Activity Design
- Work Plan Development & Implementation
- **Comprehensive Evaluation**
- Program Calibration & Regional Health Unit Workshops

Project Outcomes

- PH staff will have increased knowledge and skill in youth engagement
- Pilot schools will have increased opportunities for student engagement
- School staff and community members will have increased knowledge of ways to increase YE
- Pilot schools will have increased participation in YE activities

Project Contacts

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Group 1 Discussion Questions

1. Reflecting on your personal experiences with YE, what has worked? What is sustainable?
2. What are some of the gaps or barriers to effective YE?

Group 2 Discussion Questions

1. How do you reach 'hard-to-reach' youth or youth 'outside the school environment'?
2. Who besides public health should take the lead on YE?

Group 3 Discussion Questions

1. Do train-the-trainer formats work?
2. How do you prepare community partners for YE?