

Prevention of Substance Use In Youth

CONTACT
Community Services

WITH HELP COMES HOPE
Fifty Years!

Student Assistance Counselors deliver evidence-based programs to prevent loss of life among youth, delay age of onset or first use, break the cycle of addiction in families, and improve access to services (prevention, treatment and recovery) through school and community partnerships.



20%

Although 80 percent of American youth reported participation in school-based prevention in 2005, only **20 percent** were exposed to effective prevention programs. We hope to change this statistic with increased workforce funding.



Individuals that use substances often begin doing so in adolescence, often with background and experiences that have primed conditions for doing so.



25%

of students may become afflicted with Substance Use Disorder by age 18



90%

of addictions begin before the age of 18



41.2%

of youth ages 12 and older who had a substance use disorder also had a co-occurring mental illness.

If effective prevention programs were implemented nationwide, substance abuse initiation would decline for 1.5 million youth. In 2003, an estimated:



8%

fewer youth ages 13 to 15 would not have engaged in binge drinking



45.8%

fewer youth would not have used cocaine



11.5%

fewer youth would not have used marijuana



10.7%

fewer youth would not have smoked regularly

Evidence-based programs, statistically, have significant effects on mental health outcomes and substance use prevention outcomes. Research shows that for each dollar invested in prevention, a savings of up to \$10 in treatment for alcohol or other substance abuse can be seen.