



Evaluating CVUSD Community
Readiness for Implementing a
New Form of Drug Prevention
Known as PreVenture



California Healthy Kids Survey¹

Marijuana 4+ Times:

- 9th: 18%
- 11th: 29%

Accessibility of Marijuana, Very Easy:

- 7th-14%
- 9th-38%
- 11th-55%

Alcohol Full Glass 4+ Times:

- 9th: 23%
- 11th: 43%

Accessibility of Alcohol, Very Easy:

- 7th-19%
- 9th-40%
- 11th-51%



Existing Drug Prevention Methods

- **Project BreakThrough**- designed to help families overcome a variety of issues including substance abuse
- **Wellness Counseling**- provide select students with necessary coping skills
- **Health Class**- teach students about the dangers of drug use
- **Police Involvement**- School resource officer, investigate possible substances on campus
- **Reality Parties and Project Alert**- Provide information to parents



Drawbacks

- **PreVenture-** Minimal advertisement to student population
- **Wellness Counseling-** Reaches a small group of participants
- **Health Classes-** Take classes online
- **Police Involvement-** Intervention rather than prevention
- **Reality Parties and Project Alert-** Minimal parent engagement



What is Preventure?

“Preventure is school-based intervention aimed at reducing adolescent drug and alcohol use in high-risk teenagers”²

- Anxiety
- Desperation
- Hopelessness
- Sensation-Seeking



Research Question:

Is Conejo Valley Unified School District in need of a new drug prevention program at the high schools?

Hypothesis

CVUSD high school students have a need for a preventative drug program



Literature Review

- PreVenture put adolescents ages 13-14 years old significantly lower at risk of drug use³
- 82% of teachers believe PreVenture is 'very effective' and adaptable⁴
- Parental involvement is a huge factor in substance abuse⁵
- Students surround themselves with peers of similar drug abuse behaviors⁵



Results- Surveys

- 30.2% of student responded “significant increase” while 20.9% of students responded as “extreme increase” to drug exposure
- 34.9% parents “strongly agreed” and 23.3% of parents responded “somewhat agree”
- Majority of students turn to friends before parents
- Parent believe child turns to parent first
- 35.6% of parents, the majority, responded they had minimal input in student’s decisions



Results- Interviews

- **Oliveri:** “When you see kids that are struggling you know, there's a possibility that there's very little parent involvement”
- **Wutkee:** “There's not a lot of whole other preventive programs that we have”
- **Judd:** “it's always worth exploring and taking a look at”



Discussion

- Clear increase to substances
- Disconnect between student-parent relationship
- Adolescents more receptive towards friends
- Varying levels of interest in PreVenture
- Overall agreement within administration for need of a new program



Limitations

- Unhomogenised survey population of students and parents
- Small portion of administrative staff interviewed
- Interest in program does not represent those who would actually participate



Conclusion

- Fills the need for a preventive drug program within CVUSD
- Generated parent, student and administrative interest

Future Research

- Evaluate the district of Conejo Valley's perception to such program
- Take further steps to discover logistical issues needed to overcome in order for implementation



Citations

- 1: Ventura County. California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11: Main Report San Francisco: WestEd Health and Human Development Program for the California Department of Education.
- 2: Preventure. (n.d.). Retrieved November 16, 2017, from <https://positivechoices.org.au/teachers/preventure>
- 3: Newton, N. C., Conrod, P. J., Slade, T., Carragher, N., Champion, K. E., Barrett, E. L., . . . Teesson, M. (2016). The long-term effectiveness of a selective, personality-targeted prevention program in reducing alcohol use and related harms: A cluster randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Child Psychology*
- 4: Barrett, E. L., Newton, N. C., Teesson, M., Slade, T., & Conrod, P. J. (2013). Adapting the personality-targeted Preventure program to prevent substance use and associated harms among high-risk Australian adolescents. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*, 9(4), 308-315. doi:10.1111/eip.12114
- 5: King, K. A., Vidourek, R. A., & Merianos, A. L. (2015). The association between parenting behaviours and marijuana use based on adolescent age. 1-11. doi:10.3109/09687637.2015.1025703