

SHERIFF & DEPUTY

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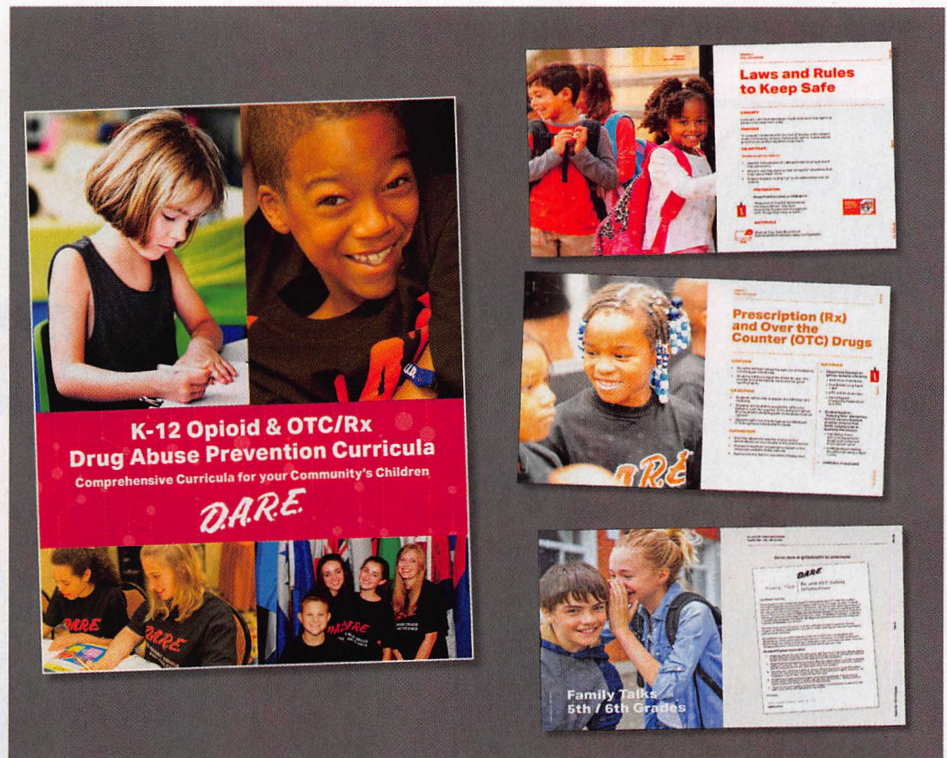
D.A.R.E. Introduces K-12 Curricula Against Opioid Crisis

Substance abuse prevention education organization D.A.R.E. America has launched a new curricula for law enforcement officer-led D.A.R.E. programs nationwide. Targeting K-12 classrooms, parents, and communities, D.A.R.E. is offering the comprehensive opioid abuse prevention curricula to schools and communities free of charge.

The new curricula were created in response to a crisis that results in seven deaths every hour from opioid-related drug overdoses, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) statistics. In addition to saving lives, substance abuse prevention programs could save state and local governments \$1.3 billion, HHS says, and an additional \$33.5 billion in substance abuse-related medical care over two years.

D.A.R.E. launched the new curricula to deal specifically with opioid and prescription drug abuse with comprehensive lessons that meet National Health Education standards. Each law enforcement agency, school district, and community now has the opportunity to provide students with the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy decisions to avoid the tragedy of opioid, prescription, and over-the-counter drug abuse.

"What's been missing in the nation's response to the opioid epidemic is comprehensive prevention education which, to be effective, must begin by reaching children in elementary school and continue into middle and high school," says Frank Pegueros, D.A.R.E. America's president and CEO.



"D.A.R.E.'s new curricula will give millions of schoolchildren across the country the knowledge and the skills they need to avoid drug use."

The curricula incorporate state-of-the-art techniques resulting from enhanced understanding of student learning styles and advancements in academic rigor. "The research around the importance of prevention in confronting drug abuse is clear and cannot be understated," says

Richard Clayton, Ph.D., a prevention researcher and chairman of D.A.R.E.'s Scientific Advisory Board.

"Comprehensive programs like D.A.R.E.'s Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention curricula are critical tools for turning the tide of the drug abuse crisis in America," Clayton says. "D.A.R.E.'s curricula are an important step to navigating our way out of America's opioid tailspin."

For more information, visit www.dare.org.