



ABOVE THE INFLUENCE - Youth Substance Use Prevention Program

Teen substance abuse continues to be a significant public health problem in Orange County, with children experimenting with various substances at very young ages. To reduce the risk a child will use a dangerous substance as a teenager, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and Drug Use is Life Abuse have created a drug prevention program called Above The Influence.

Drug Use Is Life Abuse (DUILA) is a non-profit organization associated with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to provide substance abuse prevention education for K-12 schools.

Above The Influence is our **six-week substance abuse prevention program** for fifth and sixth-grade students taught by deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The curriculum satisfies California state health standards for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs.

Students will learn:

- The disease of addiction and how poor choices early in life can lead to a long-term struggle with addiction
- Common reasons why young people use addictive substances
- Healthy alternatives to substance use
- Addictive properties of nicotine and how tobacco products harm the body over time
- Dangers of vaping and how it can lead to lung injury, cancer, and other diseases
- Critically analyze tobacco and alcohol industry advertisements for deceptive messaging targeting youth
- Dangers of alcohol abuse, including binge drinking and driving under the Influence
- Dangers of marijuana use and its links to schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, lung injury, memory and concentration problems, and poor school performance
- Safe use of medication and how to read medication labels
- Dangers of fentanyl use and its rising prevalence in Orange County
- How to assertively refuse peer pressure and seek positive peer groups to reduce negative influences

The goal of the Orange County Sheriff's Department and Drug Use Is Life Abuse is to eliminate substance abuse through awareness and education. To learn more about the Above The Influence program or to request it for your school, please visit ocsheriff.gov/ATI. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Affairs and Community Engagement Division Supervisor at (714) 647-4014.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Don Barnes & DUILA Chairman Bill Eldien
Orange County Sheriff's Department