

Lit Review: Comprehensive Drug — Education - Methods and Evaluation

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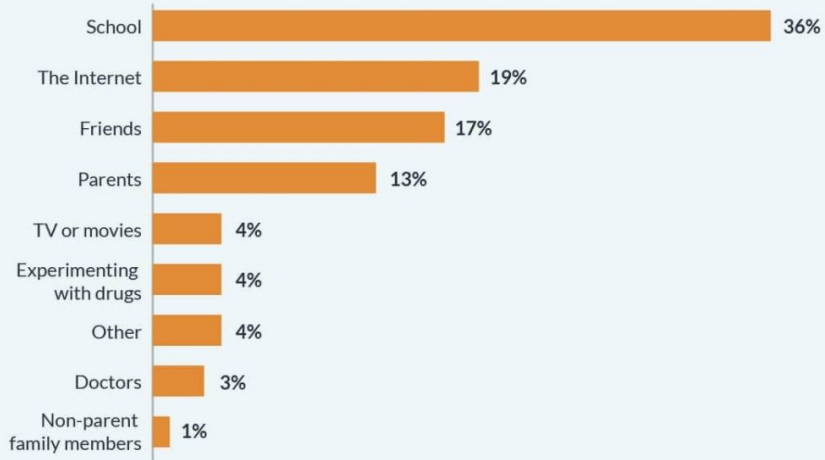
The Issue:

When it comes to drug education, we have:

- Prevention and scared straight programs (programs like D.A.R.E.)
- Harm reduction for users and those experiencing addiction (used less in educational settings and more in treatment or community care)
- Online resources that can be misleading
- Nothing at all

Most drug education has a goal of preventing drug use all together, and so research evaluations of programs measures success in prevention

What is the most common source of your drug education?

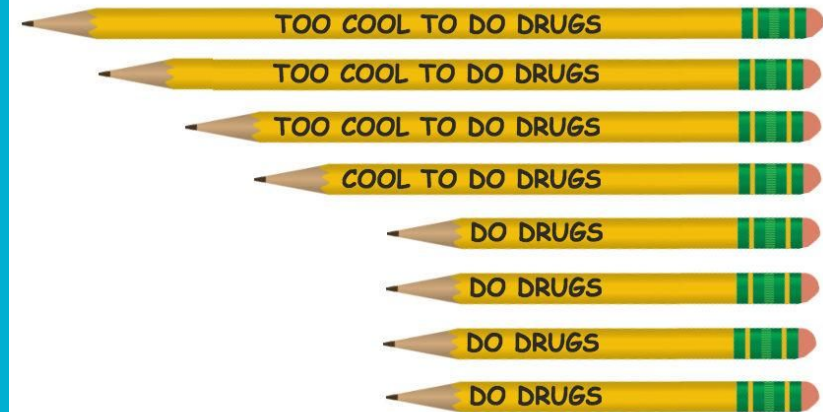


Source: American Addiction Centers survey

Programs like D.A.R.E. (prevention, emphasis on crime, presented by officers, scared straight tales from people in recovery)

- Misattributed their success
- Clouded their measurements
- Some studies say their participants ended up using more than non participants

Young folks mostly get their drug education from school - which has conflicting messaging from their friends, family, internet, and media



Literature:

1 | Shame extends to other aspects of education

2012: The Social Psychology of Disintegrative Shaming

2 | Harm reduction can be applied to students

2013: Preventing alcohol harm: Early results from a cluster randomised, controlled trial in Victoria, Australia of comprehensive harm minimisation school drug education

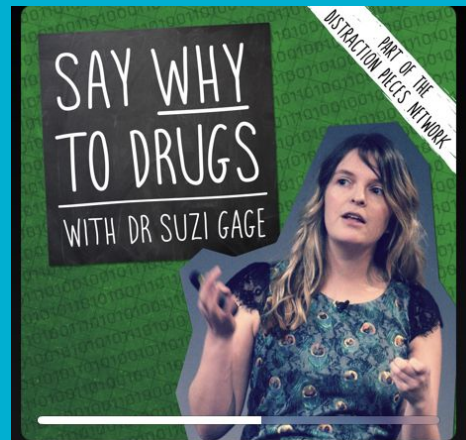
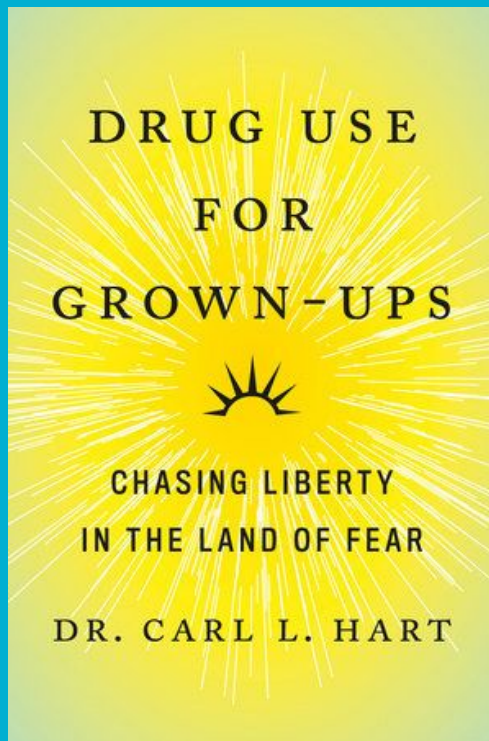
2012: Drug education in Victorian schools (DEVS): the study protocol for a harm reduction focused school drug education trial

3 | Educators, schools are resistant, lack resources

1996: A Process Evaluation of a Comprehensive Drug Education Training Package

2010: "We don't have no drugs education": The myth of universal drugs education in English secondary schools?

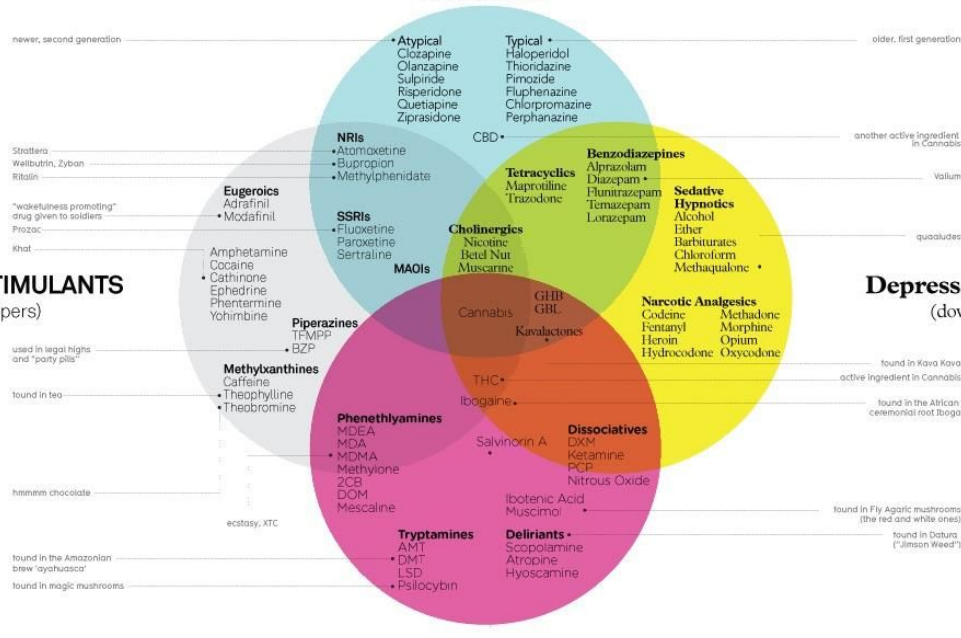
Other resources



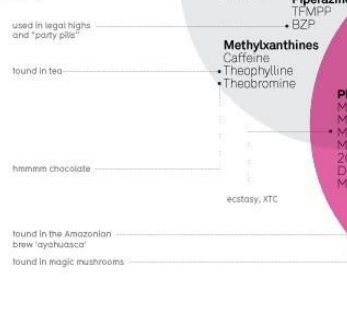
Where is the lack?

- Longitudinal studies on changing attitudes or use patterns
- Self reporting of other influences on use - family history, mental health needs, pain management
- Radical drug positive approaches - compare: pleasure focused, sex positive education

Anti-Psychotics (tranquillizers)



STIMULANTS (uppers)



Depressants (downers)



Hallucinogens (trips)



source: Wikipedia.



Significance to Social Work

Addiction and recovery

- Families affected
- Communities affected
- Causes
- Effects

War on Drugs

- Austerity policies
- Overpolicing and incarceration
- Reparations

Holistic education

Reduce shame and stigma

Part of “decolonization” of social work

Radical shift in perspective and approach of drug use

Research questions

How does comprehensive drug education affect

- drug use?
- health outcomes?
- racial, gender, and economic inequities?

How do we measure “success”?

What would be the effects of “drug positive” education?