

Prevention programs of drug misuse schools based: teacher's perceptions of materials

Authors: Carolina Coutinho, Lidiane Toledo, Francisco Inácio Bastos.

Key words: Prevention, drug use, education

Substance use & misuse by schoolchildren in Brazil constitutes one of the most important public health challenges. In 2012, a partnership between the Office on Drug Policy (SENAD) and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) was established in order to implement the project “Say Yes to Life” – SYL (aiming to prevent alcohol and substance misuse in schools). This abstract summarizes findings from the assessment of educators’ perceptions who were trained in the context of the 5th edition of the course/training sessions on Drug Abuse Prevention for Public School Educators (SENAD/MEC [Ministry of Education]) as regards to the use of the pedagogic materials as follows: Monica's pals, Monica Teen's pals, and Tina's pals “fanzines” (SYL’S key components), identifying their receptivity by educators who completed the course and training process.

Based on the educator’s database (i.e. those who actually attended the Drug Use Prevention course/training sessions) the fanzine were sent to the educators. They were asked to answer an online survey from October 2013 to February 2014.

Overall, 5.743 educators answered the survey. In general, educators evaluated the material as follows: 80.5% agreed that the language/approach fitted their needs and expectations and just 0.3% stated they believe they would have problems to use the material in the classroom, because of their own difficulties to deal with the theme 'alcohol and other drugs'. Most educators said they would use the materials of the SYL project in their classes, and approximately 27.0% said they would use the SYL project material in the school in the 2014 term. In sum, educators evaluated the material positively and ready to be incorporated into their regular classes.