

# Newsletter 10: Youth-Led Initiatives in Opioid Education



## **Empowering Youth to Lead the Way**

Youth-led initiatives are a powerful way to combat opioid misuse. By giving young people a platform to educate their peers, advocate for prevention, and drive change, communities can create impactful programs that resonate with minority youth. When young people take ownership of opioid education, the messaging becomes more relatable, authentic, and effective.

## **2. Creative Engagement:**

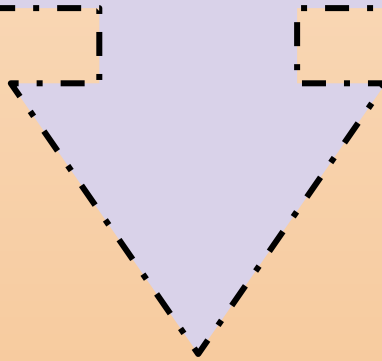
Programs that incorporate art, music, and storytelling allow youth to express their perspectives on the opioid crisis creatively. These methods can make the issue more approachable and foster a deeper emotional connection to the topic.

## **1. Peer Education Programs:**

Training young leaders to educate their peers about the dangers of opioid misuse is a cornerstone of youth-led initiatives. Peer educators can share relatable stories, lead workshops, and organize discussions that encourage open dialogue about substance use.

## **Example 1: The “Youth Speak Out” Campaign in Miami, Florida**

In Miami, a group of high school students launched the “Youth Speak Out” campaign, creating social media videos that address the risks of opioid misuse and the importance of seeking help. Their campaign reached thousands of young people and sparked conversations about prevention both online and in local schools.



## **Example 2: Peer Educator Program in Detroit, Michigan**

Detroit’s Peer Educator Program trains high school students to lead workshops on substance abuse prevention. The program emphasizes cultural relevance and encourages peer educators to share their own experiences. As a result, participants report feeling more comfortable discussing opioids and seeking help when needed.

