

# Newsletter #2: Understanding Signs of Opioid Misuse

## Common Signs of Opioid Overdose

### Behavioral Changes

Sudden changes in behavior, such as increased secrecy, withdrawal from social activities, or a drop in academic performance, can be red flags.

### Physical Symptoms

Noticeable weight loss, frequent drowsiness, and poor hygiene can indicate opioid misuse. Other signs include constricted pupils, slurred speech, and coordination issues.

### Emotional Indicators

Mood swings, increased irritability, and unexplained anxiety or depression are common emotional signs of opioid abuse.



# Case Study: Success in a Vulnerable Minority District

A pilot program in a predominantly minority district in Los Angeles integrated opioid education into the middle school curriculum. The program was designed with cultural sensitivity in mind, incorporating the unique experiences and challenges faced by the community. Interactive sessions, peer mentoring, and active involvement from community leaders and parents were key components.

## Outcomes:

- **Increased Awareness:**  
Students reported a better understanding of what opioids are and the dangers associated with their misuse.

- **Behavioral Change:**  
There was a notable reduction in opioid-related incidents among students.

- **Community Involvement:**  
The program fostered a supportive environment involving teachers, parents, and community leaders, enhancing the overall effectiveness.

