

## **Qualitative Analysis of Student Feedback**

9/1/24 – 2/4/25

This analysis is based on 3,123 survey responses, with approximately 25% of respondents voluntarily providing additional feedback. This input was specifically aimed at enhancing the program's impact and capturing a broader range of perspectives from the student population. Notably, 1 in 4 participants offered supplementary comments, reflecting their engagement and interest in contributing to the program's improvement. The key themes, as well as areas for potential enhancement, are detailed below.

### **Overall Reception and Impact:**

The responses overwhelmingly reflect a strong emotional impact from the presentation. Many students expressed gratitude for the awareness being raised, describing the session as "very moving," "impactful," and "emotional all the way through." Multiple attendees mentioned crying or being deeply affected by the personal stories shared, reinforcing the effectiveness of personal testimony in conveying the dangers of fentanyl.

### **Key Themes Identified:**

#### **1. Positive Feedback & Awareness Raised:**

- Many students praised the presentation for its effectiveness in educating them about the dangers of fentanyl.
- Several students stated they had little to no knowledge of fentanyl before the assembly but now understand its dangers. Comments like, "Before this presentation, I had never heard of fentanyl and now I know how to take care of drug overdoses" and "I thought I knew, but this gave me so much more insight" indicate the educational success of the event.
- The real-life stories shared by presenters resonated with students, making the dangers feel more real.

#### **2. Emotional Impact:**

- Numerous students shared personal connections to fentanyl-related deaths in their families or communities. Statements such as "Someone in my family passed away from fentanyl" and "My mom used to get drugs from people...now that I'm hearing about it being in marijuana, I'm scared" highlight the real-world applicability of the information.
- Some responses were deeply emotional, expressing condolences and appreciation for the presenters' willingness to share their grief.
- Many emphasized that the assembly was moving and left a lasting impression.

#### **3. Desire for More Information & Actionable Steps:**

- Some students requested additional details on how fentanyl is distributed, how it ends up in counterfeit pills, and how to access Narcan.
- A few students inquired about ways to prevent fentanyl use in their communities and schools.

- There were suggestions for expanding the content, such as including more information about other drugs or peer pressure.
- 4. **Criticism & Engagement Issues:**
  - Some students felt the presentation was too long, repetitive, or "boring."
  - A small percentage displayed dismissive attitudes or inappropriate comments, which is expected in a school setting.
  - A few noted that aspects of the presentation, such as certain slides or animations, came across as too comical or out of touch with the gravity of the topic.
- 5. **Concerns & School-Related Issues:**
  - A few students mentioned that drug use is already present in their schools, including selling drugs in restrooms.
  - Some students called for better seating arrangements during assemblies, as sitting on the floor for extended periods was uncomfortable.
- 6. **Requests for Additional Outreach & Resources:**
  - Students expressed interest in starting local chapters or becoming ambassadors for fentanyl awareness.
  - Some requested Spanish-language resources.
  - Several asked how they could help spread the message or become more involved in prevention efforts.
- 7. **Naloxone Training:**
  - Students appreciated the demonstration on how to use naloxone, with comments such as "I liked the explanation on Narcan so I can help others" reinforcing the importance of including practical harm-reduction training.
- 8. **Drug Prevention and Behavior Change:**
  - Many students explicitly stated they would avoid drugs after learning about fentanyl, with comments like "I won't do drugs" and "If you never try, you will never die."
  - Some also noted they would educate others: "I plan to teach others not to use drugs that aren't prescribed by their doctors."

#### **Areas for Improvement and Suggested Additions:**

1. **Fentanyl in Marijuana:** Several students suggested expanding information on the presence of fentanyl in marijuana. Given marijuana's popularity among youth, addressing this risk could enhance the presentation's relevance.
2. **Youth Perspectives:** While parental testimonials were impactful, some students felt that hearing from peers who have lost friends to fentanyl would make the message more relatable.
3. **Suicidal Ideation and Mental Health:** One student pointed out that overdoses can also result from suicidal ideation and suggested incorporating this aspect into the presentation.
4. **More Detailed Harm Explanation:** A few students requested more details on the physiological effects of fentanyl and overdose progression.
5. **Access to Naloxone:** Several students asked for specific information on where to obtain naloxone, suggesting that distributing it at the presentation or providing a clear resource list could be beneficial.

6. **More Realistic/Graphic Imagery:** Some students suggested including more visuals of real-life consequences, though care should be taken to ensure this is done sensitively.
7. **Time for Reflection:** A few students mentioned feeling overwhelmed by the emotional content and suggested more time to process the information.

**Conclusion & Recommendations:** The student feedback indicates that the assembly was largely effective in raising awareness and sparking important conversations. To enhance engagement and comprehension, future assemblies could consider:

- Providing more interactive elements (e.g., real-life scenarios, Q&A sessions).
- Offering additional details on fentanyl distribution and Narcan access.
- Ensuring age-appropriate and relatable visuals to maintain seriousness.
- Following up with resources for continued discussion (e.g., support groups, educational materials).
- Encouraging peer-led initiatives for spreading awareness at the student level.

Overall, the assembly achieved its goal of educating students, with many walking away more informed and determined to avoid fentanyl and help others stay safe.