

Instructor Materials

This CPR Productivity Pack
is for use with the video:
DRUG WARS
Who Will Cry for
Our Children?



Instructor's Guide: How to Use this Video Package

Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children? describes a disaster, one that knows no social, economic or ethnic boundaries. Nationwide, it affects tens of millions of people each year.

What is this disaster? It is the tragedy of drug-afflicted babies. These are children whose mothers abused tobacco, alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy. If these children survive their first year (and many do not), they will bear emotional and physiological if not physical scars. They are called million-dollar babies because of the cost associated with supporting them through infancy and childhood right up through their adult years. Many will wind up in prison-- or worse.

If you've ever heard someone say, "That happens to someone else's kid, not mine," or "It doesn't affect me," you need to show them this video. *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?* shows how individuals and communities across America can truly make a difference.

What this video teaches

- How tobacco, alcohol, crack, heroin, meth and other drugs consumed by the mother affect the fetus
- What we pay as a society by not intervening on behalf of these babies
- How men and fathers, not just women and mothers, share responsibility for this problem
- That it will take generations to solve this problem because it developed over generations
- How Asset Building, where communities develop support systems for children, holds the most promise for helping to reduce this problem
- Specific solutions being tried by police, teachers, and communities across America

How to get the most out of this video

Following is a suggested plan for using the *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?* video package:

1. Ask yourself this question: What is your primary purpose? Is it to show people how to do something or to tell them why they should do it? The answer to this question may affect how you use the video and handouts.
2. Decide whether you want to show the entire video or just excerpts. What local information do you want to present? Do you want to invite any local experts besides yourself? For example, if there is a neo-natal intensive care unit in your area, you might want to invite its director in to speak.
3. Arrange for facilities and supplies: meeting room, VHS playback machine, projection screen, easel, overhead projector, markers, refreshments.
4. Prepare handouts. NOTE: Purchase of *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?* includes authorization to photocopy materials in the Productivity Pack and accompanying audience handouts. See "Copyright Information" on back page for further information.
5. Anticipate the questions you'll be asked. The handouts accompanying this Productivity Pack should enable you to deal effectively with most questions.

6. If time permits, allow audience members to work in small groups on topics that concern them. This gets them working together and improves chances that they will be motivated to become involved in local prevention programs. Also go over the Discussion Questions in advance [see pp. 4-5]. This will help you better prepare for the meeting.

7. Be prepared with a list of specific ways individuals and groups can become more involved in your community. Ask people to volunteer by signing them up for specific tasks—with clear deadlines.

Sample Meeting Agenda **Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?**

1. Welcome and introductions (5-10 minutes)

2. Why we're here (5 minutes)

Give brief statement of purpose, and why drug-afflicted babies is a problem of local concern. Provide some statistics and examples of local crime, if possible. Ask audience members to list their questions. Write them on an easel or overhead.

3. Show video: *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?* (26 minutes)

4. Audience Review (15-20 minutes)

Allow audience members to give some reactions to the program. Use the Questions for Discussion on pp. 4-5 to lead them through a review of the program. Do you plan to ask them for some thing—like for help in planning the next meeting or for a commitment to start a Community Watch program? This is the time to bring it up—when the images are fresh in their minds. This is also a good time to let them complete the quiz included with the audience handouts.

5. BREAK (as needed)

6. Local Experts Panel—investigators, rehab counselors, drug enforcement agents, and other authorities with expertise about local issues. (20 to 30 minutes)

Bring in a local expert or panel of experts to talk about the solutions presented in the video and to answer questions from the audience. If you don't have a panel, continue the discussion by asking audience members to brainstorm about how you can get the word out to the entire community about the need for local prevention efforts. List their ideas and find out who is willing to follow up.

Additional suggestions for how to use this video

- Show it to community leaders and residents
- Use it as a special program at a Community/Neighborhood Watch meeting
- Show it at schools and places of worship
- Broadcast it on community cable access TV (Let us help you find a sponsor!)
- Use it together with Audience Handouts and Instructor's Productivity Pack™

Questions for Discussion

For instructor use in presenting *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?*

The following questions are intended for use after viewing the video, *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children?*. The questions **in boldface** are included in the audience handouts. The parts appearing in normal type are only provided here, for instructor use.

1. This video presents the problem of drug-afflicted babies. What are some ways this problem affects the child, his or her family, and society as a whole?
Costs to the child and the family: drug withdrawal can be life threatening to a baby; addiction causes pain and discomfort for the child; the child needs drug fixes for temporary relief; the cost to the family can be enormous; the mother may lose custody of her child. If the child does survive, he or she can expect to get menial jobs at best, and is at high risk for criminal activity; violence is common at home.
Costs to society: We all pay for the care of the child in the way of medications, doctors, caregivers, therapists, special teachers and schools, etc.

2. Babies affected by alcohol and tobacco are said to have a “hidden cancer.” Why?

Because they often have no visible deformities, yet are severely affected in other ways. Symptoms can take several years to surface. These children experience retarded development and visual and coordination problems. They are at high risk for getting into trouble with the law, and tend to be unproductive as adults.

3. What are some potential effects of the following abused substances on unborn children?

Methamphetamine: cuts off vital nutrients to the child; affects neural transmitters in the brain at a formative stage.

Marijuana: cripples memory and self-control

Alcohol: Leaves physical scars and mental damage. Causes fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and effects (FAE), often characterized by low self-esteem, schizophrenia, manic depression, and other disorders.

Tobacco smoke: leads to prematurely low birth rate, intrauterine growth retardation, danger to the placenta, high risk of damage to the central nervous system, respiratory and hearing problems.

4. The video strongly states that fathers and family members should assume some responsibility for an expectant mother's decisions about tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Do you agree? Why or why not?

No right or wrong answers here, just a good question to get viewers involved!

5. Do you agree with the narrator when she describes this problem as “truly a national disaster”? Why or why not?

Another good discussion question.

6. The video states that this is a war where battles must be fought on many fronts. Discuss what you think each of the following organizations and people can or should do.

Government

Schools

Religious organizations

Neighborhoods

Families

7. What are “developmental assets”? Look at the 40 assets listed in the Audience Handout and identify areas where you think you, your family, or your community could make meaningful improvements to better support children.

Another one for discussion.

NOTES

The tiniest victims of substance abuse had no choice in the matter.

Every year, more than half a million drug-affected babies are born in the United States.

If they survive, they'll require more than a million dollars in publicly-paid medical and special education expenses.



**You can help prevent this tragedy
in our community.**

Come to an important meeting:

Date:

Location:

Time:

For more info. contact:

Phone:

Sample News Release

Use this release to announce availability of
Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children
in newspapers and on TV/radio.

*Instructions: Substitute your own information
for the material in **boldface**.*

NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: **December 17, 2001**
For Immediate Use

Contact: **Ira Lee, 892-1234**
Sally Forth, 782-5678

Drug Wars program battles mother addictions leading to "million-dollar babies"

[**Your agency name**] will offer a special substance abuse prevention program this coming **Tuesday, January 13**. The hour-long program will begin at **7:00 p.m. in the YMCA meeting room at 321 May Street**.

The program will look at what our community can do to address the growing problem of drug-afflicted babies, according to **Ira Lee, community resources director**. Each year, between 500,000 and 750,000 children are born in the U.S. Each baby can cost up to \$5,000 per day in intensive care. They're often referred to as "million dollar babies" because that's what it costs the public to support each child with medical and special educational expenses.

Lee indicated that the presentation will include a new video called "Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children."

"It's basically a call to action," said Lee of the video. "It shows us as citizens how we each can play a role in eliminating the scourge of drug abuse."

If you cannot attend the meeting on **Tuesday**, contact [**agency name**] at **782-5678** if you have questions or would like to borrow the video. It is recommended for viewing by students of all ages, parent-teacher organizations, civic groups, and community/neighborhood watch groups.

-end-

Broadcast Rights for *Drug Wars*

**Spread the word about Drug Wars!
Involve your whole community!
Raise dollars for additional education!**

Communities across the country are witnessing the tragic impact that drugs and alcohol have on newborns. The power and scope of this insidious problem is one that needs to be addressed and acted upon for effective change. These tiny victims of drug abuse by their mothers often have a lifetime of physical and mental struggles. The need for education prevention programs is now widely known and accepted. Our battle is against ignorance and apathy.

Purchase of this video at the full retail price (\$189 plus s/h) includes both Public Performance Rights and limited non-commercial Broadcast Rights. (These rights are not included with Personal Use Licenses.) This means you may offer *Drug Wars: Who Will Cry for Our Children* for broadcast, for educational purposes, on community cable access or public television without additional charge or authorization.

We'll tell you how to get the ball rolling—and how you can use this program to encourage financial contributions to your educational efforts. Contact us at 1-800-867-0016.

About Crime Prevention Resources

Since 1986, Crime Prevention Resources has worked closely with law enforcement, substance abuse centers, hospitals and large and small businesses. We have helped thousands of agencies with their communications and training needs. CPR has more than two dozen videos on crime prevention, business loss prevention, substance abuse, personal safety, workplace violence, and other topics. CPR has also developed a complete Community Watch system for which we have trained hundreds of law enforcement officers in the United States. For further information, visit our website at www.crimeprevent.com, or contact us at 1-800-867-0016.

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