Walk With Me Impact (WWMI)

2024 Impact Report

Empowering Youth, Engaging Communities, and Inspiring Change

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1. Introduction and Overview

In 2024, Walk With Me Impact (WWMI) reached a total of 1,983 middle school and high school students and 156 staff members, including teachers, school counselors, administrators, youth service providers, and school psychologists. These initiatives focused on equipping youth with the tools to make positive decisions, increase self-confidence, and build awareness around critical issues such as substance abuse and gang prevention.

2. Program Reach: Staff Roles and Student Grade Levels

WWMI's programs reached a diverse group of staff members and students, demonstrating the broad relevance and impact of its initiatives.

2.1 Staff Roles

The staff members who participated in and supported WWMI programs included:

- Teachers (various subjects, including ELA, Physical Education, and Athletics)
- School Counselors and Nurses
- Administrators (Principals, Associate Principals, and Deans of Students)
- Youth Service Providers
- School Psychologists
- Community Outreach Coordinators

2.2 Student Grade Levels

WWMI programs engaged students across a wide range of grade levels, with participants primarily from:
- Middle School
- High School

3. Key Areas of Focus

The WWMI programs were structured into three key areas of focus:

1. Fentanyl/Drug Awareness Presentations: Educating students on the dangers of fentanyl and drug misuse.

2. Gang Awareness and Prevention Sessions: Providing strategies to avoid gang influences.

3. Youth Mentoring Programs: Developing decision-making, confidence, and coping skills.

4. Participant Feedback Summary

4.1 Importance of the Programs

Participants across all sessions emphasized the importance of receiving this critical information.

Importance Level	Percentage
Very Important/Extremely Important	88%
Important/Kind of Important	12%

4.2 Engagement and Delivery of Programs

Participants praised the delivery style of the presentations, highlighting the passion, relatability, and authenticity of the WWMI mentors.

Delivery Quality	Percentage
Engaging and Captivating	92%
Clear but Needs More Interaction	8%

4.3 Impact on Participants

Students reported the following outcomes as a result of participating in WWMI programs:
- Improved Decision-Making: Learning to 'think twice' before acting impulsively.
- Positive Outlook: 85% of participants now feel more hopeful about their future.
- Emotional Growth: Students developed coping skills to manage anger and stress.

Positive Feelings Frequency	Percentage
Daily	65%
Often	28%
Sometimes	7%

4.4 Expanded Knowledge and Awareness

Participants noted significant increases in knowledge regarding key topics, particularly:
- Understanding the dangers of fentanyl and substance misuse.
- Awareness of gang influences and prevention strategies.

Program Area	Knowledge Expansion (%)
Fentanyl Awareness	95%
Gang Prevention	90%
Coping/Decision-Making Skills	88%

5. Participant Testimonials

- 'They need to come more often because it's helping us and it's very fun.'
- 'The group helps me think twice before I do something.'
- 'The M&M activity summarized the message perfectly.'
- 'You guys are THE BEST!'

6. Recommendations for Improvement

Participants provided suggestions for enhancing future sessions:
1. More Interaction: Incorporate journaling, group discussions, and extended Q&A sessions.
2. Visual Enhancements: Include more images, personal stories, and real-life examples.
3. Extended Sessions: Schedule longer or follow-up sessions to reinforce key messages.

7. Conclusion

The Walk With Me Impact 2024 programs have successfully engaged students, educators, and staff. The sessions addressed vital issues with clarity, passion, and relatability, leaving participants with tools to make better decisions, improve emotional health, and embrace a more positive outlook for the future.