

UnityPoint Health Announces Year One Results of Prescription Drug Safety Education Program

Following the program, 77% more students said it was their responsibility to prevent prescription drug misuse at their school

Des Moines, Iowa (Aug. 6, 2019) — Teenagers in 48 schools across Iowa and Illinois are now more prepared to stand up against prescription drug abuse. Last year, over 2,000 students participated in a program designed to help them recognize the signs of prescription drug misuse and understand how their actions can positively impact their communities. [UnityPoint Health](#), which sponsors the [Prescription Drug Safety Network](#) program, announced promising year one results from participating schools throughout Cedar Rapids, Central Iowa, Fort Dodge, Quad Cities and Sioux City.

The program, provided by UnityPoint Health at no cost to students or schools, is designed to combat the opioid and prescription drug abuse crisis by bringing education best practices and digital technology to schools nationwide. Since [launching in 2018](#), more than 2,000 students in 48 middle and high schools across Iowa and Illinois have taken the Prescription Drug Safety Program.

After completing the UnityPoint Health program:

- 71% said they could help a friend struggling with prescription drugs
- 77% more students said it was their responsibility to prevent prescription drug misuse at their school
- 55% more students said they could identify the signs of prescription drug misuse and abuse

“I feel much smarter about determining and identifying the signs of prescription drug abuse,” said one Walnut Creek Campus high school (Des Moines, Iowa) student. “I can tell if one of my friends is using and I now know how to get them help.”

Another student from Galva Junior-Senior High School (Galva, Illinois) reflected, “whether something happens to me and I have to take pills or someone I know has to take them, I now know how to handle all situations and be safe with them.”

Overall, the program, developed by education technology innovator [EVERFI, Inc.](#), has helped students feel more empowered to act when they encounter a situation involving prescription medication and better recognize their role in creating a safe community at school and beyond.

“We’re excited to see such promising results from the first year of the program,” said Kevin Vermeer, president and chief executive officer of UnityPoint Health. “Prevention education is an important way to help combat opioid addiction in our communities. We look forward to reaching even more students and schools in year two.”

As the first health system in the country to join the Prescription Drug Safety Network, UnityPoint Health is committed to helping resolve prescription drug misuse and abuse with the goal of improving the health of their communities. Focus areas have included educating its physicians and clinical staff on safe prescribing practices, improving access to addiction treatment and working with lawmakers on legislation that supports prescription monitoring.

As the program moves into its second year, UnityPoint Health is committed to bringing the program to more students, with a goal of reaching at least 63 schools in the 2019-2020 academic year. To learn more about the program, please visit www.unitypoint.org/drugsafety or contact Ashley Thompson at 515-537-6089 or Ashley.Thompson@unitypoint.org.

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About UnityPoint Health

UnityPoint Health is one of the nation's most integrated health systems. Through relationships with more than [280 physician clinics](#), [32 hospitals](#) in metropolitan and rural communities and home care services throughout its [9 regions](#), UnityPoint Health provides care throughout Iowa, western Illinois and southern Wisconsin. UnityPoint Health entities employ more than 32,000 team members working toward innovative advancements to become the Midwest's premier health system known for redesigning the health care experience. For more information visit unitypointhealth.org.

About EVERFI, Inc.

EVERFI is the leading education technology innovator that provides learners of all ages with education for the real world through scalable digital learning platforms. Founded in 2008, EVERFI is fueled by its Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) subscription model and has certified over 25 million learners with more than 3,500 partners across 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. EVERFI is an industry convener that builds Networks that tackle the toughest social issues. These Networks include the Prescription Drug Safety Network, Campus Prevention Network, and the Financial Capability Network. Some of America's leading CEOs and venture capital firms are EVERFI investors, including Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, Google Chairman Eric Schmidt, Twitter founder Evan Williams, Advance Publications, Rethink Education and Rethink Impact. To learn more about EVERFI visit everfi.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#) @EVERFI.

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