



Indiana
Department
of
Health

INDIANA AWARE

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ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP
EPIDEMIOLOGIST II

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OUR MISSION:

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

OUR VISION:

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.



Awareness among children

Globally, antibiotic resistance is an imperative public health issue associated with irrational and excessive use of antibiotics.

Children account for a greater population of antibiotics use; therefore, an educational intervention on the rational use of antibiotics for children and caregivers is crucial.



Why is it important to educate children about the use of antibiotics?



From the perspective of children, schools are one of the main crowded places, and infectious diseases are easily transmitted among students.



Educating students to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and decreasing the incidence of infectious diseases in children can reduce the use of antibiotics.



Children are a new generation of antibiotic users and may be future prescribers; therefore, their awareness of rational use of antibiotics from a young age will have long-term effects.



Indiana AWARE

- Indiana Alliance Working for Antibiotic Resistance Education
- Started in 2019, utilizing the material of Oregon AWARE
- Partners with educators and childcare providers to help students and their families have a better understanding of basic disease prevention, appropriate antibiotic use and how they can help prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance



Current efforts

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts were disrupted, requiring revamping of the program.
- Current priorities:
 - Updating the name of the program to capture our approach
 - Collaborating with previous and new partners (i.e., Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists (SIDP), The Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR))
 - Analyzing AU/AR data in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to target students living in high-burden areas
 - Developing up-to-date and relevant educational materials for elementary, middle, and high school students
 - Pre- and post-tests to assess program's effectiveness
 - Added additional assignments to include in-home, in-class, and group projects
 - Attending other collaborative opportunities, like immunization clinics and school fairs, to maximize program's reach

Learning objectives

After completing the program, students will know:

- The differences between viruses and bacteria
- How germs spread and what children can do to stay healthy
- How antibiotics work and when they are effective
- What one can do to prevent antibiotic resistance
- How to preserve our antibiotic lifeline



Takeaway messages for children and providers



Never use antibiotics for viral infections like colds or flu, because antibiotics have no effect against viruses. That type of use can cause serious side effects.

Taking antibiotics when they're not necessary puts members of the community at risk for developing resistant infections.

If a doctor prescribes an antibiotic, then the patient should finish the prescription even if their symptoms have lessened or disappeared.

Never share antibiotics, take leftover antibiotics, or use them without a prescription.

Questions?

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