

MISSOURI *Prevention Stories*

Two members of the 417SQUAD youth coalition conducted a Medication Safety pilot program to 44 6th grade students in a Springfield middle school. The program, developed by Scholastic and funded by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), offers 5th and/or 6th grade student education about over-the-counter medicines, how to read the Drug Facts label, how to properly dispense and measure medication, and where the safest places are to store medicine to reduce the risk of abuse. The 417SQUAD students, Tyler (a high school senior) and Nathaniel (a high school junior) were trained on the program and offered one lesson per week for 5 weeks. It involved hands-on participation, worksheets, and incentives. As a pilot program, there was a heavy emphasis placed on evaluation to determine whether this program was effective in educating the middle school students about over-the-counter medication safety. Those evaluations, determined by pre- and post-tests, showed a 12% increase in overall knowledge.

