



Dads and Donuts

We have learned after years of experience speaking with parent groups that moms dominate attendance at parent meetings. A recent study by Partnership for a Drug-Free America indicates that mothers appear to take more seriously than dads the responsibility of talking to their children about drugs. Yet, research suggests strongly that fathers play a special role in the lives of their children.

Studies show that a healthy father-child relationship fosters a sense of competence and identity in children. These are strong protective factors against underage drinking and other drug use. Dads have a profound and long-lasting influence on their children's self-esteem.

In an attempt to increase attendance by fathers at parent meetings, this presentation addresses the unique protective value of a father's attitude, beliefs, and actions around alcohol and other drug use in the family system.

- **57% of fathers said they frequently talked with their children about how drugs can interfere with their education, compared to 77% of mothers.**
- **63% of fathers said they frequently talked with their children about how drugs can harm their lives, compared with 81% of mothers.**
- **Girls without a father actively involved in their lives are 40% more likely to abuse drugs than those whose fathers are consistently present.**

Our experience has shown us that this presentation is best scheduled as an early coffee rather than evening presentation.



jeffwolfsberg.com

