Both youth and adults need an opportunity to learn more about the physical, emotional, financial, and legal consequences of getting involved with prescription and illicit drugs. To assist in this endeavor, *Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours* is an enrichment activity designed to show students the impact of getting involved with illicit and legal substances. It is suggested that communities focus on one grade level (e.g., freshman high school students). Based upon the format of the 4-H Reality Store, students role-play scenarios including: possession of prescription drugs; driving under the influence; sniffing; possession of alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or illegal drugs; trafficking; and stealing drugs; etc. Depending on the scenario, students visit appropriate officials and/or agencies to experience the consequences of their behavior. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children. When parents are unable to participate, Kentucky Extension Homemaker members or community volunteers assume the role of “parents” to the youth and accompany them as they visit the law enforcement agencies, judges, school officials, hospital, and coroner.

**Truth & Consequences: The Choice is Yours**

Volunteers and community agencies are an integral part of the role-playing activity. Students will be directed to meet with various representatives related to the consequences of drug use. Local community agency representatives may include:

- District judges
- County attorney
- Kentucky State Police offices
- City and/or county law enforcement offices
- Coroner
- Funeral director (May be the same as the coroner in some communities)
- School principal
- School resource officer
- Hospital worker
- Jailer
- Court-designated worker
- Department of Juvenile Justice case worker
- Board of education officials
- Health department worker
- Pharmacist
- Minister or faith-based adviser
- Treatment providers
- Early intervention/zero tolerance program officials
Goals and Objectives

To assist communities in the fight against substance abuse by planning and implementing a youth enrichment program designed to show students the consequences of getting involved with both illicit/illegal and legal substances.

Students will be able to:
• Define key terms and acronyms related to drugs
• Distinguish between facts and myths of drug use
• List three or more health risks as a consequence of drug use
• Estimate the economic impact of drug use
• Predict the long-term future for youth involved with drugs

Community partners will:
• Recognize the student knowledge and understanding of the drug issue in the community
• Increase awareness for youth and families to prevent and end drug use through future programming and assistance requests

Planning Time

It is recommended that communities allow three to six months for planning a Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours event. Key planning members will include county Extension staff, school personnel, and substance abuse coalition members. Many other agencies and volunteers will be involved in program delivery and implementation.

To obtain Truth & Consequences: The Choice is Yours program development materials, interested individuals and groups should contact their local County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development.

For more information and to find your Extension Office, go to http://www.ca.uky.edu/county/.

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture

Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours is a substance abuse prevention activity designed to show students and other youth the impact of being involved with illicit and legal substances.

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