

Attendance Awareness Thursday

The Consequences of

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as excessive, unexcused absences from school.

Experts agree that this truancy trend is critical because truancy is an early warning indicator for additional problems and serves as a gateway to high-risk behavior, such as drug use, gang membership, and crime.



Absentee rates are as high as **30%** in some U.S. cities.



Truancy predicts **97%** of first time drug users.



80% of prison inmates were at one time truants.

By **6th grade**, an increase in absences can predict failing grades and potentially repeating a grade by middle school.

Truancy can be caused by many factors:

- a lack of interest
- fear of violence at school
- lack of parental supervision/support
- drug and alcohol abuse
- alienation from school

Truancy causes students to fall behind and often leads to their being held back in school.



95% of juvenile offenders started out as truants.



Truant females have a higher probability of getting pregnant in their teen years.



Students who demonstrate truant behavior are

7x

more likely to be arrested than the general teenage population.



Overall, **80%** of school drop-outs were chronically truant during the year they dropped out.

The cost of truancy to society is significant in the long run if the individual proceeds with high-risk behavior.

Cost to Society

Drug Abuser.....	\$370,000 - \$970,000
H.S. Drop-Out.....	\$243,000 - \$388,000
Criminal.....	\$1.3 - \$1.5 million