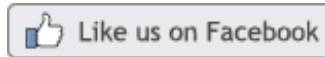


Follow Us on Twitter!



HC DrugFree is keeping Howard County *In the KNOW!!!*

Howard County 2017 Overdoses Continue to Rise

Howard County Police report overdoses so far in calendar year 2017:

- **Fatal: 52***
- **Non-Fatal: 155**

*In fatal cases, some deaths are pending autopsy results for opioids and/or other substances. Numbers may fluctuate.

- **144 Individuals die each day in the U.S. from drug overdoses**

Giving Tuesday Give Today!

Help HC DrugFree save Howard County lives by donating TODAY.

- **\$25 buys a medication storage box for one Howard County family**
- **\$50 pays for attendance at a local event so we can share our message**
- **\$100 buys educational brochures for families and older citizens**
- **\$500 pays for handouts distributed at our Take Back events**

HC DrugFree is a 501(c)(3) so your donations are tax deductible.

Donate online or mail checks to HC DrugFree, 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206, Columbia, MD 21044.

For more information, contact HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi at Joan@hcdrugfree.org or 443-325-0040.

Howard County Teens Say Vaping Is a Growing Concern in Schools

Recently, HC DrugFree's staff participated in a discussion with teens about the

perceived increase in teen vaping in Howard County schools. This is a concern HC DrugFree has been hearing from Howard County parents this school year.

Talk with your teens about the very real dangers of vaping as well as the seriousness of violating school policies. [Click here](#) for a pdf of HCPSS Policy 1050 - Tobacco-Free Environment.

Teens are easy targets for marketing firms promoting that vaping is not as bad as smoking cigarettes, so daring teens hurry to experiment. However, vaping is not a good choice for your teen and many of the chemicals may lead to other life-threatening diseases.

The teens talking with us were aware that vaping is dangerous for their developing brains/bodies. Fortunately, for many Howard County teens, that awareness is enough to keep them from trying or continuing vaping and many questionable behaviors. Again, talk with the youth in your life and help them make informed decisions.

Howard County Youth - Summer Employment in Ocean City

Youth 18 years old and older might want to consider working as Public Safety Aides in Ocean City next summer. Youth 21 years old or older may want to apply to serve as a seasonal police officer with the Ocean City Police Department (OCPD).

Go to joinocpd.com and to the drop-down for "positions" for more information about these and other employment opportunities.

Testing dates are coming up soon, so don't delay.

Thank you to Cpl. Howard Caplan, our OCPD for sharing this information and looking out for Howard County youth and families throughout the year.

New Public Service Announcement - Opioid Use in Howard County

[Click here](#) to play the Howard County Health Department's new public service announcement featuring David, a local man.

What's in Your Marijuana?

Marijuana laced with the often deadly drug fentanyl is a growing concern across the U.S. If you or your child thinks marijuana is no big deal, please watch this video and read more about the concern, [click here](#).

Fentanyl - Safety Recommendations for First Responders (and YOU)

[Click here](#) to download a printable pdf of *Fentanyl: Safety Recommendations for First Responders*.

If you find a drug/substance, please do not touch, taste or smell and use caution.

For more information about Fentanyl from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [click here](#).

Teen Advisory Council Meeting - Your Teen May Still Join

Next Meeting - Monday, December 11: HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) meeting will be held at The Barn (Teen Center) in the Oakland Mills Village Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

TAC meets once a month and is **open to all Howard County high school teens**. Forms can be found on the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/>

Free of charge. Pizza provided, so please rsvp to Admin@hcdrugfree.org before each meeting.

Want to Dispose of Sharps and Medication?

Throughout the year, HC DrugFree is here to answer your many questions about sharps and medication disposal and storage. If you need a FREE storage box, please let us know...or store your medications in your safe, locked filing cabinet, locked closet, or locked fire box. Many of you have some "secret" place in your homes for personal papers, money, jewelry, etc., so consider securing your medications there too!

Feel free to contact our office throughout the year or visit www.hcdrugfree.org.



For more information, contact
Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director
HC DrugFree
Wilde Lake Village Center
5305 Village Center
Drive, Suite 206
Columbia, MD 21044
443-325-0040
Info@hcdrugfree.org
www.hcdrugfree.org

