


Follow Us on Twitter!

 Like us on Facebook

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

New Numbers: Howard County 2017 Overdoses Continue To Rise

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

56* Fatal and 169 Non-Fatal

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

Maryland's Opioid Intervention Swap And Share Held in Howard County

Earlier this month, Maryland's Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) hosted an Opioid Intervention Team (OIT) Promising Practices Swap and Share at the Howard County Public Safety Training Center. The event provided an important platform for OIT teams from counties across the State to share best practices and lessons learned to fight against the opioid crisis.



Pictured: Representatives from MD's OOCC along with staff from Howard County's Detention Center, Health Department, Police Department, State's Attorney's Office and HC DrugFree.



Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford delivered welcoming remarks followed by remarks from Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, MD Department of Health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader, MD Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Russell J. Strickland. Clay Stamp, Executive Director of the OOCC, and Birch Barron, Deputy Director of the OOCC, served as M.C.'s for the day.

Warning to All Parents: Mother May Have Died From Overdose After Touching Son's Drug Paraphernalia

HC DrugFree continues to warn parents, grandparents, educators, and others not to touch, sniff or taste what they suspect could be drugs. These drugs not only can kill your children/students, but they CAN KILL YOU.

Recently, a mother may have died from cleaning up drug paraphernalia after her own 45 year old son's drug overdose. The mother is thought to have done what most mothers would do out of love, grief, and necessity – clean up the mess left after their child's overdose.

Pending autopsy, the suspicion is that the drugs may have been absorbed through her skin. Both mother and son died.

Talk to the EMS team and police officers if you have an overdose at your house to properly remove of any drugs or paraphernalia. Use extreme caution!

[Click here](#) for more information about this family's tragedy.

Baltimore County Police Officers Became Ill After Exposure To Fentanyl

On December 22, three Baltimore County police officers became ill after exposure to the deadly drug called fentanyl. Simply by packaging evidence and exposure to the white powder, the officers experienced flu-like symptoms associated with fentanyl exposure and were treated.

Exposure to fentanyl is extremely dangerous for all first responders (as well as unsuspecting family and friends).

[Click here](#) to read more.

Time Is Running Out...

Hurry To Mail Your Donation Check!

Invest TODAY In Howard County Youth And Our Community's Future!

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

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.



Increase In Fentanyl Feeds Opioid Crisis

Skyrocketing fentanyl seizures illustrate its growing contribution to the opioid crisis.

U.S. border patrol agents seized only about 2 lbs. of fentanyl in 2013 and nearly 1,500 lbs. this past year. Fentanyl is more than 50 times more powerful than heroin and can be deadly. **Yes, fentanyl is a drug used in Howard County.**

Often, individuals start down the path to illegal drug use after being prescribed legal pain medication (opioids) for an injury or after surgery. Protect yourself and your family. Ask the right questions and KNOW the facts before taking an opioid.

HC DrugFree has a list of questions on our website and we are happy to talk with you or forward information.

[Click here](#) to read this December 6 Washington Post article about fentanyl.

Teen Advisory Council Meeting - Your Teen May Still Join

Next Meeting - Monday, January 22: 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.

Teens: Enter HC DrugFree's Category In The HoCo Student Film Fest

While you're entering the HoCo Student Film Festival, please consider entering the HC DrugFree category too.

Winning film(s) will be shared as a Public Service Announcement (PSA).



PSA topic: How alcohol/drug use and abuse effect family and friends

Entries due by Friday, February 23. [Click here](#) for details and be sure to

visit both <https://hocofilmfest.com/> and <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/hoco-filmfest/> for updates.

Store Your Medications In A Safe Place

Want to help give someone the gift of peace of mind this holiday season and throughout the year? If Santa didn't bring it, HC DrugFree has a free medication storage box waiting for you or your family.

Ring in the New Year by locking up your meds! Help keep friends and family from having easy access to your medications and *don't be their drug dealer.*

Email us at Admin@hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040 for more information or to schedule a time to come to our office for pickup.



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

[Donate](#)

