

HC DrugFree

Empowering the Community

November 5, 2020 Topics

- Unseen Photos from Take Back Day Courtesy of the Lt. Governor
 - What Causes Opioid Addiction?
 - The Horizon Foundation Wants to Hear Your Story
 - The Pandemic and Alcohol
 - Opioid Overdose Response Training
 - Do You Know about the Maryland Good Samaritan Law?
 - DEA Collects Nearly A Million Pounds of Prescription Medications
 - Teen Advisory Council Updates
 - HC DrugFree's Medication and Sharps Collection Results
 - Community Resources
-

Don't Miss: Unseen Photos from Take Back Day

We never get tired of seeing our community come together! Although we shared our own photos of Take Back Day, Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford shared many more wonderful photos of HC DrugFree's medication & sharps collection taken by the talented Anthony DePanise. Thank you to the Lt. Governor and his team for participating and sharing these additional photos!



[See the Lt. Governor's Photos here!](#)

What Causes Opioid Addiction?

In the 1980s and 90s, pharmaceutical companies began to market opioid painkillers aggressively, while actively downplaying their addictive potential. The number of prescriptions skyrocketed, and so did cases of addiction, beginning a crisis that continues today. What makes opioids so addictive? Mike Davis explains what we can do to reverse the skyrocketing rates of addiction and overdose.

Learn more in this fascinating video by Mike Davis, directed by Good Bad Habits:



The Horizon Foundation & The Columbia Festival of the Arts Present: This is My Story



Sharing stories connects us. Our collective experiences remind us that, even during these uncertain times, we're not alone.

The Horizon Foundation, in partnership with the Columbia Festival of the Arts, wants to hear YOUR STORY about coping during this unique, uncharted and challenging time.

Do you have a story about...

- providing support to someone struggling with mental health challenges? Or about how someone has supported you this year?
- difficulties faced while living with mental health challenges this year? Or if anything in particular has helped?
- your experience as a youth or young adult?
- finding serenity and fulfillment through a creative outlet?

- how your mental health journey has been impacted by being a person of color?

Submit your story and help others find moments of strength in our ever-changing world: [Learn more here](#).

The Pandemic and Alcohol



While many people increased their alcohol intake since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, others are embracing sobriety.

"...back at the start of the pandemic, alcohol sales skyrocketed — increasing in the United States by 55 percent the week ending March 21, 2020, compared to the previous year. While some data suggests that people have been drinking more during the pandemic, at least initially, the pandemic has also prompted a life re-evaluation, with many Americans reconsidering the role of alcohol in their lives."

Read the full article here: [Why the pandemic is inspiring many to give up alcohol](#)

Opioid Overdose Response Training



The Howard County Health Department offers FREE Opioid Overdose Response Program virtual trainings on the first Tuesday and last Thursday of each month. Registration is required.

The next [FREE](#) Naloxone training is coming up on Tuesday, November 10. Are

YOU ready to learn to save a life?

Learn More about Howard County's Opioid Overdose Response Training

Maryland Good Samaritan Law

The Maryland Good Samaritan Law effective October 1, 2015, provides protection from arrest as well as prosecution for certain specific crimes and expands the charges from which people assisting in an emergency overdose situation are immune. If someone calls 911 in an effort to help during an overdose crisis, or they are experiencing an overdose, their parole and probation status will not be affected, and they will now not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for:

- Possession of a controlled dangerous substance
- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia
- Providing alcohol to minors



BE A HERO
SAVE A LIFE
CALL 911

IF YOU WITNESS A DRUG OR ALCOHOL OVERDOSE, MARYLAND'S GOOD SAMARITAN LAW PROTECTS YOU.

YOU CANNOT BE ARRESTED, CHARGED OR PROSECUTED FOR:

- Possession of a controlled, dangerous substance
- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia
- Providing alcohol to minors

CALLING 911 WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR PAROLE OR PROBATION STATUS.

Maryland's law does not protect against arrest for open warrants and crimes not listed above.

For more information about prevention and treatment, visit www.BeforeItsTooLateMD.org

 **MARYLAND**
Department of Health

[Learn more about the Good Samaritan Law Here](#)

Nationwide: DEA and Partners Collect a Record Amount of

Unwanted Medications on Drug Take Back Day

19th National Take Back Day: October 24, 2020

Total Law Enforcement Participation: 4,153



DEA Collected Nearly a Million Pounds of Prescription Medications

DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day brought in nearly a million pounds of unused, expired, and unwanted medications across the country, the largest amount ever collected in the program's ten years. Americans once again showed their dedication to remove prescription pills from their homes to prevent addiction before it starts.

DEA, along with its law enforcement partners, has now collected nearly 13.7 million pounds of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications since the inception of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in 2010. On Oct. 24, the public turned in 985,392 pounds – almost 493 tons – of medication to DEA and 4,153 of its community partners at 4,587 collection sites nationwide, including 33 Bureau of Indian Affairs sites.

"This year's event, with a record-setting 493-ton collection, is a sure sign that DEA's Take Back Day events continue to provide a vital public service that keeps loved ones safe—an opportunity to rid homes of potentially dangerous unused, expired, and unwanted medications," said DEA Acting Administrator Timothy Shea.

Complete results for DEA's 2020 October Take Back Day are available at www.deatakeback.com.

This content originally appeared on the DEA website [here](#).

Teen Advisory Council Updates



Hey, HC DrugFree TAC Members!

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Monday, November 9th** from **5:30 pm-7:00 pm** and we can't wait to see ALL OF YOU!

In this meeting, we're going to introduce some new faces and share some exciting projects that we know TAC will knock out of the park!

Please note that registration is REQUIRED to attend this Zoom call.

[RSVP NOW](#)

Not a Member of the Teen Advisory Council Yet? Become One!

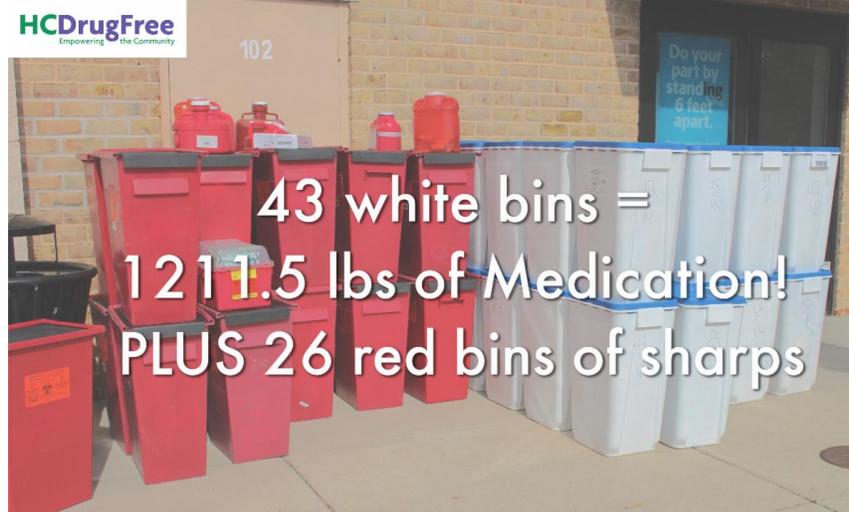
Are you looking for a meaningful AND fun way to earn your community service hours, all while making our community a better place to live? Then HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) may be the perfect place for you.

TAC is open to all Howard County High School Students! Public School, Private School, and Homeschool students are encouraged to join! To access the 2020-21 school year registration form please **click here.**

Email your registration as well as a photo to admin@hcdrugfree.org or mail a hard copy to:

HC DrugFree
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206
Wilde Lake Village Center
Columbia, MD 21044

HC DrugFree's Take Back Results

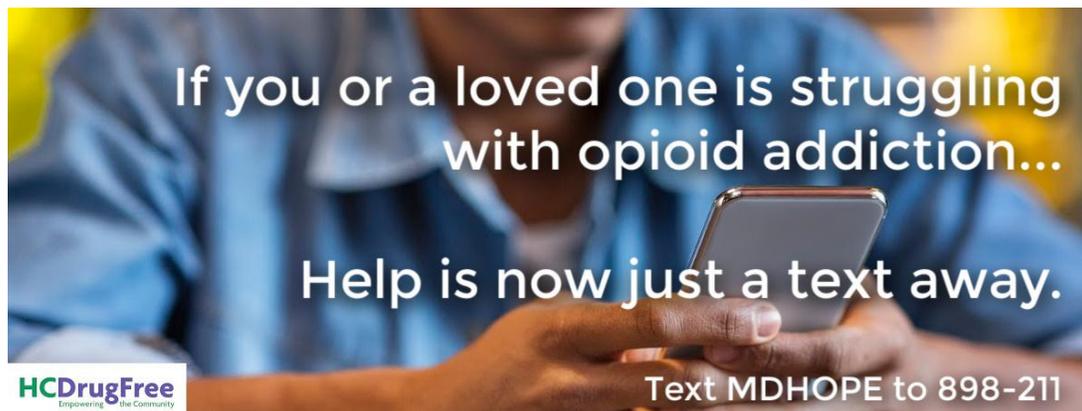


43 white bins =
1,211.5 lbs of Medication!
PLUS 26 red bins of sharps

HC DrugFree collected 1,211.5 lbs of medication during a 4 hour period at our drive-thru Drug Take Back on October 24th, 2020! That's 43 bins of meds and, although not counted in the weight, 26 bins of sharps.

Collections would not be possible without the **Howard County Police Department** and the **DEA** guarding and transporting the meds.

Additional Resources



If You Need Help

If you need help with depression, suicidal thoughts, or other serious mental health issues, please contact:

Grassroots Crisis Intervention: 410-531-6677

The Maryland Crisis Hotline: Dial 211 and then choose option 1

The Crisis Text Line: Text 741741 and a trained counselor will respond

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

The Howard County Health Department: 410-313-6202

Gambling with Your Future

Call, text or chat 1-800-GAMBLER for free confidential, compassionate help with gambling problems.

Joan Webb Scornaienchi
Executive Director
HC DrugFree
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206
Wilde Lake Village Center
Columbia, MD 21044
Admin@hcdrugfree.org
www.hcdrugfree.org

