



Celebrating HC DrugFree's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Month



The difference between school and life?
In school, you're taught a lesson and given a test.
In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

Anonymous

April 1: Kick Butts Day

Today, thousands of youth advocates around the world will join the fight against smoking, and specifically against the tobacco industry, by participating in Kick Butts Day, an effort led by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Talk to the youth in your life about Big Tobacco's targeted advertising and the many dangers of using tobacco products. [Click here for more information](#) or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for help quitting.

Save the Date! National Rx Drug Take Back Day: April 30

In the KNOW...

About Opioid Misuse



See you on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking for our next Medication and Sharps drive-thru collection.

Start cleaning out your medicine cabinets and tell your friends!

Youth, adult, and medically-trained adults may [register to volunteer](#). Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Medications will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). More details will be shared.

Weather Got You Stuck at Home?

April showers may bring May flowers, but they also leave parents scrambling for ideas to keep kids busy indoors.

Check out these ideas from Yellow Brick Road can keep kids engaged and creative rather than plugged in to a device:

- Play dress up
- Make a movie
- Build a fort
- Camp at home
- Plan a virtual playdate with friends
- Do arts and crafts



Foo Fighters Drummer Dies

According to the Office of the Attorney General of Colombia, a preliminary toxicology reported showed that Taylor Hawkins, Foo Fighters talented musician and drummer, had several substances in his system at the time of his death. Opioids, benzodiazepines, tricyclic antidepressants and THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana were on the list. [Read NBC News update.](#)

12-Year-Old Dies from Fentanyl

Detectives in New Jersey were notified that a 12-year-old boy was found unresponsive on his school bus. Life-saving measures were performed by the school nurse until emergency medical services arrived and transported the child to the hospital. Officers and school staff took immediate actions to ensure that no other children or staff were in any danger. The child's postmortem exam was conducted by the City of Philadelphia Office of the Medical Examiner's Office, which determined the cause of death was Drug Intoxication, specifically fentanyl.

It is alleged that the boy's uncle manufactured fentanyl and forced the boy to clean up drug paraphernalia containing fentanyl. The uncle was charged with first degree Aggravated Manslaughter, first degree Strict Liability Drug-Induced Death, first degree Maintaining a Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) Production Facility, second degree Employing a Juvenile in a Drug Distribution Scheme, six counts of third degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and several other charges. [Read update from Prosecutor's Office.](#)

Student Victim of Sextortion

Parents, do you know the steps to protect yourself or your child online?

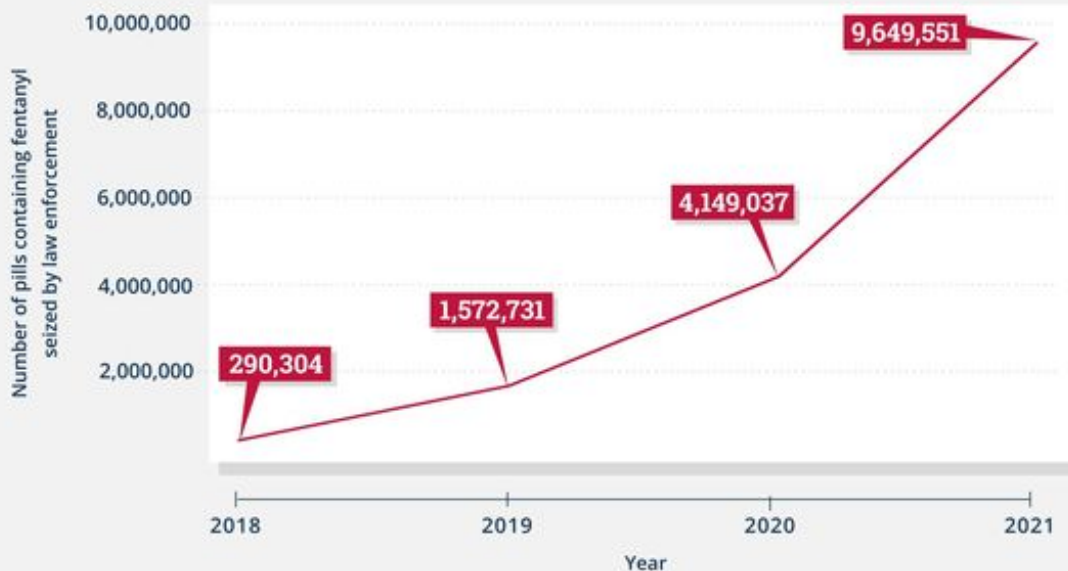
A 17-year-old Michigan student died by suicide last week after being a victim of sextortion. He was being threatened to pay money or pictures he had taken of himself would be sent to family and Instagram followers.

Protect yourself or your child online with these [tips from the Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#). [Contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#). In 2021, the IC3 received over 18,000 sextortion-related complaints.

Law Enforcement Seizures of Pills Containing Fentanyl

Law enforcement seizures of pills containing illicit fentanyl increased dramatically between January 2018 and December 2021, according to a new study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The number of individual pills seized by law enforcement increased nearly 50-fold from the first quarter of 2018 to the last quarter of 2021, and the proportion of pills to total seizures more than doubled, with pills representing over a quarter of illicit fentanyl seizures by the end of 2021. The study also found an increase in the number of fentanyl-containing powder seizures during this time. [Click here](#) to read more or click on the graphic below for a printable copy.

Number of Pills Containing Fentanyl Seized by Law Enforcement in the United States, 2018 – 2021



Estimates based on data reported by the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program

Reference: JJ Palamar, et al. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109398 (2022)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken steps to foster the development of non-addictive alternative for acute pain management. Even at prescribed doses for acute pain management, opioid analgesics pose a risk for addiction, overdose, and misuse. Having non-opioid analgesic alternatives could have a significant impact on public health and safety. To further address the opioid crisis, the FDA has issued draft guidance to provide recommendations to companies developing non-opioid analgesics for acute pain lasting up to 30 days, typically in response to some form of tissue injury, such as trauma or surgery. [Read more.](#)

Free Videos Available to Parents

Parent CRAFT is a free, online video series to teach parents the skills they need to meet the risks of substance abuse. Parent CRAFT will benefit any parent with an adolescent or adult child that is at any stage of using drugs or alcohol.

Parents who just suspect their child may be experimenting, as well as those who know that their child is using substances, will find these skills very useful in heading off more serious issues. The earlier you can intervene the better. With the easily available and commonly used drugs by our children, often experimenting can lead to dangerous behaviors, permanent health damage, and even death

This resource is now free to all Maryland Residents. Click the link for more information! <https://www.cadenceonline.com/maryland/>

TAC Event on April 30: Teens/Adults Welcome to Volunteer!

Instead of an April Teen Advisory Council (TAC) meeting, teens and adults are welcome to volunteer for the **Saturday, April 30** medication and sharps drive-thru collection to be held in the Wilde Lake Village Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring family and friends! Volunteer as a team, club, or group. Community service hours available only if all forms are properly completed. Volunteers are needed from 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

To volunteer, register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Youth4-30-22



Three out of four people using heroin began with the use of prescription medication

Drug Take Back Day
in Howard County
Saturday, April 30
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dispose of unwanted or expired medications & sharps (needles, syringes & EpiPens) at HC DrugFree's convenient drive-thru collection

Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot
5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia, near The UPS Store

For details, go to www.HCDrugFree.org
Adults volunteer at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Adults4-30-22
Youth volunteer at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Youth4-30-22

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community



Message provided by HC DrugFree & the Howard County Police with funding from Howard County Health Department, MDH & SAMHSA

See Something, Say Something

If you think you see illegal drug activity in your neighborhood, let the police know. Report it anonymously.

Life Skills Classes: Register Now!

Life Skills Classes Spring Series 2 will be held **May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and June 2** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Registration is almost full, so we may need to start a waitlist. To register your child, please complete [this form](#) and we will confirm registration or add you to the waitlist.

For more information: Email LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org or visit our [website](#). Funding provided by the Howard County Health Department, MD Department of Health, and SAMHSA.

Summer Internship Opportunity

Currently Accepting Applications for Summer Opportunities

Do you know a college student considering a career in public health, education, or drug & alcohol prevention, or who is interested in learning more about the inner workings of nonprofit organizations?

HC DrugFree is looking for a responsible intern for the summer to help with some of our programs. We are especially looking for college students to assist with and be positive role models for the middle school students in our Life Skills classes. We offer a variety of opportunities to help interns gain experience in areas of interest to them and the flexibility of working virtually from anywhere. Internship experiences will also be a great addition to a resume and opportunities to share in job interviews, and depending on your school's policies, may be able to count for credit.

Interested college students should email admin@hcdrugfree.org for more information.

Get Friends Connected to HC DrugFree

Friends keep friends informed! This newsletter and social media remain the best ways for us to share vital information with you! Please Like & Share our content on social media or forward this newsletter to a friend to help us with our mission of keeping Howard County safe and informed. Invite a friend to [subscribe to our newsletter](#). You can also view previous newsletters in the [Newsletter Archive](#) on our website.

There's Much Work to Do



Are you a **Friend of HC DrugFree?** Have you made a donation this year? We depend upon the generosity of individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community to support our free services. Please make a gift of any size today.

Would you or your PTA/PTSA, religious group, civic group, company like to become a **Sponsor of HC DrugFree** by donating \$500 or more per year? Monthly payments are welcome. Thank you for your support.

Donate



Additional Resources

Mental Health Crisis? Thoughts of Suicide? Problems with Drugs or Alcohol? Get Confidential Support from Maryland's HELPLINE whenever you need it. Call 211, then press 1. Text your zip code to TXT-211 (898-211). Visit [211md.org](https://www.211md.org) to chat or find additional resources for housing/shelter, utility assistance, food, domestic violence, legal services, and more.



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

Reverse Opioid Overdose: [Click here](#) to contact the Howard County Health Department to receive free training and Narcan kit.

For more information, contact

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[Donate](#)

