

HC DrugFree: Keeping Howard County *in the KNOW!*
...knowledge is power, so just say KNOW

*People who wonder whether the glass is half full
or half empty miss the point.
The glass is refillable.*

Anonymous

Save the Date: Upcoming Events



**Drug & Alcohol
Awareness Month**

- **Spring series begins May 2:** [Free Classes for Parents & Guardians](#)
- **May 5:** [HoCo Student Film Festival](#)
- **May 18:** [Town Hall on Youth Vaping](#)
- **May 22:** [Teen Advisory Council Meeting](#)

**Fun, Action and Heavy Lifting:
Thank You, Howard County! Enjoy the Slideshow!**

Please take a few minutes to enjoy HC DrugFree's commemorative slideshow of our April 22 drive-thru medication and sharps collection held on the Drug Enforcement Administration's national **Drug Take Back Day**.



[Watch Howard County Video](#)

Secure Your Medication: Keep Your Family Safe



Above: At the drive-thru event, another 100 medication lock boxes found new homes where they will help protect Howard County families. HC DrugFree's Executive Director Joan Webb Scornaienchi and team distributed more than 200 free medication storage boxes this fiscal year.

Below: Together, we collected **1,234 lbs. of medication (43 bins)** in 4 hours at HC DrugFree's collection site. The additional **23 bins of sharps** were not included in the weight. The medication was guarded and transported by the **Howard County Police** and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** with additional support from the **Howard County Sheriff's Office**. Thank you all for keeping our volunteer team and the community safe!



All Parents Must See! TODAY Show: Interview with Parents of Louisville Shooter



Todd and Lisa Sturgeon, in an exclusive interview with NBC's "TODAY" show, said they have been told they did what any "reasonable" parents would have done to get their son access to mental health services. However, Todd said that their son needed them to be "exceptional" parents and not just reasonable, so they feel they failed him. Their son didn't fit the profile of a shooter. The grieving parents are searching for any signs they may have missed and warn other parents that they too may need to be exceptional to help their own children with mental health challenges.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by texting or calling 988. [Watch Video](#)

Town Hall: The Dangers of Youth Vaping

Vaporized Youth

Navigating the Effects of Teen Vaping

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

HC DrugFree will present a virtual town hall about youth vaping on Thursday May 18 at 7 p.m. This educational event features Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director of HC DrugFree, Mark Donovan, LCPC, LCADC of Congruent Counseling, and Dr. George Kolodner, a board-certified psychiatrist specializing in nicotine addiction. Learn about the consequences of youth vaping and what we can do about it. Registration required. [Learn more and register](#)

Xylazine is in Maryland

Xylazine "tranq" is in Maryland

What you need to know to stay safe

Are you IN THE KNOW about Xylazine? This powerful veterinary drug is being mixed with street drugs and does not respond to Naloxone because it is not an opioid. [Learn more](#)

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Research shows that students who **choose not to drink** often do so because **their parents discussed alcohol use** and its adverse consequences with them.



April is Alcohol Awareness Month.



National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



[@NIAAANews](#) [#AlcoholAwarenessMonth](#) fact: Parents still have an influence on their [#college](#) student's life. Research shows that students who choose not to drink often do so because their parents discussed [#alcohol](#)'s adverse consequences with them. [Learn more](#)

Three MD Kids Hospitalized After Mistaking Drugs for Candy



Authorities say three kids in Rockville, Maryland were taken to the hospital after ingesting drugs they thought were candy. [Watch Video](#)

We're Hiring!!! Join Our Team Today

Looking for professionals to join our team!

Do you:

- Have excellent computer skills?
- Have good writing skills?
- Enjoy multitasking? (We move fast!!!)
- Want to work at least 20 hours a week (depending on skills, number of people hired, and schedule, may have option to work 30 or more hours)?
- Like working with teens, parents and the entire Howard County community?
- Want to teach or assist with classes?
- Like creating ads and sharing on social media?
- Want to feel wonderful about the work you do each day?
- ...and above all, do you like wearing GREEN???

Please visit our website [Employment Page](#) for more information and **submit your resume ASAP.**

We Need YOU!

It's simple. If you like our work, please donate today.
(Photo: Volunteers at April 22 Take Back Event.)

[Donate](#)



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Reporting abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. If you suspect that a child or adult is being abused or neglected, please call the [local department of social services abuse & neglect hotline](#) in your area.

Anyone experiencing difficulties reaching a local department of social services to report abuse or neglect should immediately call [1-800-91Prevent \(1-800-917-7383\)](#)

Resources

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

Help for Depression, Suicidal Thoughts or Other Mental Health Issues:
Call or text 988.

Substance Use Disorder Regional Residential Treatment Guide: [Click here](#) to download the guide.

Additional Resources: [HC DrugFree Hotlines & Resources Page](#)

For more information, contact

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