

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

HC DrugFree Participates in "Primary Prevention" Rally in DC

On Wednesday, February 5, thousands of youth and adults gathered on the Capitol Hill grounds to show a united force for continued funding for "primary prevention" efforts and to hear members of Congress pledge their support to the energized audience from across the United States and beyond.

Pictured: Volunteer, John Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi and Retired Army General Arthur Dean, Chairman and CEO of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).



Primary prevention refers to efforts to keep drug abuse from happening in the first place. And, isn't that what we all want for our loved ones? Yet, we hear far too little about primary prevention these days and most of the focus and funding are going to tertiary prevention.

Primary prevention differs from secondary prevention, which is early treatment of drug abuse, and from tertiary prevention, which is the prevention of death or disability and the rehabilitation of the ex-abuser.



Reversible signs carried at the rally stressed both **Invest in Underage Drug Prevention** and **Invest in Underage Drinking Prevention**. We must not forget the many dangers of alcohol use facing our youth and misuse experienced by many adults.

Alcohol is a drug! DrugFree works hard to give a voice to our Howard County youth who are not misusing/abusing drugs including alcohol. Stand with HC DrugFree as we continue to educate youth and adults, save lives and futures, and encourage our children to reach their full potential.

ONDCP/Trump Administration Releases Report

On Tuesday, February 4, Jim Carroll, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), was one of the speakers at the

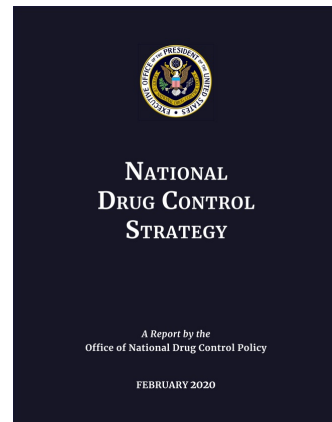
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum, bringing together top experts in the field of prevention to inspire and educate.

Pictured: HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi and Jim Carroll.



This month, ONDCP released the Trump Administration's National Drug Control Strategy, which establishes the President's priorities for addressing the challenge of drug trafficking and use.

According to the report, despite the challenges communities continue to face related to the negative consequences of the trafficking and use of illicit drugs and the continued availability of illicit drugs across the Nation, over the past year we have seen significant progress in strengthening communities across the Nation to address this evolving crisis.



The Trump Administration remains focused on making continued progress in its second National Drug Control Strategy dedicated to reversing the adverse impacts of addiction so we may continue to save American lives and set our Nation on a path to being stronger, healthier, and drug-free.

[Click here](#) to read and print the report.

Teen Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting

All Howard County high school students: HC DrugFree's next TAC meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) located in The Oakland Mills Village Center. Must RSVP to Admin@hcdrugfree.org for each meeting. TAC follows the HCPSS school cancellation policies. Visit the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/> to find registration forms.

Registration Now Open! Attend Howard County Parenting Classes

HC DrugFree and the State's Attorney's Office are offering another series of parenting classes. Guiding Good Choices is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides the families of children age 9-14 with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs.

The program is for parents. Children age 9-14 are invited to attend the third session with their parents.

After completing the program, families will be able to:

- Influence their children to help prevent drug use and other risky behaviors.

- Develop clear family guidelines and expectations about drug use.
- Teach children how to stay out of trouble, keep their friends and still have a good time.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, and 31 (Parents are expected to attend all 4 classes.)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Oakland Mills Middle School, 9540 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia

To register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/March2020oms>

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF flier.

For more information, contact HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi. Funding provided by the Howard County Health Department, the MD Department of Health, and SAMHSA.

Must See Video: Vaping Affected Mental Health

Don't miss this series of videos featuring teens sharing stories about vaping. They discuss how it affected them physically as well as how it impacted their mental health. [Click here](#) to play "My Vaping Mistake" and [click here](#) to play "The Real Cost."

Fatal Crashes Involving Marijuana Use

The American Automobile Association (AAA) released a report concerning the number of Washington state drivers involved in fatal crashes. AAA opposes the legalization of marijuana for recreational use because of its inherent traffic safety risks and because of the difficulties in writing legislation that protects the public and treats drivers fairly. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Quiet Rise of Meth

While the focus of the addiction crisis in the United States has been on the opioid epidemic, deaths and overdoses from methamphetamine and cocaine have been on the rise. [Click here](#) to read more or listen to a podcast discussing the issue.

Mental Health Services at HCPSS

Through a new 30 school pilot program jointly funded by the county and the Horizon Foundation, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has greatly increased the level of mental health services available to students during the school day, including one-on-one counseling services. If you would like the Board of Education to maintain the funds needed for this pilot and to evaluate this program to learn how to support the mental health needs of students, go to: https://secure.everyaction.com/9Z6w2XqXpUaf4S_bY_k08A2 All information submitted to the Board of Education through this form will be published as part of the public record, per their Policy 2040.

DEA Releases 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment outlines the threats posed to the United States by domestic and international drug trafficking and the abuse of illicit drugs.

“This year’s report illustrates a shifting drug landscape in the United States,” said DEA Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon. “We’re pleased that in 2018, drug overdose deaths declined over four percent overall, with even greater decreases – over 13 percent – in overdoses from controlled prescription opioids.

Many challenges remain, however, including the spread of fentanyl and methamphetamine across the country. DEA and its partners will continue to work diligently to combat the drug trafficking organizations that bring these deadly substances into our country and endanger the American people.” Illicit drugs, and the criminal organizations that traffic them, continue to represent significant threats to public health, law enforcement, and national security in the United States.

As the National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) describes, the opioid threat continues at epidemic levels, affecting large portions of the United States. Meanwhile, the stimulant threat, including methamphetamine and cocaine, is worsening and becoming more widespread as traffickers continue to sell increasing amounts outside of each drugs’ traditional markets.

2019 NDTA findings of note:

- The opioid threat (controlled prescription drugs, synthetic opioids, and heroin) continues at ever-increasing epidemic levels, affecting large portions of the United States.
- The stimulant threat (methamphetamine and cocaine) is worsening and becoming more widespread as traffickers continue to sell increasing amounts outside of each drugs’ traditional markets.
- New psychoactive substances remain challenging and the domestic marijuana situation is evolving as state-level medical and recreational legalization continues.
- In 2017, drug poisoning deaths were the leading cause of injury death in the United States and reached their highest recorded level. Every year since 2011, drug poisoning deaths have outnumbered deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, and homicide. Approximately 192 people died every day from drug poisoning in 2017.

The NDTA provides a yearly assessment of the many drug abuse and drug trafficking challenges local communities face. Highlights in the report include usage and trafficking trends for drugs such as prescription drugs, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana and the hundreds of synthetic drugs. New to this year’s assessment is an expanded section on gangs — including street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs – which now details gang activity geographically by DEA field division.

The assessment factors in data from many sources, including drug seizures, drug purity, laboratory analyses, information on the involvement of organized criminal groups, and survey data provided to DEA by state and local law enforcement agencies across the country.

Among America's Oldest, Opioid Overdoses Are On the Rise

Do According to the Center for Disease Control, drug overdoses in adults ages 55-64 have risen six-fold since 1999. Older adults often have a harder time getting diagnosed or deciding to enter treatment. [Click here](#) to read about this growing concern and what older adults need to be aware of.

Trends in Teen Drug Use

According to the 2019 Monitoring the Future Survey, teens are vaping both marijuana and nicotine in record numbers. [Click here](#) to view the survey results and an interactive chart. [Click here](#) to watch a video of NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow discussing the results.

[Click here](#) to watch a video about why teenagers vape and what the health concerns are.

Actor Dies at 27

Harry Hains, 'American Horror Story' actor, has died at 27. His mother reported that although he had so much career success, he was struggling with mental health and addiction. [Click here](#) to read the full article.



Support Howard County Youth and Families in 2020 by Helping to Provide Drug/Alcohol Prevention and Education

Thank you for donating to HC DrugFree, so we can continue to educate youth and adults and serve the community. [Click here](#) to make your donation.

Resource Directories for Youth and Adults

Howard County has resource directories available to help you find treatment providers and other services. [Click here](#) for health services and [click here](#) for youth services.

Medication Storage

Be sure to safely store or properly dispose of your medication. Storage boxes are available at HC DrugFree's office. Please contact our staff to arrange a time to pick up a box and let us know what other resources you

need.



Free Resources



Please contact our staff to let us know what resources you need. We have free magnets with emergency contact information and brochures about drugs including alcohol, marijuana, vaping, cigarettes, etc.



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

