

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



Public Safety Alert

"One Pill Can Kill"

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly. [Click here](#) to read the DEA's alert.

Facts about counterfeit pills:

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are widely available, and DEA and its law enforcement partners are seizing deadly fake pills at record rates.
- Counterfeit pills are more lethal than ever before. The number of DEA-seized counterfeit pills with fentanyl has jumped nearly 430% since 2019. DEA lab testing reveals that 2 out of every 5 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.
- The only safe medications are ones prescribed by a trusted medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist.

As part of the campaign launch for "One Pill Can Kill", Anne Milgram, administrator of the DEA, spoke with Kate Snow for NBC News' One Nation, Overdosed series, to warn about illegal synthetic pills sold online as prescription drugs. [View the interview.](#)

Department of Justice • Drug Enforcement Administration

COUNTERFEIT PILLS FACT SHEET

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

CRIMINAL DRUG NETWORKS ARE FLOODING THE U.S. WITH DEADLY FAKE PILLS

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms—making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including teens and young adults.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®), Percocet®, hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).

COUNTERFEIT PILLS ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE ACROSS EVERY STATE IN THE COUNTRY

- DEA and its law enforcement partners are seizing deadly fake pills at record rates.
- More than 9.5 million counterfeit pills were seized so far this year, which is more than the last two years combined.
- Counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS OFTEN CONTAIN FENTANYL AND ARE MORE LETHAL THAN EVER BEFORE

- The number of DEA-seized counterfeit pills with fentanyl has jumped nearly 430 percent since 2019.
- Officials report a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose.
- Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. CDC reports more than 93,000 people died last year of an overdose in the U.S., the highest ever recorded.
- Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths.

DEA lab testing reveals that 2 out of every 5 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

THE ONLY SAFE MEDICATIONS ARE ONES THAT COME FROM LICENSED AND ACCREDITED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

- DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal.

For more information about counterfeit pills, go to www.DEA.gov/onepill

Data as of September 2021

The Drug Enforcement Administration ensures the safety and health of the American public by fighting against violent criminal drug networks and foreign cartels trafficking in illicit drugs. To accomplish that mission, the Drug Enforcement Administration employs approximately 10,000 men and women throughout the world – Special Agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists – across 239 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and 91 foreign offices in 68 countries.

Legit or Counterfeit?

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has released this [fact sheet](#) to help educate everyone about the dangers and availability of counterfeit pills.

The creators of these counterfeit drugs work hard to make them look like the real prescription drugs, so the DEA warns, "Never trust your own eyes to determine if a pill is legitimate.

The only safe medications are ones prescribed by a trusted medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist."

October: National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month

Did you know that 20% of teens say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription for it themselves, and close to 4% report misusing over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicine to get high?



Help raise awareness of the dangers of OTC cough medicine and prescription drug misuse during National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month (NMAAM) in October.

Bring your expired/unwanted medication to HC DrugFree's drive-thru medication and sharps collection on Saturday, October 23. [Click here](#) for more information.

Teen Event: "Out of Reach"



Save the Date: Teen Discussion

Teen Advisory Council
October 11
5:30-7:00 p.m. online

Community Service Hours Available to Howard County Students

If your teen is looking for a meaningful and fun way to earn community service hours while making our community a better place to live, encourage them to join HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC).

At the October meeting, we will be viewing [*Out of Reach*](#), a documentary by teens that captures the issue of **prescription drug abuse through the eyes of teens**. To register for the October 11 event, [click here](#).

We will also begin planning for Red Ribbon Week, so bring your ideas and creativity.

TAC is open to all Howard County High School Students! Public School, Private School, and Homeschool students are encouraged to join! To access the 2021-22 school year registration form please [click here](#). Community service hours available to students, but only if a current 2021-22 TAC registration form is on file with HC DrugFree.

Email your signed registration as well as a photo to admin@hcdrugfree.org or mail a hard copy our office. Ongoing opportunities to earn community service hours are available to TAC members.

Thank you to the **current TAC Advisors**:

Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director, HC DrugFree

Deborah O'Byrne, Assistant Principal, Dunloggin MS

Dr. Rebecca Eng, Nationally Certified School Psychologist on HC DrugFree's staff

Medication and Sharps Disposal: October 23

We'll Take Prescription and Over-the-Counter Meds



SAVE THE DATE!

Medication & Sharps Disposal

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Saturday, October 23 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center in Columbia

www.hcdrugfree.org



Safely dispose of:

- Prescription Medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (Syringes, Needles, Epi-Pens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet Medication
- ...and more!

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

We'll Take Sharps



Bring your used sharps (Epi-Pens, Syringes, Needles, etc.) and leftover meds to our Free Drive-Thru Drug Take Back Event

Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, Epi-Pens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vape devices (with batteries removed)
- Inhalers
- and more!

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Medication & Sharps Disposal

Saturday, Oct 23 2021, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center

www.hcdrugfree.org

We'll Take Pet Meds

Keep your unused medication
away from the wrong paws!



HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Medication & Sharps Disposal

Saturday, Oct 23 2021, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center

www.hcdrugfree.org

Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, Epi-Pens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vape devices (batteries removed)
- Inhalers
- and more!

We'll Take Vaping Devices (Remove Batteries)



Vaporize the Habit

Safely dispose of all vaping devices (batteries removed, please) at our drive-thru medication & sharps disposal

Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, Epi-Pens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vape devices (batteries removed)
- Inhalers
- and more!

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Medication & Sharps Disposal

Saturday, Oct 23 2021, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center

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Adults Volunteers Needed for Take Back Event!

All adult volunteers are welcome and needed to make the Saturday, October 23 medication and sharps collection a success. Please sign up to join our team today. Bring a lawn chair if you can't stand. Stay socially distanced outside. Bring a friend or make a new one. Make this a family event.

Also, if you have **medical training**, we need you to help collect and sort the medication and sharps. **Pharmacists, EMTs, nurses, doctors, etc., are needed.**

Adults, including college students, [click here](#) to volunteer.

Student Volunteers Needed for Take Back Event!

The best way for your student to learn about all our community service opportunities is to join our Teen Advisory Council. Active TAC members receive priority for event sign-ups, opportunities to work with staff, internships, etc. Families are strongly encouraged to volunteer together to keep youth safe during the pandemic.

In the News

Rx Overdoses in MD Could Outpace Heroin

More people in Maryland died of opioid overdoses in 2020 than any year on record, confirming health experts' fears that the coronavirus pandemic would lead to a sharp uptick in drug use and deaths. The vast majority of the 2,499 opioid-related deaths involved fentanyl, a cheap and powerful synthetic opioid that's magnitudes more potent than heroin. But another concerning trend has emerged: A record number of people died from prescription opioids... Read the [article](#).

Latest Findings from the National Monitoring the Future Study

The National Monitoring the Future Study (MTF) is a long-term research study that surveys trends in legal and illicit drug use and attitudes among American adolescents and adults. Results from 2020 have recently been released and contain both good news and bad news. While alcohol use and binge drinking showed a decrease from 2019, daily marijuana use and use of hallucinogenic drugs increased. Dr. John Schulenberg, principal investigator of the study, gives a summary of findings in this [podcast](#).

Alcohol + Marijuana = Negative Consequences in Young Adults

Three recent studies indicate that simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use is associated with both increased alcohol consumption and greater negative consequences.

- College students who used marijuana and alcohol simultaneously experienced more negative consequences (e.g., blackouts, vomiting, driving under the influence) than those who used both substances sequentially.
- College students who used both substances sequentially reported more negative consequences than those who only used alcohol.
- Young adults drank more alcohol on days when they also used marijuana than on days when they only drank alcohol.
- Young adults reported more harms on days when they used both substances than on days when they used only one or the other.

[Read about the studies.](#)

Not Your Meds? Don't Take Them!



Please share our [Don't Get Benched for Life...Not your meds? Don't take them!](#) campaign with others working with Howard County youth...sport teams, school groups, scouts, religious groups, friends, community groups, and more! [Download and print any of the 8 campaign ads.](#) Email Admin@hcdrugfree.org to request printed posters.

This ad campaign features Howard County high school students.

HC DrugFree and our partners at the Howard County Health Department, the MD Department of Health, and SAMHSA urge you to be sure the youth in your life know the many dangers of sharing medication.

Coaches (& Parents): Is Your Athlete Abusing Rx Drugs?

Coaches often see many aspects of an athlete's life that go unnoticed by others. This article describes signs and symptoms of medication misuse and abuse and changes in behavior that coaches and parents can be on the lookout for in their athletes. [Read the full article.](#)

True Story: Kristina

Kristina was a high school track athlete with a college scholarship offer. She was sidelined with a back injury and found herself dependent on prescription pain medication. As her tolerance increased, she found herself using more dangerous alternatives to try to feel high. In her [story](#), Kristina shares how bad things became and her struggles with treatment before she was finally able to find something that helped her achieve sobriety.

Join Our Team Today



[Please make your tax deductible gift to HC DrugFree today!](#)



Additional Resources

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](#).

Depression, Suicidal Thoughts or Other Mental Health Issues

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

Events

Oktsobarfest

Enjoy an alcohol-free event on Saturday, October 16.

[Click here](#) to read more about this event to be held in Ellicott City and purchase tickets.

Virtual Overdose Response Training

Learn how to save a life after an overdose!

Free Narcan kits are available to attendees. Must pre-registration with the Howard County Health Department.

To see dates and register, [click here](#).



For more information, contact

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