

# HC DrugFree

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

**Summer's end is a gateway to new beginnings,  
a fresh canvas for us to paint our dreams.**

-Unknown

## Dates to Remember

**September:** [National Recovery Month](#)

**September:** [Suicide Prevention Month](#)

**September 21:** [National Opioid Awareness Day](#)

**September 23:** [Teen Advisory Council Meeting](#)

**October 26:** [Medication and Sharps Drive-Thru Collection](#)

## Register Today! Teen Meeting on Monday

HC DrugFree's invites **all Howard County students in grades 8-12** to attend our Monday, September 23 Teen Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

**[Students: Register to Receive the September 23 Zoom Link](#)**

Members of TAC attend our monthly meetings and serve as student ambassadors in their schools and in the community.

### Why join TAC?

- Earn Community Service Hours
- Gain experience for job & college applications
- Volunteer opportunities year round
- Be a leader and role model in Howard County

## DEA Video: Hidden in Plain Sight

In the video below from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), a mock teenage bedroom displays some everyday items that can be indicators of drug use or risky behavior. Do you know what's in your home?



Hidden In Plain Sight: An Interactive Drug Education Program for Parents (2021)

[Watch Video](#)

## What You Need to Know About Fentanyl

Did you know that just 2 milligrams of fentanyl, the amount on the tip of this pencil, can be enough to kill the average person?

Fentanyl is involved in more deaths of Americans under 50 than any other cause, including heart disease, cancer, homicide, and suicide.

The 2024 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) fentanyl seizures represent over 216 million deadly doses.

The DEA and HC DrugFree urge you to help us save lives by educating yourself and talking to others about the dangers of fentanyl.

Talk to your children and grandchildren about their mental health and the risks of encountering illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

**HCDrugFree**  
Empowering the Community

### In the *KNOW*... **Fentanyl**

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid drug 100 times stronger than morphine.

Fentanyl is being mixed with street drugs and counterfeit medication. Users are often unaware it has been added!

**6** out of every **10** counterfeit pills contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl.

2 milligrams of fentanyl can be fatal. That's about the size of two grains of salt!

Can you tell which pill has a deadly dose of fentanyl?

The infographic features several callouts with arrows pointing to specific elements. One callout points to a row of ten pills, six of which are red and four are yellow. Another callout points to a small white pill bottle. A final callout points to two pills, one with the letter 'M' and the other with the number '30'.

[Test Your Fentanyl Knowledge](#)

## Vaping Damages Young Lungs!

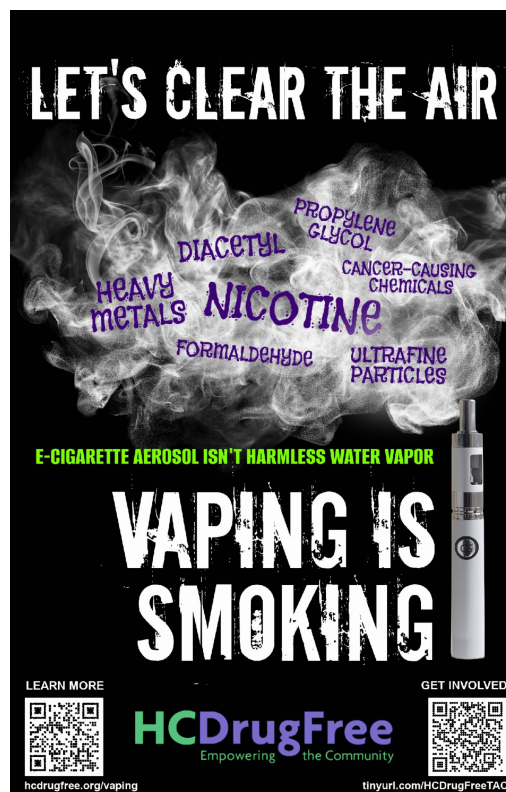
Vaping damages young people's lungs as much as smoking, study says.

A recent study challenged the belief that vaping is healthier than smoking and determined that lung capacity was significantly and equally affected for those who vaped and those who smoked.

Talk to your children and grandchildren about the many dangers of vaping.

Our poster is displayed in Howard County schools. Please send us a photo if you see it.

[Learn More](#)



## Drive High, Get A DUI

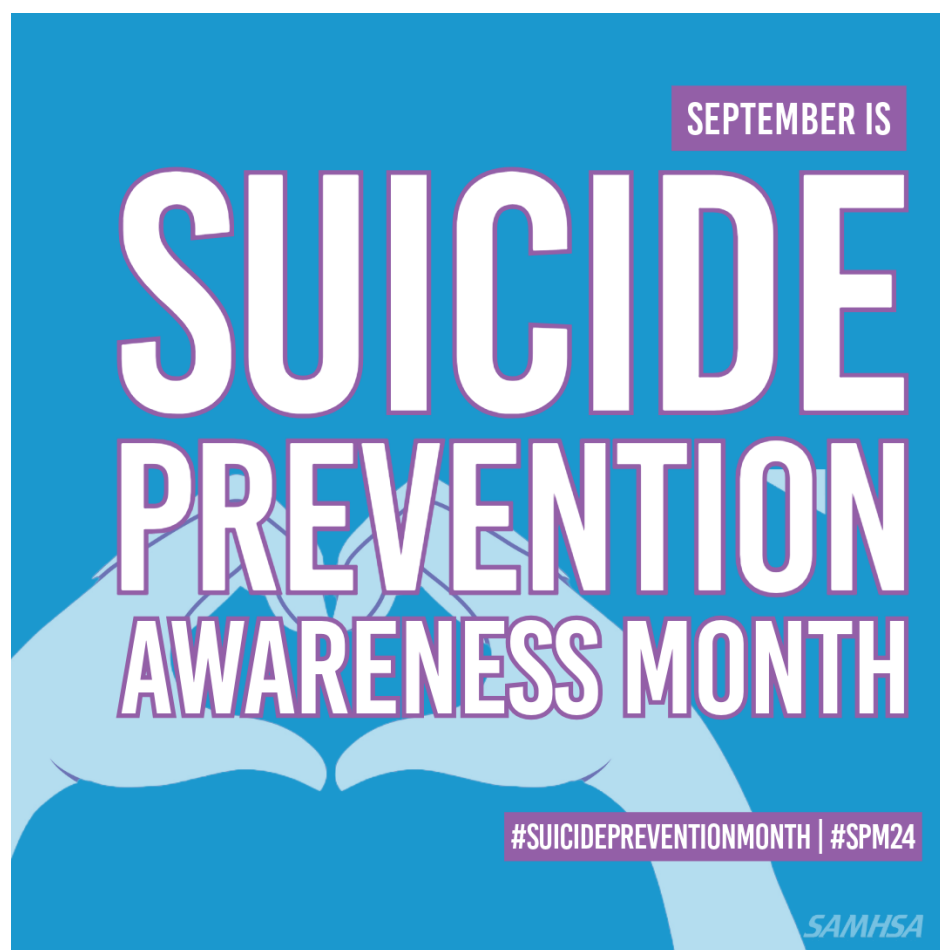
Your friends and family can tell when you're high—and so can law enforcement. Driving high is impaired driving and it's illegal.

If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive high, get a DUI. The video below is presented by The US Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



[Watch Video](#)

No Judgment. Just Help: Suicide Prevention Month



September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Throughout the year, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides helpful

tips to raise awareness about the warning signs and what we all can do to help prevent suicides. No judgment. Just Help. [Learn More](#)

## Save the Date! Medication and Sharps Drive-Thru Collection

HC DrugFree's next drive-thru Medication and Sharps collection will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot near the Swim Center and Slayton House.

[Download and Print Flier](#)

Volunteer links, a list of items to be collected, and additional updates are available on our [website](#).

### Medication & Sharps Disposal Saturday October 26 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



**Safely dispose of:**

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

Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot  
5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia 21044



We are giving away 25  
Medication Lockboxes!

First come, first served. Limit 1 per vehicle.

**HCDrugFree**  
Empowering the Community  
[hcdrugfree.org](http://hcdrugfree.org)

## Apply Today! We Are Hiring!

HC DrugFree is looking for self-motivated Howard County professionals with a heart for people of all ages in our community. All candidates must pass a background check and possess strong organizational skills, writing skills, and computer skills.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

## Donate Today

Please become a [Friend of HC DrugFree](#) so we can continue providing FREE programs and resources to the Howard County community. We appreciate your financial support.

[Donate Now](#)

Or mail your **donation** to HC DrugFree's office:

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

## What Do You Think?

Please take our 2-second survey to let us know what you think of the content provided in this newsletter!

## Resources

### The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

Marylanders experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis should call or text 988. Learn more at [988.maryland.gov](https://988.maryland.gov). Maryland veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and press 1 to transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for LGBTQIA+ support.



### Free Support Meetings:

Looking for a list of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the Howard County area? [Learn More](#)

## Additional Resources

For more information, contact

Joan Webb Scornaienchi  
Executive Director  
HC DrugFree  
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206  
Wilde Lake Village Center  
Columbia, MD 21044  
[Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org)  
[www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org)



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!