



COALITION CORNER

Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter

April/May, 2015

New Designer Drug Flakka Turning Up Across the Country

Originally detected in Florida, this new bath salt formula is now being detected in crime labs across the United States.

The drug, which can be snorted, smoked, injected and swallowed, has been linked to serious, and



sometimes deadly behavioral problems.

Sometimes called “gravel,” because

of its bumpy, crystalline appearance, Flakka is also known by its chemical name, alpha-PVP, which is yet another synthetic cathinone, like Ivory Wave and Vanilla Sky.

This class of drugs is known to cause heart problems, agitation, aggression, psychosis and a dangerous condition called “excited

delirium.”

Excited delirium occurs when body temperature increases to about 105°, and the user becomes paranoid, often running around wildly, with adrenaline-like strength. This condition is reminiscent of the actions of PCP users in the 1980s.

Alpha-PVP is sometimes being sold as cocaine or crack. The drug is one of 10 synthetic cathinones which the DEA has labeled as controlled dangerous substances.

Unfortunately these types of drugs are cheap and relatively easy to produce, so young people are still finding access to them.

Poison Control Issues Warning

On April 23, 2015, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and America’s 55 individual poison control centers issued a warning regarding a group of dangerous new synthetic cannabinoids (also known as THC homologs) which have recently led to a dramatic increase in calls to poison control centers nationwide, including calls from users in New Jersey.

ER physicians can have difficulty treating users who are having adverse reactions to these homologs, due to the wide variety of drugs used to produce them. At least 5 recent deaths have been attributed to these drugs.

Poison control centers are now staffed with medical professionals who are available 24/7 to answer questions about these synthetic drugs and other drug reactions.

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RX Drug Abuse Taking Toll on Seniors

According to a USA Today study of government documents, prescription drug abuse is a rapidly growing problem in the senior community.

Mel Pohl is the Medical Director of the Las Vegas Recovery Center, which treats elderly patients simultaneously for pain and drug dependence. According to Pohl, many seniors become addicted after using pain relievers or anti-anxiety medications prescribed by their doctors.

Over time the patient builds up a tolerance for the drugs, or the patient suffers more pain and requests more medication, explained Pohl.

Older patients are susceptible to complications from drug misuse, including falls, cognitive problems, respiratory failure and dementia.

Elderly patients are being prescribed more opioid painkillers

and benzodiazepines, such as Xanax and Valium, than ever before.

In 2013, 55 million opioid prescriptions were written for people 65 and older, marking a 20% increase over five years, almost double the growth rate of the elderly population. During the same period, the number of benzodiazepine prescriptions rose 12%, to 28.4 million.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that in 2013, the average number of elderly people misusing or dependent on prescription painkillers had increased from 132,000 to 336,000 over the previous ten years.

Government data also shows a 46% increase in cases of adults 55 and older seeking substance abuse treatment of prescription narcotics from 2007 to 2011.



Prevention Plus

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www.prevplus.org

Burlington County RX Drop Box Locations

Unwanted medications can be disposed of, free of charge, at:

Burlington Township Police Department, 851 Old York Road

Mansfield Township Police Department, 190-A Atlantic Avenue
(Only M-F, 8am – 3:30pm)

State Police Barracks, Red Lion, 1722 Route 206, Tabernacle

Palmyra Police Department, 20 West Broad Street

Evesham Police Department, 984 Tuckerton Road

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, 87th Security Forces Headquarters

Westampton Police Department, 710 Rancocas Road
(Only M-Th, 8am-4pm and F, 8am -1pm)

NEW Riverside Police Department, 1 W. Scott Street



New Riverside RX Drop Box

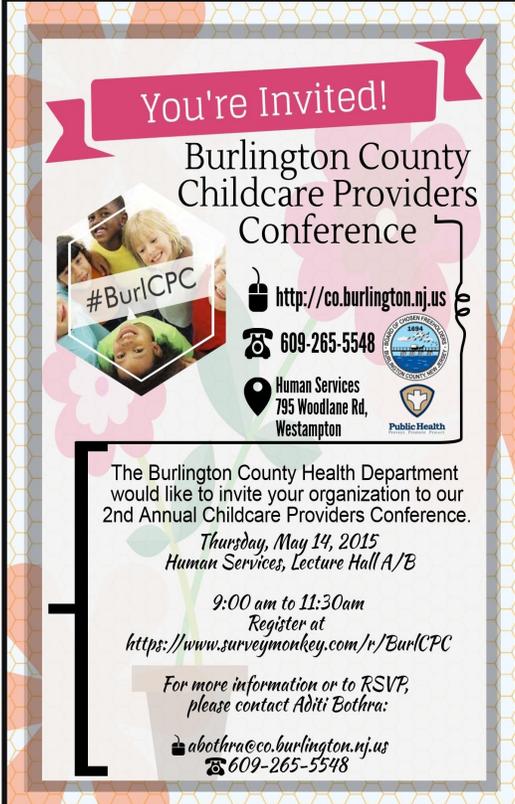
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Coalition Meeting Dates and Events

- Coalition Meeting;
June 23, 2015: At the Burlington County Health Department, 15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton @ 11:00 AM. Special guest speaker, Mr. Jose Cruz, LCSW at Rutgers University will discuss current tobacco legislation, including e-cigarettes. **A light lunch will be served.** Please RSVP to: Joeconlin@prevplus.org
- Current Drug Trends Workshop:
June 11, 2015; 4-6 PM, at BCC, Mount Laurel. Event is free and open to the public. **A light dinner will be served.** Please register at: www.prevplus.org

Upcoming Community Events



You're Invited!

Burlington County
Childcare Providers
Conference

#BurlCPC

<http://co.burlington.nj.us>

609-265-5548

Human Services
795 Woodlane Rd,
Westampton

Public Health

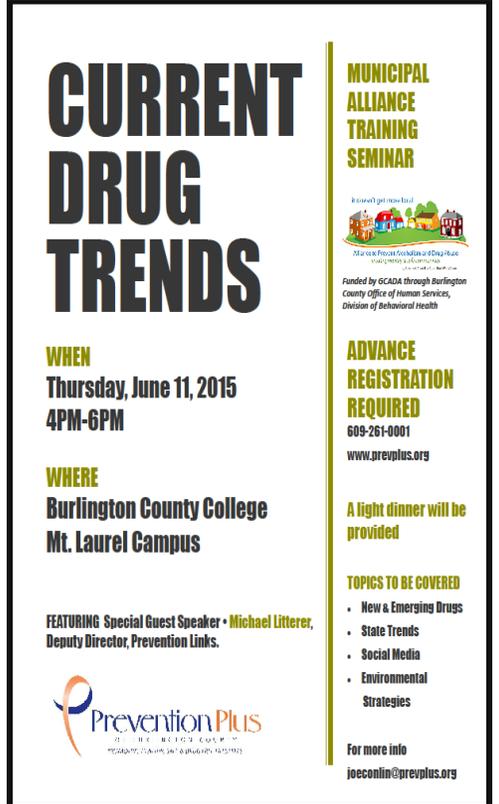
The Burlington County Health Department would like to invite your organization to our 2nd Annual Childcare Providers Conference.

Thursday, May 14, 2015
Human Services, Lecture Hall A/B

9:00 am to 11:30am
Register at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BurlCPC>

For more information or to RSVP,
please contact Aditi Bothra:
abothra@co.burlington.nj.us
609-265-5548

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CURRENT DRUG TRENDS

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE TRAINING SEMINAR

It won't get you far!

Maximizing Prevention and Early Intervention
Funded by CDC/DA through Burlington County Office of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
609-261-0001
www.prevplus.org

A light dinner will be provided

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- New & Emerging Drugs
- State Trends
- Social Media
- Environmental Strategies

For more info
joeconlin@prevplus.org

WHEN
Thursday, June 11, 2015
4PM-6PM

WHERE
Burlington County College
Mt. Laurel Campus

FEATURING Special Guest Speaker • Michael Litterer,
Deputy Director, Prevention Links.

Prevention Plus
THE BURLINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Event is free. Please register at: www.prevplus.org

Thousands of Soldiers Turned Away From Army Substance Abuse Centers Each Year

A USA Today investigation found that an estimated 20,000 soldiers seek help each year at Army substance disorder treatment centers.

After a 2010 decision to transfer outpatient treatment from medical to non-medical leadership, substandard care has become the norm, the investigation found.

The investigation was based on a review of Army files, emails and reports, as well as interviews with program personnel. It found that as many as half of the 7,000 soldiers turned away last year after being screened for substance use disorders should have received services.

An Army assessment found that half of its 54 treatment clinics fell below professional standards, and only a small number are in full compliance. Counseling positions left unfilled have led to long waiting lists at some centers.

In 2012, the Institute of Medicine released a report that concluded substance abuse among members of the U.S. military and their families has become a public health crisis, and that the Defense Department's approaches to preventing and treating substance use disorders are outdated.

Join the Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities

• **The Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC)** is an initiative of Prevention Plus, a non-profit agency which has served Burlington County since 1991. Our mission is to promote the health, wellness and safety of the individuals and families of our community by providing professional services for the prevention of abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and related issues, through education, collaboration and advocacy.

• BCCHC Mission Statement

Our mission is to reduce youth use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Burlington County by utilizing community collaboration to facilitate environmental change.

 [facebook.com/BCCHCNJ](https://www.facebook.com/BCCHCNJ)

 [@BCCHCNJ](https://twitter.com/BCCHCNJ)



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Coalition Liaison/
Newsletter Editor
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Prevention Educator
- Tyler Conlin,
Youth Coordinator

Hard-Working BCCHC Interns Make a Difference

Barbara Fitzgerald and Scott Collins joined the coalition as interns during their spring semester at BCC.

They have worked hard to provide outreach to the community by setting up coalition informational tables at health fairs, by attending meetings, by recruiting for and participating in Prevention Plus community programming, and assisting in Sticker Shock Campaigns.

Scott Collins is a student at Burlington County College, and is a member of the recovery community.

He is earning his Associates Degree in Applied Science in Human Services and just recently obtained his Addictions Counseling Certificate from BCC.



His goal is to become an addictions counselor in the drug and alcohol field.

Barbara Fitzgerald and her siblings have been involved in service activities since childhood.

Upon graduating high school, Barbara joined the Air Force. She served with honor and after completing her service, became actively involved in the

VFW, holding leadership positions at the post, district and state levels. Barbara was a true asset in building bridges between Prevention Plus and our military partners.

The BCCHC is grateful for all of Barbara and Scott's efforts, and wish them the best in all of their future endeavors.

