

COALITION CORNER



Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter

August, 2015

BCCHC Participates in National Night Out Across County

Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities staffers were excited to represent the coalition at three area locations in honor of **National Night Out (NNO)**.

Staff participated in events in Willingboro, Evesham, and Lumberton. Coalition resources were distributed, from educational brochures on marijuana, underage drinking, tobacco, and prescription drugs, to free giveaways.

The events were held at Mills Creek Park, Lumberton Municipal Complex, and the Evesham Municipal Complex, respectively. Overall, the events were well attended. Families visiting the coalition information tables enjoyed speaking with staff and gathering valuable information.

National Night Out is an annual

community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. NNO is a nationwide effort, conducted in many local municipalities, usually on the first Tuesday of August.

The event has been held annually since 1984 and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States and Canada.

Typically the celebrations include entertainment for families, music, information booths manned by local non-profit agencies and local businesses, and food, which is often donated by local vendors. Of course police officers from the towns are in attendance.

In Burlington County, many Municipal Alliances partner with police in hosting NNO.



Evesham 2015 National Night Out



Evesham 2015 National Night Out



Lumberton 2015 National Night Out



Willingboro 2015 National Night Out

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Legal Marijuana a Headache for Neighboring States

Sheriffs from Colorado and neighboring states Kansas and Nebraska claim in a lawsuit that Colorado's marijuana law creates a "crisis of conscience" by pitting the state law against the United States Constitution and puts an economic burden on surrounding states.

The lawsuit asks a federal court in Denver to strike down Colorado's **Amendment 64** which legalized the sale of recreational marijuana, and to close the state's more than 330 licensed marijuana stores.

Lead plaintiff, Larimer County, Colorado Sheriff Just Smith says he must decide each day whether to violate the Colorado Constitution or the United States Constitution. Colorado legalized recreational marijuana sales on January 1, 2014, but marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Colorado is "asking every peace officer to violate their oath," Smith said. "What we are being asked to do makes me ineligible for office. Which constitution are we supposed to uphold?"



Deuel County Sheriff Adam Hayward is one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

The lawsuit invokes the federal government's right to regulate drugs and interstate commerce and argues that Colorado's decision to legalize marijuana hurt communities on the other side of the state lines.

Colorado has not yet responded to the suit from the Attorneys General.

The Justice Department said it would largely take a hands-off approach in states that have legalized marijuana, as long as regulations seek to keep the drugs away from children and criminals.

Sheriff Smith said the Justice Department's decision amounts to instructing people "how to violate federal law but not get prosecuted."



One of Many Marijuana Shops in Colorado

The out-of-state sheriffs say the flow of Colorado's legal marijuana across their state borders has increased drug arrests, overburdened police and courts, and cost them money in overtime.

Felony drug arrests in the town of Chappell in Deuel County, Nebraska, 7 miles north of Colorado, jumped 400% in just three years.

Burlington County RX Drop Box Locations

Unwanted medications can be disposed of, free of charge, 24 hours a day (except where noted) at:

- Burlington Township Police Dept., Municipal Bldg. 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 Friday 8am -1pm)
- Riverside Police Department, 1 W. Scott Street

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Coalition Meeting Dates and Events

• Coalition Meeting:

September 22, 11AM @ The B. C. Health Department, located at: 15 Pioneer Blvd, Westampton, NJ 08060. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to joeconlin@prevplus.org. Special guest Burlington County Prosecutor Robert Bernardi will be joining us. Please plan to attend.

No BCCHC meetings scheduled for July or August.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

We look forward to seeing you at our September 22 meeting,

Keeping Legalized Marijuana from Kids

According to experts at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, keeping legalized marijuana out of the hands of children is harder to do than regulating alcohol or tobacco, because people can grow it at home.

Brendan Saloner, PhD, and his colleagues suggest four strategies to prevent marijuana use among minors.

Strategy One: Use tax policies to keep prices high. Research has shown that young people

are particularly “price-sensitive” and tend to reduce cigarette use at higher rates than adults after price increases.



Strategy 2: Tightly regulate retail availability. States should more strongly enforce existing laws.

Strategy 3: In an effort to reduce accidental

ingestion, states should regulate the appearance of foods containing the drug, and recommend childproof packaging and clear labeling of these products.

For instance, Washington State enacted emergency rules banning images of cartoons, toys and other pictures that appeal to kids.

In addition, government should prohibit stores that sell other products from also selling marijuana.

Finally, the scholars suggest restricting marketing of marijuana products.

BCCHC at Pine Barrens Festival

The Church of the Holy Eucharist, located in Tabernacle, celebrated their 26th annual Pine Barrens Festival held on the grounds of the church, starting July 20 and culminating on July 26.

The festival included games, rides and food, in addition to a tent hosting various non-profit agencies. The organizers were gracious in allowing the BCCHC to display information at the Festival for the first time.



Hundreds of volunteers give of their time to make this festival a memorable annual event.

The event gets bigger every year. This year's 20/20 winner went home with over \$20,000!

The BCCHC hopes to be a presence at future Pine Barrens Festivals.

<https://www.facebook.com/pinebarrensfestival>

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

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

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Harmful Underage Drinking on the Rise World Wide

Many nations are facing an increase in alcohol use by underage drinkers, according to a report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The group advises governments on economic growth.

In many countries alcohol is becoming more available, more affordable and more effectively advertised.

Overall, alcohol consumption in wealthy, developed nations has decreased 2.5% over the past 20 years, according to the report.

The report found that binge drinking by young people is

“a major public health and social concern.”

Rates of binge drinking and in



young people, especially women, have jumped in many OECD nations. The share of children under 15 who have been drunk rose from 30% to 43% for boys, and from 26% to

41% among girls during the 2000s.

OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said “this report provides clear evidence that even expensive alcohol abuse prevention policies are cost-effective in the long run, and underlines the need for urgent action by governments.”

The OECD recommends counseling heavy drinkers, increasing enforcement of DUI laws, raising alcohol taxes and prices and increasing regulation of alcoholic drink marketing.

The United States is an OECD member, as are most of the world’s other first-world nations.