



COALITION CORNER

Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter

February, 2015

Youth Take Part in Sticker Shock Campaign

On January 30, ten students from Delran High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) organization worked to educate shoppers at Joe Canal's Liquor Store on Route 130.

Student Assistance Coordinator Stephanie Scanlon and SADD Coordinator Michelle Bradbury, accompanied the students, along with BCCHC Coordinator Joe Conlin.

With the permission of store staff, the students carefully placed colorful stickers on packages of beer and wine coolers. The stickers detail the legal consequences possible for those found guilty of providing alcohol to underage drinkers.

One shopper commented that it was "great to see young people supporting something positive like this. I had no



idea that the penalties for providing alcohol to minors could be so severe."

The coalition hopes to conduct more Sticker Shock Campaigns in April, which is Alcohol Awareness Month.

"The coalition is always grateful to work with dedicated school personnel and these hardworking students who are committed to decreasing underage drinking," said Joe Conlin. "The students did a great job today."

"I think some adults assume every teenager wants to drink alcohol. I'm here today to show that it's just not true."

- Anonymous Student



Sticker Shock with Delran High School SADD Students & Prevention Plus Intern Scott Collins

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Psychosis Risk - Heavy Marijuana Use

This month in one of the most prominent medical journals in the world, Lancet Psychiatry, a team of twenty-three scientists published a large study showing that people who smoked high-grade marijuana - about 16% THC (similar to average US varieties of marijuana) were five times as likely than non-users to develop a psychotic disorder. Weekend users were three times as likely than non-users to develop a psychotic disorder, and high potency marijuana use alone was responsible for 24% of those adults presenting with first-episode psychosis to the psychiatric services in south London. Find the full article here: http://www.thelancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/pdfs/14TLP0454_Di%20Forti.pdf

A main finding was that the frequency of use and cannabis potency, which are often overlooked when determining how harmful the drug can be, are essential factors in the mental health effects on users. These factors are not sufficiently considered by doctors. "As with smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol, you need a clear public message," said Dr. Di Forti, the lead author of the study.

"For years, the marijuana industry has discounted the link between the highly potent strains of marijuana they produce and mental health problems," commented Dr. Kevin A. Sabet, President of Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) and the Director of the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida. "Big Marijuana, which relies on addiction for profit, will of course discount this study too, but the public and lawmakers should not be deceived. More marijuana use equals more mental health problems, no matter what special interest lobbyists want us to think. We must urgently get this information out now to every lawmaker in the country."

SAM is a science-oriented, public health organization dedicated to disseminating the facts about marijuana and stopping the Big Marijuana machine. It advocates for a health-first approach, and boasts numerous top public health researchers on its advisory board. Dr. Sabet likens Big Marijuana with Big Tobacco, which, for years, denied the health risks of tobacco use in humans, even when it had evidence to the contrary.

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
State Police Barracks, Red Lion, 1722 Route 206, Tabernacle
Palmyra Police Department, 20 West Broad Street

NEW Evesham Police Department, 984 Tuckerton Road



Prevention Plus

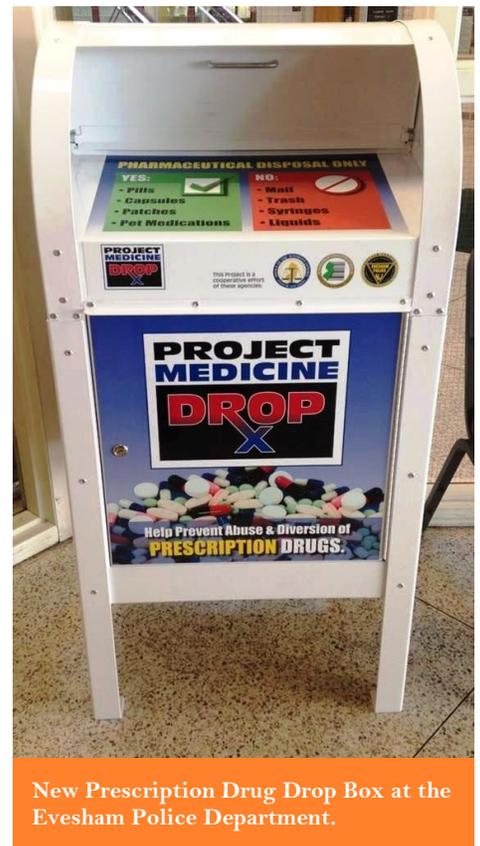
1824 Route 38 East
Suite B

Lumberton, NJ 08048

P 609-261-0001

F 609-261-5854

www.prevplus.org



New Prescription Drug Drop Box at the Evesham Police Department.

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Coalition Meeting Dates and Events

- Sticker Shock with:
Faith in Action Youth Group @ Cramp's Liquor Store in Edgewater Park. 4-7-15; 10 AM.
- Sticker Shock with:
Bordentown H.S. PANDA Club students at Boyd's Pharmacy and Liquor Store on Farnsworth Avenue @ 3:00 PM, and at the Liquor Mart on Washington Ave. in Fieldsboro at 3:30 PM, both on 3-11-15.
- Coalition Meeting; 3-24-15:
At the Burlington County Health Department. 15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton, @11:30 AM. A light lunch will be served, please RSVP to coalition coordinator Angelina Palella, 609-261-0001, x115. Special guest speaker FBI special agent Vernon Addison.
- *Above The Influence:*
Social Media Contest, open to all Burlington County Students. \$50 Grand Prize; ends 3-31-15. For details: www.prevplus.org.



National Drug Facts Week Posters completed by Twilight Youth Group participants.

Burlington County Youth Participate in National Drug Facts Week Poster Design

Teenagers from the Twilight Youth Group designed posters highlighting a fact about tobacco, drugs or alcohol as part of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA's) National Drug Facts Week. 2015 dates were January 26 through February 1.

The Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities provided the youth with poster board and pamphlets from NIDA, from which they were able to gather factual information about the effects tobacco, alcohol and drugs have on a user's life. These substances not only cause problems with physical and mental health, but can create problems within families, including financial burden.

The Twilight Youth Group used their imagination and creativity to design informative, eye-catching posters which highlighted facts about substance use in an effort to educate others in the community.

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.

• Visit us:

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

www.prevplus.org



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New Call Line - Resource in Fight Against Opiate Abuse

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. requests that community members help them spread the word about a valuable new resource in the fight against heroin and prescription painkiller addiction.

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey's NJ Connect for Recovery Call Line supports two distinct groups: people who are concerned about their own opiate use, and those who are experiencing distress related to the opiate use of a friend or family member.

This service offers a safe, confidential and nonjudgmental forum that NJ consumers can call

to connect, grow and transform. It provides access to a unique combination of supportive counseling from Peer



Specialists and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

The association asks that you sign up and simply promote the call line number and mission and encourage others to do the same, to help those in need gain access to the service.

Share the news through:

- Your newsletters, emails and publications (on-line and in print)
- Your website and social media accounts
- Your events
- Any other appropriate way that you can think of!

Please commit to telling two friends about the call line. You may help a family or even save a life!


NJCONNECT
forrecovery 855-652-3737
A free, confidential call line