



COALITION CORNER

Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter
The BCCHC is an initiative of Prevention Plus of Burlington County, Inc.

January, 2015

Youth Participate in National Campaign

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is sponsoring its fifth annual National Drug Facts Week from January 26 through February 1, 2015.

National Drug Facts Week is an annual health observance week for teens to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse. National Drug Facts Week centers on community events for teens, NIDA's Drug Facts Chat Day, and partnerships.

Locally planned and hosted school and community events focus on providing teens the scientific facts about drugs.

"This is the first time we have collaborated with local youth to recognize National Drug Facts Week," said Angelina Palella, coordinator of the Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC). "It was exciting to have three area schools and

two agencies agree to partner with us as part of this nation-wide campaign."

Youth from Bordentown High School and Middle School, Pemberton High School, the Mount Holly Family Success Center and the Legacy Twilight Program were provided with informational brochures from NIDA so that they could create educational posters highlighting a drug fact.

These students' posters will then be displayed so that their peers can learn about the reality of drug use. Beth Mayers, coalition liaison said, "Too often our young people rely on the rumors and other misinformation they hear about drugs and alcohol. It is our hope that this campaign will make it easier for students to learn the truth about the dangers of getting high."

"I didn't know that prescription pain pills can be as dangerous as heroin, if you don't use them right. I hope my drug facts poster helps somebody in my school decide not to try them."

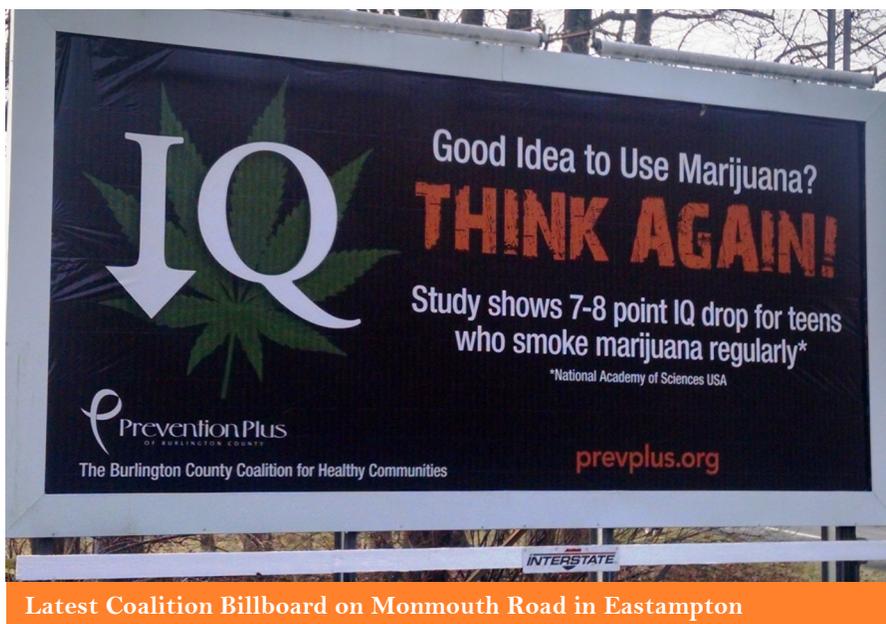
- Local Student



National Institute of Drug Abuse Campaign - National Drug Facts Week, Jan. 26 - Feb. 1, 2015

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Latest Coalition Billboard on Monmouth Road in Eastampton

Newest Coalition Billboard

Thanks to the efforts of coalition coordinator Angelina Palella, the BCCHC has again employed environmental strategies to educate those who live and work in Burlington County. On January 13, 2015, three new billboards were erected with a coalition message about marijuana.

The billboards can be found on Route 130 in Bordentown, Route 206 in Mansfield, and on Monmouth Road in Eastampton. Each billboard has the same message regarding the dangers of marijuana use by adolescents.

“The billboards reflect the most recent findings by the National Academy of Sciences, which found that teens who smoked marijuana regularly showed a seven to eight point drop in their IQ,” stated Angelina.

Don Starn, executive director of Prevention Plus, the lead agency for the BCCHC, said “Many people, especially adolescents don’t know what to believe about marijuana use. But the research is clear, there are very real risks for teens who smoke marijuana regularly.”

In 2014, the coalition ran a series of 4 billboards with messages about prescription drug abuse, heroin abuse and underage drinking. “It was time for the coalition to address the risks of marijuana,” reported Angelina.

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

Coalition Represented at Health Fair

On January 17, coordinator Joe Conlin represented the coalition at Faith in Action’s 2015 Health and Entertainment Fair. The fair was free to the community, and drew a great crowd.

Participants took part in health screenings, visited information tables like the one sponsored by the BCCHC, enjoyed activities for children and were entertained by a local talent show.

“Today’s event was a good way to introduce the BCCHC to the community,” said Mr. Conlin.



Assemblyman Troy Singleton and event host Dr. Amy Dean visit the coalition table at the Faith In Action Health and Entertainment Fair in Willingboro.

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Coalition Meeting Dates and Events

- National Drug Facts Week:
January 26 - February 1
- Sticker Shock with Delran
H.S. SADD students at
Canals on Route 130 @
2:30 PM, 1/30/15
- Sticker Shock with
Bordentown H.S. PANDA
club students at Boyd's
Pharmacy and Liquor
Store on Farnsworth
Avenue @ 3:00 PM,
2/11/15
- February 24: Coalition
meeting, at the
Burlington County Health
Department @11:30 AM.
15 Pioneer Boulevard,
Westampton. A light
lunch will be served,
please RSVP to coalition
coordinator Joe Conlin.
- March 24: Coalition
meeting, at the
Burlington County Health
Department @11:30 AM.
15 Pioneer Boulevard,
Westampton. Special
guest speaker: FBI special
agent Vernon Addison. A
light lunch will be served,
please RSVP to coalition
coordinator Joe Conlin.

New Device: "E-Joint"

The new E-joint brings marijuana and an e-cigarette together. Called the JuJu Joint, the device holds 100 milligrams of THC, twice as much as a traditional joint. It is disposable and comes filled with 150 hits.

The JuJu Joint is a challenge for law enforcement, as it produces no smoke and no smell. The device is currently selling in Washington, Colorado and Oregon, where non-medical marijuana use is legal.

JuJu Joints can only be purchased by adults aged 21 or older, but law enforcement agencies in these states suggest the device is already being abused by teenagers. Once purchased, the device can be carried beyond the boundaries of these states.



Ju Ju Joints, Pre-Filled with Pot



Pharmacies may soon distribute information on drug disposal locations.

NJ Assembly Advances RX Drugs Bill

On December 4, 2014 a bill that would require pharmacies and physicians to instruct patients about the proper way to dispose of certain prescription medications such as Percocet and Oxycontin was passed by an Assembly panel.

The legislation is part of a larger 21-bill package aimed at stopping the rise in opiate-addiction and heroin-related deaths in New Jersey. If passed, the bill would require that notices be handed out at pharmacies about the availability of drug take-back programs and drop boxes where unused prescription drugs may be dropped off.

The bill targets prescriptions that are opiate-based and can be especially addictive. A version of the bill already passed the Senate in a 31-0 vote.

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. The mission of Prevention Plus 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**

To reduce the underage use of alcohol and the illegal use and misuse of other drugs across the lifespan in Burlington County by utilizing community collaboration to facilitate population-level environmental change.

• **Visit us:**

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Report: Heroin Overdose Deaths Rose 39% in 2013

From 2012 to 2013, deaths from heroin overdoses rose 39%. A report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), announced that 8,257 Americans died from heroin overdoses in 2013.

Attorney General Eric Holder responded, saying "These troubling statistics illustrate a grim reality, that drug, and particularly opioid abuse, represent a growing public health crisis.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) reported that opioid use disorders often begin with a prescription, or taking pills from a home medicine cabinet.

Almost 70% of individuals who begin

abusing prescription drugs non-medically for the first time get the drugs from a friend or family member.

Many of those who initially abuse prescription pain killers switch to

the much cheaper heroin, which can also be easier to obtain.

The World Health Organization (WHO) encourages the move to have law enforcement officers carry Naloxone, which can

reverse the effects of an opioid overdose if administered in time.

In mid-2014, the majority of police departments in Burlington County trained their officers to carry and administer Naloxone in overdose situations, and many lives have already been saved.

