



COALITION CORNER

Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter

March, 2015

DEA Issues Alert on Fentanyl-Laced Heroin as Overdoses Increase

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a nationwide alert regarding increasing overdose deaths due to fentanyl-laced heroin.

Fentanyl is a potent narcotic, which is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, and roughly 30 to 50 times more powerful than heroin.

According to the DEA, fentanyl, when abused to get high, is potentially lethal even at very low doses. When users are unaware that fentanyl has been added to heroin, they are at great risk for overdose.

“Drug incidents and overdoses related to fentanyl are occurring at an alarming rate throughout the

United States, and represent a significant threat to public health and safety,” said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart.

In recent months there have been overdoses related to heroin laced with fentanyl in Atlantic and Ocean Counties in New Jersey.

According to an article in USA Today, seizures of illegal drugs containing fentanyl more than tripled between 2013 and 2014.

Philadelphia officials confirmed that at least 28 people died in the city in March and April of 2014 after using fentanyl-laced heroin.

Powdered Alcohol Legal

On March 10, 2015, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) approved labels for powdered alcohol.

The manufacturing company Lipsmark will market the product under the brand name Palcohol.

Some United State legislators, and the advocacy group Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), want the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban the product, which they believe will be utilized by underage drinkers.

One fear is that besides mixing the powder with water as instructed, users may also sprinkle the powder on food or snort it, making alcohol poisoning more likely.

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Bordentown Students Participate in Sticker Shock Campaign

Under the leadership of Nell Geiger, Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) for both Bordentown Middle School and High School, students of the Bordentown High School Panda Club assisted the BCCHC in educating patrons of Boyd's Pharmacy and Liquor Store, and at the Liquor Mart on March 10, 2015.



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.

Prevention Plus intern Scott Collins said "I love to see young people who are willing to break the stereotype that all young people want to drink alcohol. Clearly that idea is a myth."



Panda Students, Mr. Collins, and SAC Nell Geiger.

The coalition is planning further Sticker Shock Campaigns in April to recognize Alcohol Awareness Month. Look for Faith in Action Youth Group members at Cramp's Liquor Store on April 7 at 10 AM.

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

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

NEW Westampton Police Department, 710 Rancocas Road



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On 3-27-15, the Joint Base became the first military facility in the state to have a drop box installed for the disposal of unneeded over-the-counter, prescription, and veterinarian medications. Kudos to the military leadership for being so proactive!

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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.
- Coalition Meeting; 4-28-15:
At the Burlington County Health Department. 15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton @ 3:00 PM.
- *Above The Influence:*
Social Media Contest, open to all Burlington County Students. \$50 Grand Prize; ends 3-31-15. For details: www.prevplus.org.
- Coalition Meeting: 5-19-15:
At the Burlington County Health Department. 15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton @ 3:00 PM.

Federal Medical Marijuana Law Changing?

In March, three United States Senators introduced a bill that would end federal prohibition on medical marijuana.

The bill was introduced by New Jersey's own Corey Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

The Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect

States (CARERS) Act would reclassify marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II under the Controlled Substances Act.

Schedule I drugs have no known medical use in the United States, while Schedule II drugs have a legitimate medical use, but a high potential for abuse.

The bill would allow Veteran's Affairs doctors

to prescribe marijuana for veterans, and make it easier for scientists to obtain marijuana for medical testing. The law would also allow banks and federal credit unions to provide the same financial services to the marijuana industry as they do for other businesses.

Currently 23 states, plus the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana.



Examples of synthetic marijuana packets, ready for distribution.

DEA Bans 3 New Strains of Synthetic Marijuana

In January, 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) added three new strains of synthetic marijuana to its list of Schedule 1 drugs. This classification of drugs are considered to have a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

Synthetic marijuana is sold under names such as Black Mamba, K2, Spice and many more. It is not real marijuana, but plant-based material that is sprayed with chemicals which are intended to produce a high in the user. Unfortunately many users do not realize that the effects are often much more intense than a marijuana high. Symptoms range from increased agitation and profuse sweating to vomiting, seizures, uncontrollable body movements, and elevated blood pressure and heart rate.

Visits to emergency rooms and calls to poison hotlines from the use of synthetic marijuana continue to be documented in the United States. New liquid forms of the chemicals which appear to be marketed to hookah users have recently been seized by the DEA.

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: www.prevplus.org



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2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 19-25

In 2015, the Victim Witness Unit of the Burlington County Prosecutor's office will recognize National Crime Victim's Rights for the 28th consecutive year.

The 2015 theme is *Engaging Communities, Empowering Victims*.

The purpose of this statewide initiative is to honor victims for their strength and resilience, while also recognizing the accomplishments of those who serve the victims and their communities.

On Wednesday, April 22 the Prosecutor's Office will host the county's *Crime Victims' Rights Breakfast* at 8am at the Westin Mount Laurel.

The breakfast is always well attended by Assistant Prosecutors, detectives, advocates, victims and victim survivors, local law enforcement, social service agencies, and government officials. The event is open to the public, but preregistration is required.

On Sunday, April 26, please consider taking part in the Stride for Survivors 5K Fun Run at Smithville Park and Mansion in Eastampton. Registration starts at 5 PM, and the run will start at 6 PM.

The run is sponsored by Contact of Burlington County Sexual Assault Services, the

Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, NJ State Police, and the Burlington County Sheriff's Office.

A Sunset Candelight Vigil will immediately follow the run at 7:30 PM.

To attend any of these events, please call the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy at (609) 265-5048 **no later than April 15, 2015.**

