

Speak Up, Save a Life – 2017/2018

Educating Students, Families, and the Community regarding the Opioid/Prescription Drug Overdose Epidemic

A Multi-Agency Project of the Montgomery County Bar Association, State's Attorney's Office, Police Department, and Many Voices for Smart Choices

The Maryland state health department reported a 62 percent increase in overdose deaths in 2016 compared to the previous year. This is the sixth straight year that the figure has risen. In 2016, fatal and non-fatal overdoses significantly increased in Montgomery County. In response to the rising numbers of drug overdoses in Montgomery County, government agencies and the Montgomery County Bar Association have created an outreach program to educate and increase awareness.

- Mission Statement:** Prevention through education and awareness
- Goals:**
- Reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses
 - To identify resources available to parents and students
 - To introduce the new Good Samaritan Law which provides immunity for 911 callers during medical emergencies
 - To provide educational expert panel presentations on drugs, drug trends, and signs of drug use to parents, students, PTA groups, and the community as a whole
- Focus:** Provide education and prevention information regarding the crisis of sky rocketing overdoses from heroin, synthetic marijuana, prescription drugs, etc.
- Plan:**
- Presentations are designed from health, scientific, legal, and moral perspectives
 - Expert speakers include medical, law enforcement, legal, young person in recovery, parent who lost a child
 - Raise awareness around drugs, alcohol, and the immediate and long term consequences
 - Incorporate knowledge of Good Samaritan Law and explanation of recovery position into saving lives
- Presentation:** Large presentations, classroom style presentations, and community workshops
- Target Venues:**
- All Montgomery County Middle and High Schools' students and PTA's
 - Community Organizations, Large businesses, Religious institutions, Boys and Girls Clubs