

Cranston Substance Prevention Coalition

Quarterly Newsletter
April - June

WHATS NEW



a program of:



We're excited to announce that we've recently undergone a name change! The Cranston Substance Abuse Task Force is now officially the Cranston Substance Prevention Coalition! A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this exciting transformation! This change reflects our commitment to using the most current and preferred language surrounding substance use and our new logo should be ready soon!

Our coalition is actively pursuing a new grant—the STOP Grant (Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking)—and we're excited about the opportunities it could bring!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

is observed every April to raise awareness about the risks of alcohol use and promote healthy, informed choices—especially among youth and families

Drug Takeback Day - April 26th

Bring any unwanted medications to the Cranston Police Station for safe disposal

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

We'll be hosting and attending events throughout the entire month, and we'll also be actively posting on Facebook. Be sure to keep an eye out!





MEDIA DETECTIVE

What is Media Detective? It is a hands-on, evidence-based program that provides educational tools focused on media literacy and preventing alcohol and tobacco use for elementary aged children.

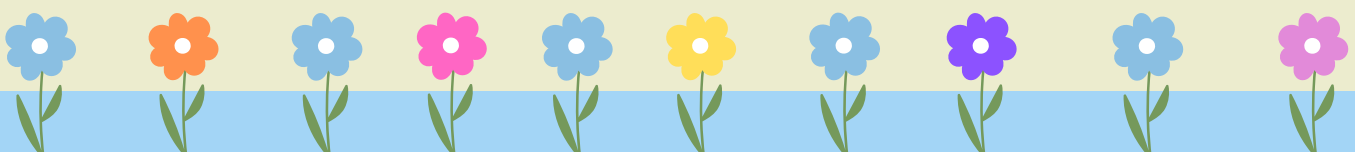
Through the course of 10 weeks, the coalition had the opportunity to offer Media Detective to Stadium Elementary students in grades 3-5. It was a huge success, and the students really enjoyed it! We're looking forward to returning next year to educate the next group of third graders and hope to expand to more schools. Check out some of the amazing counter-ads the students created that we will be posting on our Facebook page!

We were also recently trained in Media Ready, similar to Media Detective but designed for middle-school aged students, and are planning to providing education to 6th graders at Cranston Middle Schools! We're excited to see the creative counter-ads these students will produce!

OUR TEAM

We're excited to introduce Camryn Tierney as the new coordinator for our DFC Grant and as the Substance Prevention Specialist at CCAP. She will be taking the lead on this quarterly, and we're excited to have her on board. If you have any suggestions for the next edition or any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to her via email at ctierney@comcap.org!

We'd also like to congratulate Katelyn Bianco as the new director of our DFC Grant as well as becoming the municipal coordinator for our coalition. With over 7 years of experience working with the coalition, we're excited to see her step into this new leadership position!





2024 RISS

The 2024 Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) data has been released, showing encouraging trends for our State.

Overall, past 30-day substance use in high-school students has decreased, with regional numbers comparing favorably to the state averages. Specifically with alcohol and marijuana use, which continue to be the most commonly used substances among students. Regionally, alcohol use stands at 8% and marijuana use at 10%, which are slightly lower than the state averages of 10% for alcohol and 11% for marijuana.

In middle school, substance use rates in the region remained relatively steady, though there was a notable increase in marijuana use, rising from 5% to 8%. However, this trend aligns with the statewide data, which also shows the same percentages.

These results highlight positive strides in reducing substance use among students in our region.

NDAFW

March 17th-21st was National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW)! If you missed it, we shared some engaging videos and graphics that debunk myths, highlight the importance of driving sober, and more. We're planning to increase our presence on social media by sharing more posts about our upcoming events and the strides we're making in the community. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and be on the lookout!



Unfortunately, a more comprehensive breakdown of town and school data is unavailable, as BHDDH decided to keep the information confidential as there were privacy concerns, so there are unique codes to protect the towns and their students.

If the data becomes publicly available or we receive permission, we will share more in-depth information on the RISS data in the future.

