

# CRANSTON SUBSTANCE PREVENTION COALITION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

## HAPPY FALL

Crisp air, colorful leaves, and a fresh new season, we're excited for all that fall brings. Wishing you a safe, healthy, and vibrant autumn!



## BACK TO SCHOOL

September was a busy and exciting month as we took part in back-to-school events and open houses!

A heartfelt thank you to the schools that welcomed us, and to everyone who stopped by our tables, we truly enjoyed connecting with you. We're looking forward to the year ahead and are already excited to see what the 2026-2027 school year will bring!

## DFC UPDATE

We submitted our application for year 8 of DFC and were thankfully awarded it! The new cycle starts in October and we have some great things planned and are excited for the year ahead.

## RED RIBBON WEEK

We celebrated Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>! This year's theme is "Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free!" A reminder that every positive choice is a piece of the bigger picture. We were able to provide the SAC's with color changing cups with this year's message on them. All 3 of them held lunch time activities and had great participation and turn out! Let's work together to support our youth, build awareness, and promote safe, drug-free communities.

## MEDIA DETECTIVE

We're excited to be invited back to Arlington Elementary for another year of Media Detective lessons! This engaging media literacy program is designed for elementary-aged students and teaches them how to think critically about the media they consume, with a special focus on substance use prevention. We can't wait to see the creative and thoughtful counter-ads the students come up with this year! Below are some counter-ads from the previous year:



## ZYN AWARENESS

All across the country there has been an alarming and overwhelming rise in the use of Zyns and other nicotine pouches. They are an odorless, smoke-free, and tobacco-free form of nicotine that are placed in the mouth to deliver nicotine through the gum lining. They come in a variety of flavors and their containers look similar to mints so they're easy for parents to confuse. Because Zyns are smoke/vapor free, companies are able to get around Rhode Island's flavor ban because the law specifies *electronic nicotine-delivery system (ENDS) products*. These companies also market it as a "safer" alternative because there is no tobacco involved, but we saw this same tactic used with vapes when they first came out. Because of this, we fear there will be significant increase in use. A study showed that teen use nearly doubled from 2023 to 2024, so this is something we are going to be focusing heavily on in the future.

## FALL FEST

Cranston Fall Fest, hosted by the Cranston Police Department, was a fantastic community event once again this year! We were proud to have CCAP well represented and truly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with families, share our resources, and continue spreading our message of support and service. Being out in the community is what it's all about! We're grateful to be part of such a vibrant and welcoming city.

## STICKER SHOCK

We're excited to announce that we're planning a Sticker Shock campaign focused on nicotine products in the near future. This initiative places attention-grabbing warning stickers on nicotine items to remind retailers, adults, and community members about the risks these products pose to youth.



## DRUG TAKE BACK

Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> was Drug Take Back Day! We tabled at Cranston Senior Center the Thursday before to educate and let everyone know there is a drop box they can bring their medication to year round. In addition to that box, there are also ones at the Cranston Police Station and the CVS off of Reservoir Ave. 89.5 pounds of medications were collected! Thank you to all who promoted this event and looking forward to April!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up to date by following us on social media!

Facebook: Cranston Substance Prevention Coalition

Instagram: @cranston\_satf

TikTok: cran\_covprevention

## THC IN LIQUOR STORES

You may start seeing THC-infused seltzers appearing in some liquor stores across the state. As access to these products expands, it's important to stay informed and aware. Our coalition remains concerned about the ease of access for these seltzers in liquor stores. In order to get any cannabis or THC related product from a dispensary, your ID is checked several times and this is often not the case with liquor stores. There is also little regulation and enforcement at this time, so we are very concerned with teens being able to access and purchase these products. Currently, at the direction of our regional director, we are doing environmental scans around Cranston to see how stores are displaying and marketing these seltzers. We hope the State and legislators take this issue seriously and look to resolve the gaps in our laws, regulations, and ordinances.