



**E-Newsletter on Drug Abuse**

**ISSUE: 6-2016**

**With national, state and  
local information on Drug Abuse**

## A Message from Congressman Tom Reed

"We care about the families and individuals impacted by the opioid epidemic. It is only right that our local communities have the resources necessary to prevent opioid abuse and treat those struggling with drug addiction. To solve these problems, we must listen to the people who are on the front lines. That is why we recently hosted a roundtable discussion with local parents, teachers, first responders and community health leaders to discuss potential solutions to this devastating epidemic.

We are also working hard in Washington, D.C. to turn those local solutions into commonsense policy proposals that combat opioid abuse and heroin addiction. Specifically, we recently supported the bipartisan Opioid Program Evaluation Act (OPEN) Act, which will make sure our taxpayers' money is being used to support effective programs combating opioid abuse. We've also supported the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016, which will streamline the process for EMT certification to make it easier for veterans to become certified and help address EMS personnel shortages.

We stand with our law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel and so many others that are on the front lines of this problem and we thank you for your work. Without your efforts, we could not hope to win this battle against opioid abuse." Tom Reed (NY-23)

If you or someone you know is struggling with opioid abuse or drug addiction, please seek help by calling 1-877-8-HOPENY.

## Council Encourages Parents and Community to Prevent Underage Drinking

Of all the alcohol-related fatalities involving teens each year, about one-third of them take place during April, May and June - prom and graduation season. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics that means approximately 1,000 children under the age 21 die each year in preventable tragedies while celebrating their high school proms and graduations. Therefore, efforts to prevent underage drinking, particularly at prom/graduation time, are critical, says Tim VanDamme Executive Director of the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes.

The Council wants families to enjoy a healthy and safe family oriented summer. Often parents and other adults are often not aware of the dangers of alcohol use, especially by youth, or that it is a crime to give or knowingly allow an alcoholic beverage to be given to a person (not your own child) less than 21 years old. For providing alcohol to a minor, a person or host of a party or event can be charged with the crime of Unlawfully Dealing with a Child in the First Degree or Endangering the Welfare of a Child, which are both Class A misdemeanors. The punishment for each conviction can carry penalties of jail time, probation, and fines. Notably, these criminal charges can be filed against a person regardless of whether or not there was permission of a parent of other minor(s) involved.

In addition to the criminal penalties, there may also be significant potential civil liabilities for serving alcohol to youth where a host can subsequently be sued for monetary damages in a personal injury lawsuit. Serving even one alcoholic drink to an underage person puts the host in a dangerous position where they may be held liable for any accident or other wrongdoing as a result of intoxication or impairment. First, then, the Council recommends that for graduation parties, picnics or other summer events that parents strive to keep them alcohol and drug free.

In concert with local coalitions to limit accessibility by youth to alcohol, the Council recently completed a schedule of alcohol compliance checks at retail establishments throughout the 5-county region of Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne and Yates

Counties. The compliance checks were performed at 217 locations in the region and saw a successful completion rate of 88%, meaning that nearly 9 of 10 establishments checked did not sell alcohol to minors. The program has been conducted in Wayne County for more than 10 years and was recently introduced to the 5-county region the Council supports.

Mike Ballard, Environmental Prevention Specialist for the Council on Alcoholism stated that the alcohol sales checks are designed as an important educational program to help reduce sales of alcohol to youth, especially important during the graduation season as outdoor celebrations and activities are on the rise. The program has been a great tool to combat underage alcohol sales. It heightens awareness for retailers and offers responsible beverage trainings, and it also recognizes and thanks those who do work to monitor and enforce laws on behalf of the health of our youth.

Summer is a time for family oriented fun and activities, but the primary way to keep summer activities healthy is to keep them alcohol and drug free. For additional information please contact the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes at (315) 789-0310 or visit our website at <http://councilonalcoholismfingerlakes.org/>



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## Buprenorphine Implant to Treat Opioid Addiction Approved by FDA

The Food and Drug Administration has approved Probuphine, an implant that contains the opioid addiction treatment buprenorphine. The drug has been available in oral form for 14 years, CNBC reports.

Probuphine consists of four small stick-like implants that are inserted in the upper arm, during a doctor's visit that typically lasts less than 15 minutes. The implant remains in the arm for six months, and is removed by the doctor, the article notes. It will be available only by prescription.

[Read More:](#)

<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/buprenorphine-implant-treat-opioid-addiction-approved-fda/>

## About 1.2 million college students drink alcohol on an average day

On an average day last year, 1.2 million full-time college students were drinking alcohol and more than 700,000 were smoking pot, according to a new report.

A Day in the Life of College Students Aged 18 to 22: Substance Use Facts, a report by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), uses national data to offer insights into the use of alcohol and illicit drugs among America's nine million full-time college students.



[Read More:](#)

<http://college.usatoday.com/2016/05/27/about-1-2-million-college-students-drink-alcohol-on-an-average-day/>

## Senators: Allow Doctors to Treat 500 Patients at a Time With Buprenorphine

A group of senators is urging the Department of Health and Human Services to raise the number of patients a doctor can treat with the opioid addiction medication buprenorphine to 500, The Huffington Post reports.

Currently, federal regulations limit the number of patients a doctor can treat with buprenorphine to 30 in the first year they are certified to prescribe the drug, and 100 in subsequent years. Earlier this year, HHS proposed changing the rules to allow certified doctors to treat as many as 200 patients at a time in their third year of prescribing, the article notes.

[Read More:](#)

<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/senators-allow-doctors-treat-500-patients-time-buprenorphine/>

## Family Rejection May Raise Risk of Substance Abuse, Suicide in Transgender Individuals



Rejection by family members may increase the risk of substance abuse and suicide attempts in transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, a new study suggests.

"People should understand that families matter," researcher Sarit Golub of Hunter College and the Graduate Center of City University of New York told Reuters. "When people are rejected by their loved ones, it can have serious emotional and social consequences."

[Read More:](#)

<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/family-rejection-may-raise-risk-substance-abuse-suicide-transgender-individuals/>

# On World No Tobacco Day, Tobacco Action Coalition of the Finger Lakes Urges Public to Take Action to Protect Children from Tobacco Marketing

**SeenEnoughTobacco.org**

New statewide #SeenEnoughTobacco campaign aimed at hard-hitting tobacco marketing affecting children

Finger Lakes, N.Y. - Youth in this region have seen enough tobacco marketing, according to Tobacco Action Coalition of the Finger Lakes, and it's time to protect them and put an end to youth smoking and other tobacco use. To safeguard children from the billions of dollars of vivid tobacco marketing in places where they can see it, the #SeenEnoughTobacco campaign launches regionally and statewide on World No Tobacco Day, May 31.

The campaign takes a hard look at what's happening with tobacco marketing and children through the use of video, social media (#SeenEnoughTobacco), digital advertising and a "Jack and Jill (and Tobacco)" storybook that describes children's encounters with tobacco marketing in convenience stores. Provocative images creatively combine cigarettes with common children's items, like crayons and birthday cake, in scenarios intended to grab the attention of community members and parents and prompt their outrage. Viewers will be compelled to learn what they can do to protect children from tobacco marketing at the campaign's new website [www.SeenEnoughTobacco.org](http://www.SeenEnoughTobacco.org).

In New York State, the average age of a new smoker is 13 years old,<sup>[i]</sup> and 90 percent of adult smokers say they first tried smoking by age 18.<sup>[ii]</sup> The U.S. Surgeon General calls smoking a "pediatric epidemic" and says, "Advertising and promotional activities by tobacco companies have been shown to cause the onset and continuation of smoking among adolescents and young adults."<sup>[iii]</sup> Even with all of this data, research shows stores popular among adolescents contain almost three times more tobacco marketing materials compared to other stores in the same community.<sup>[iv]</sup>

"If the tobacco industry ISN'T marketing to youth, why are they spending billions of dollars in places that kids visit regularly?" asked Anthony Billoni from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. "Every day in New York State, the tobacco industry spends more than half a million dollars to market its products in places where children can see them using bright, bold colors and large signs. Whether you're a parent or not, smoker or non-smoker, we can all agree that tobacco marketing's influence on our children is outrageous. It's our responsibility as a community to protect our children from tobacco marketing and put an end to this pediatric epidemic."

Additional findings on tobacco industry marketing and the effect of smoking on children and young adolescents indicate:

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Read More: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2014.pdf>

Read More: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>

Read More: <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/13/3/315.full>

Read

More: [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco\\_control/reports/statshots/volume9/n2\\_youth\\_exposure\\_to\\_tobacco\\_marketing.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume9/n2_youth_exposure_to_tobacco_marketing.pdf)

Read More: <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/03/ftc-releases-reports-2013-cigarette-smokeless-tobacco-sales>

Read More: <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/03/ftc-releases-reports-2013-cigarette-smokeless-tobacco-sales>

[i] Monitoring the Future Study, <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2014.pdf>

[ii] A Report of the <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/13/3/315.full> Surgeon General "The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress" 2014, p. 12, 696, 708: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>

[iii] A Report of the Surgeon General: Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults "Executive Summary" 2012, p. 1, 3: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/exec-summary.pdf>

[iv] Henriksen L, Feighery E C, Schleicher N C, Haladjian H H, Fortmann S P. Tobacco Control "Reaching youth at the point of sale: cigarette marketing is more prevalent in stores where adolescents shop frequently" Published online First: May 23, 2004 doi:10.1136/tc.2003.006577 <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/13/3/315.full>

- The tobacco industry spends billions of dollars on promotions, in places where children can see them.
  - More than 92 percent of high school students reported awareness of pro-tobacco marketing in 2014.<sup>[i]</sup> This includes 85 percent awareness of advertising in the retail environment.

- The U.S. tobacco industry spent an estimated \$9.5 billion on advertising and promotion of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in 2013.[jii] This includes nearly \$220 million annually in New York State, or nearly \$602,000 a day.[jiii]
- Smoking at an early age is likely to have a detrimental impact on the health of young people.
  - An "earlier age of onset of smoking marks the beginning of exposure to the many harmful components of smoking. This is during an age range when growth is not complete and susceptibility to the damaging effects of tobacco smoke may be enhanced," according to the U.S. Surgeon General.[iv]
- There is also sufficient evidence from the U.S. Surgeon General to infer a causal relationship between active smoking and:
  - Impaired lung growth, respiratory symptoms and asthma-related symptoms during childhood and adolescence
  - Early onset lung function decline during late adolescence and early adulthood.
- 5.6 million children under the age of 18 who are alive today will die prematurely as a result of smoking, including 280,000 children in New York State alone.

#### About Tobacco Action Coalition of the Finger Lakes

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Tobacco Control funds Tobacco Action Coalition of the Finger Lakes to increase support for New York State's tobacco-free norm through youth action and community engagement. Efforts are evidence-based, policy-driven, and cost-effective approaches that decrease youth tobacco use, motivate adult smokers to quit, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

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[j] New York Department of Health Bureau of Tobacco Control "Youth Exposure to Tobacco Marketing Remains High" 2016, [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco\\_control/reports/statshots/volume9/n2\\_youth\\_exposure\\_to\\_tobacco\\_marketing.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume9/n2_youth_exposure_to_tobacco_marketing.pdf)

[jii] Federal Trade Commission "FTC Releases Reports on 2013 Cigarette and Smokeless Tobacco Sales and Marketing Expenditures" 2016, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/03/ftc-releases-reports-2013-cigarette-smokeless-tobacco-sales>

[jiii] Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/new\\_york](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/new_york)

[iv] A Report of the Surgeon General: Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults "The Health Consequences of Tobacco Use Among Young People" 2012, p. 16, 22: [http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/sgr\\_2012%20chapt2.pdf](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/sgr_2012%20chapt2.pdf)

## Opioids: Safe for older people with arthritis?

*Can older people safely take opioids, such as hydrocodone (Vicodin) and oxycodone (Percocet), to manage arthritis pain?*

An opioid isn't the first choice for treating chronic conditions such as arthritis. Aside from cancer pain, opioids more commonly are reserved for short-term pain relief, such as after injuries or surgeries. When other means of relieving arthritis pain haven't helped, opioids may be prescribed. But safety and effectiveness are issues.

Opioids may not be helpful. Even when they are, people often develop a tolerance to opioid pain medications over time, so the effect of the medication may diminish after taking the same dosage for several months.

Opioids have risks that may be particularly serious for older people, including:

- Sedation. Opioids can cause sleepiness or mental clouding, which can dramatically increase the risk of fractures caused by falls.
- Disordered breathing. Higher doses of opioids can result in slower or shallow breathing patterns, especially during sleep.
- Heart problems. Some opioids increase the risk of heart attack or heart failure.
- Constipation. Many older adults are already dealing with this problem and opioids generally just make it worse.

With

Paul Y. Takahashi, M.D.

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/osteoarthritis/expert-answers/opioids/faq-20057851/>

## Drug lord Palma arrested in Mexico on return from US

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Drug lord Hector "El Guero" Palma, one of the founders of the Sinaloa Cartel, returned to his native Mexico after serving almost a decade in a U.S. prison and was immediately transported to another maximum-security lockup where he will await trial for two murders.

U.S. authorities handed over Palma in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas, according to a statement from the Mexican Attorney General's Office. Palma had been released from federal prison in California on Friday and put into the custody of U.S. immigration officials.

[Read More:](#)

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/drug-lord-palma-arrested-in-mexico-on-return-from-us/ar-AAh6fsQ>

## This stealthy weed vape looks just like your car keys

**All around you, stoners are hiding in plain sight.**

A new product from Vaped Vaporizers takes covert marijuana use to a whole new level of secrecy: A compact vaporizer that looks exactly like the key chain for a set of car keys.

The Vaped Fob is a leaf vaporizer; this means you can put marijuana flower in it, as opposed to concentrates. It has six heat settings and warms up in about 30 seconds.

[Read More:](#)

<http://mashable.com/2016/06/15/stealthy-weed-vape/#zAaHmzPMPqO>

## Sharing painkillers with friends helps drive the opioid epidemic, study finds



As lawmakers grapple with how best to combat the nation's prescription painkiller abuse crisis, a recent survey is shedding light on how patients who get these medications—drugs such as OxyContin, methadone or Vicodin—sometimes share or mishandle them. According to findings detailed in a research letter published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine, about one in five people who were prescribed the highly addictive drugs reported having shared their meds with a friend, often to help the other person manage pain. Most people with a prescription either had or expected to have extra pills left after finishing treatment. "We've all been saying leftover medications are an issue," said Wilson Compton, deputy director of the federal National Institute on Drug Abuse, who wasn't involved with the study. "Now I have a number that is concerning."

The survey was sent to a random sample of almost 5,000 people in 2015. Of the recipients, about 1,000 had used prescription painkillers in the past year. Almost all of the people in this group responded to the survey.

[Read More:](#)

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/sharing-painkillers-with-friends-helps-drive-the-opioid-epidemic-study-finds/>

## Racketeering Kingpin Pleads Guilty in Manhattan Federal Court

**Manuel Geovanny Rodriguez-Perez admits responsibility for nine murders, 10 attempted murders, marijuana trafficking, money laundering, and other charges**

JUN 07 (NEW YORK) - Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today a plea of guilty by Manuel Geovanny Rodriguez-Perez, a/k/a "Shorty," to his role as a leader of a massive and violent racketeering organization (the "Rodriguez Enterprise") whose members sold large quantities of marijuana, murdered and attempted to murder nearly 20 people, transported and laundered millions of dollars, obstructed justice and committed perjury, and engaged in firearms offenses. Rodriguez-Perez was previously charged in connection with "Operation Green Venom," a coordinated multi-agency investigation and first announced in October 2010. In a proceeding today before U.S. District Judge Laura T. Swain, Rodriguez-Perez entered a plea of guilty to one count of racketeering conspiracy, and accepted responsibility for dozens of illegal acts associated with that conspiracy, including nine murders and 10 attempted murders in the United States and the Dominican Republic.

[Read More:](#)

<https://www.dea.gov/divisions/nyc/2016/nyc060716a.shtml>

## Ohio governor signs bill legalizing medical marijuana

(Reuters) - Republican Ohio Governor John Kasich on Wednesday signed a bill legalizing marijuana use for medical purposes under certain circumstances, his office said.

Over the last few years, state legislatures and voters in the United States have been much more receptive to making marijuana legal for medical purposes, and to a lesser extent, recreational use.

The Ohio legislature approved the measure in May.

Some 24 states and Washington D.C. currently allow some type of medical marijuana use, and just a handful of states allow its recreational use. It remains illegal on the federal level.

Kasich, who earlier this year dropped out of the U.S. presidential race, signed the bill but provided no statement on Wednesday. The Ohio legislation only allows patients with specific medical conditions to use an oil, edible, tincture or vapor form of marijuana prescribed by a physician licensed in the state, starting in 2017.

Read More:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/ohio-governor-signs-bill-legalizing-medical-marijuana-234112847.html>

## Quote of the Month:

*"Do Something Nice for Someone Else  
and Don't Tell Anyone About It"*

Remember:

Getting Drunk is Never Safe....

Getting High is Never Smart !!!

Stay **Clean -- Stay Sober -- Stay Healthy**

-Tim VanDamme -  
Executive Director  
M.S., CASAC

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