



Shining a Light

Welcome to the first monthly edition of Spotlight on Prevention! The purpose of this newsletter is to strengthen connections between families, youth, and community partners, as well as highlight events, programs, and opportunities across our region.



Who We Are, What We Do



The Blackstone Valley Prevention Coalition (BVPC) is a regional public health organization comprised of community coalition members that come together with a mission to develop, implement, and advocate for effective community-based prevention initiatives. In 2025, we celebrated our 40th anniversary.

We work with all age groups from youth through older adults in promoting health, wellness, and awareness about factors related to substance abuse, mental health, violence, and other influences on individuals in our community. The communities in our region include Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket.

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What is Prevention?

Prevention is an important segment of the continuum of care for behavioral health services which also includes intervention, treatment and recovery.

Prevention focuses on strategies that provide people with facts, knowledge, and skills to reduce or stop the development of negative health behaviors or substance use (alcohol, drugs) disorders. Strategies focus on reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors associated with negative outcomes, with the goal of preventing them from occurring at all. These strategies include information dissemination, prevention education, alternative activities, community based process, environmental strategies (policy, enforcement), and problem identification and referral.

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) was created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help communities plan, implement, and sustain effective prevention efforts. The SPF includes five steps: Assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Read More! [epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

Opioid Awareness

A very important part of our region's work is to increase community awareness and knowledge about opioids. One of the strategies that we use is an ad campaign. Our latest ad focuses on prescription opioids and addiction.



**Opioids,
Easy to get into...
Hard to get out**

Learn more about prescription opioids and addiction.

<http://blackstonevalleypreventioncoalition.com/opioids>

  

Learn More! [epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

Project Sticker Shock

Project Sticker Shock is a nationwide public awareness campaign focused on preventing underage drinking by reminding adults not to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Coalition staff and teens work with local retailers to place stickers and bottle tags on alcohol products that may appeal to underage youth.



Park Ave Pizza
Woonsocket



Payamps Liquor Store
Central Falls



North Smithfield Liquors
North Smithfield

During the 2025 holiday season, our municipal coalitions partnered with local retailers and restaurants. Together they distributed 2,000 stickers/tags on alcohol products and pizza boxes. Participating retailers and restaurants were:

Burrillville

Chum's Spirits

Central Falls

ABC Liquors

Central Warehouse Liquors

Payamps Liquors

Lincoln

One Stop Liquors

North Smithfield

North Smithfield Liquors

Woonsocket

Olly's Pizzeria

Park Ave Pizza

Emerging Drug Trends

EMERGING DRUG TRENDS

FEBRUARY 26, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Officer Jermaine Galloway

Join the Blackstone Valley Prevention Coalition for a FREE webinar with Officer Jermaine Galloway aka "Tall Cop" to learn about emerging drug trends in Rhode Island and nationally such as Kratom, 7-OH, THC powder, THC infused products, and others.

Who should attend: prevention specialists, educators, counselors, SROs, law enforcement, staff of youth serving organizations, treatment providers, coaches, coalition members, and parents.

To Register: Click on link or Scan QR Code
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000>

Join us on Thursday, February 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for our

Register Now! [epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



The month of February is dedicated to Teen Dating Violence Awareness. During this time, it's important to promote and demonstrate safe and healthy relationships for youth. By learning prevention methods and encouraging open conversations, we can decrease violent domestic relationships and create safe spaces for survivors.

Resources

RICADV [epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

Family Crisis Centers
[epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

Sojourner
[epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]

love is respect
[epo6q9hbb.cc.rs6.net]



In need of food, housing, rental assistance, etc? Click the email button below and get connected with Accessing Home resources.



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