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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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LOCAL YOUTHS ORGANIZE NATIONAL DRUG FACTS WEEK ACTIVITIES TO EDUCATE OTHERS

FREDERICK, MD – The week of January 23, 2017 marks the seventh annual [“National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week \(NDAFW\)”](#) – an opportunity that links students with scientists and other experts to share facts and dispel myths about drugs and alcohol. Launched in 2010 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, this week-long observance is designed to stimulate educational events in communities to educate teens what science has taught us about drug use and addiction.

The Frederick County Health Department’s “On The Mark” Adolescent Clubhouse will participate in activities during this week to help “our clubhouse teens better understand the potentially devastating health consequences that can accompany illegal drug and alcohol use”, states Jeffery Thompson, Director of the “On The Mark” Adolescent Clubhouse. “This is an interactive way for teens to learn about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use from credible scientists”, Thompson continues.

Results from the 2014 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), administered to

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middle and high school students across Maryland, indicated mostly downward trends in alcohol, tobacco and drug use by Frederick County students. Survey highlights from Frederick County students include:

- middle and high school students reported downward trends in underage and binge drinking behaviors from 2013 to 2014;
- middle and high school students reported downwards trends in traditional tobacco use (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless) from 2013 to 2014; and
- middle and high school students reported downward trends in the illicit use of marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, and prescription medications from 2013 to 2014.

However, increased awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes, heroin and prescription medication misuse is needed to address the growing concerns with these substances. By participating in NDAFW, students will be exposed to the scientific facts about all drugs, will be better prepared to make informed decisions about drug use, and will have the facts to influence others to make better decisions. Resources include a live chat with scientists, access to educational materials and videos, and contests support this prevention effort.

Additionally, monthly informative messages about alcohol, tobacco and drugs will be shared with parents and students – part of a collaborative effort Frederick County Public Schools and the [Frederick County Health Department](#). “We are excited to collaborate with Frederick County Public Schools to educate both parents and students about the dangers of drug use and to support all toward a drug-free lifestyle”, states Andrea Walker, Director of the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Frederick County Health Department.

For more information about [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week](#), the “[On The Mark](#)” Adolescent Clubhouse, or the services and programs of the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS or call 301-600-1755.

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