

# NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC TRIANGLE DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

## NDAFW

### National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week

## DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Active-duty and retired members of the armed forces also face substance use challenges. More than 1 in 10 Veterans seeking care at the U.S. Veteran's Administration meet the criteria to be diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

The stress of training, deployment, returning home and other facets of military life and culture may account for some differences in substance use between military service members and civilians.

Those with multiple deployments, combat exposure and combat-related injuries are at the greatest risk of developing a substance use disorder. Service members can face dishonorable discharge and even criminal prosecution for a positive drug test, which can discourage illicit drug use.

Once active duty personnel leave the military some protective influences are gone, and substance use issues become of greater concern. Half of military personnel have reported that they believe seeking help for mental health issues would negatively affect their military career.

[Click Here](#)  
for Military  
OneSource  
prevention  
and care  
resources

**NATIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL FACTS WEEK IS MARCH 15 - 21**

## PREVENTION & EDUCATION

This committee will host a webinar facilitated by Committee Chair, Breonna Wilkes, titled **Impacts on the Brain: Alcohol & Other Substances on March 18, 2026** from **2:30 - 3:30p**. This is also a free webinar that is open to the public. Register to attend this webinar by [clicking here](#). For your knowledge, based on preliminary data from 2024 (as of January 2026) there were 1,403 drug overdose deaths among Virginia residents, a 43% decrease from 2023. Data for 2024 and 2025 are not final and are subject to change. A full data set is available on [Virginia Open Data Portal](#).

## POLICY & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Legislation to create a legal, adult-use cannabis market in Virginia passed both chambers in the General Assembly on Tuesday, February 17th. The House passed [House Bill 642](#), sponsored by Del. Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax, by a 65-32 vote. Hours later, the Senate approved [Senate Bill 542](#), introduced by Sen. Lashrecse Aird, D-Petersburg, by a narrow 21-19 margin after an initial failed vote. The House proposal (HB 642) targets a November 1, 2026, start, while the Senate proposal (SB 542) sets a January 1, 2027, start. Proposals include a state tax rate of 12.875% to 15% on retail sales, with an additional 3% potential local option tax. A maximum of 350 retail licenses would be issued statewide. Cultivation facilities are capped at 450 through 2028.

## YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The HTDPC is looking for young adults **ages 18-25** to complete the **2026 Virginia Young Adult Survey (YAS)**. This survey is led by Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) in partnership with Omni Institute.

The survey is completely anonymous and asks about topics such as gambling, substance use, and mental health. After taking the **15 minute** survey participants may be eligible for a small gift upon completion. The survey runs from **February 3 - April 30**. Text **"Virginia"** to **844-484-7601** to get the survey link.

## TRAUMA & RESILIENCY

The Trauma & Resiliency Committee will meet again on **March 26, 2026 at 11 am**. Please join [this meeting](#) to discuss ideas for how to acknowledge historical and ongoing trauma, and pathways to healing and resilience.

If you would like to volunteer for **Resilience Week** and be part of the planning committee, join this committee, or if you have any questions please contact Committee Chairs, [Lynette Diaz](#) or [Michelle Justiniano](#) for more information about this committee.



## HISTORIC TRIANGLE DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

## COMMUNITY CORNER

Our HTDPC Coordinator attended the CADCA Leadership Forum and participated in a number of workshops, gathered new resources, and met with local legislators! The HTDPC will be participating in several upcoming community events. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, you can do so by [clicking this link](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**General Membership** meetings will now begin at **9:00am** and will be **hybrid!** [Click here to](#) register and receive the hybrid meeting link.

Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia has approved an additional \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 to **support the prevention and treatment of family violence** in Virginia. **Awards of up to \$10,000** will be made to eligible programs for direct support for individuals and/or families served or support for direct services staff. This is a first come, first served basis in two cohorts of 10 awards of up to \$10,000. For more information on eligibility and the application process [click here](#).

## Upcoming Meetings

### Trauma & Resiliency Committee Meeting

March 26, 2026 | 11a - 12:30p ([Join Here](#))

### Prevention & Education Committee Meeting

March 17, 2026 | 9 - 10a ([Join Here](#))

### Youth & Family Engagement Committee Meeting

March 19, 2026 | 10:30a - 12p ([Join Here](#))

### General Membership Meeting

March 23, 2026 | 9 - 10:30a ([Join Here](#))

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