



The Jeff Davis Substance Abuse Coalition

January 2023 Newsletter

About Our Coalition

The purpose of the Jeff Davis Substance Abuse Coalition (JDSAC) is to address youth and adult substance abuse through a collaborative, community-wide approach that increases recognition, education, prevention, treatment, and recovery to improve the quality of life for individuals and families of Jeff Davis County. JDSAC meets the last Tuesday of each month. If you're interested in joining JDSAC, meet us at our monthly meetings!

Upcoming Events

- Jeff Davis Family Connection Meeting
January 19th @ 12:00 pm at the Big House
25 E Coffee St, Hazlehurst, GA 31539
- JDSAC meeting
January 31st @ 12:00 pm
25 E Coffee St, Hazlehurst, GA 31539.



Local Resources in Jeff Davis County

Local Treatment Services

- Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) is offering mental health and substance use treatment services at its office in Hazlehurst on **Fridays from 8:30am-4:30pm**. Appointments and walk-ins are welcome. The office is located in the Doctor's Office Building, 11 Cross St., Hazlehurst. **To make an appointment, call 912-705-2273.**

Local Dropbox for Unused Medication

- In the lobby of the Jeff Davis Sheriff's Department, there is a dropbox for expired or unused prescription drugs! The address for the Jeff Davis Sheriff's Department: **15 Public Safety Dr, Hazlehurst, GA 31539**



Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

For more information, and to apply to the ACP, please visit:
<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.



Jeff Davis Food Pantries

Hazlehurst Church of God

Address: 77 S Cromartie St, Hazlehurst, GA 31539

Contact: 912-375-7774

Distribution Day and Times: Wednesday 5:30 - until food runs out

No requirements. Food is first come, first serve.

Helping Hands Food Ministry

Address: 61 N Tallahassee St, Hazlehurst, GA 31539 Suite 4

Contact: 912-551-9170

Distribution Days and Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m

Requirements: Must be a resident of Jeff Davis county, have ID present, and verify address.



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What are Alcopops?

“Alcopop” is a term coined by the popular media to describe bottled alcoholic beverages that resemble sweet drinks such as soda and lemonade. It is believed that the sweetness of alcopops appeals to younger drinkers more readily than the taste of wine or beer, and may be a contributing factor in overall underage binge drinking.

Alcopops typically have an alcohol content of 3% to 7% and often come with fruit or malt flavors, bright colors, and lots of sugar. They are attractive to young people because they do not taste like alcohol and are marketed as tasty, fun, and youthful. As a result, many teenagers are drawn to drinking these beverages.

When youth begin drinking underage, and illegally, there is a higher risk for them to develop an alcohol addiction which can have a huge impact on their lives in the future.

It is important to know about alcopops and how attractive they are to youth so that parents and caregivers can help to prevent their children from getting hurt or getting addicted to alcohol at a young age. This can impact various aspects of a teenager's life, including their education, social life, mental health, physical health, neurological development, and internal organ health, particularly the liver.

Why Are Alcopops a Danger to Youth?

When it comes to alcopops, a few things sets them apart. They are easy to drink because they do not taste like alcohol and they are also typically cheap when compared to other types of alcohol, so teens find them accessible and easy to afford. You can quickly and easily drink several alcopops without realizing it, thus getting very intoxicated quickly. This is very common in youth who are underage drinking because they are not familiar with how alcohol affects their bodies.

Talking to your teen about alcohol and inviting them to ask questions and learn about the dangers in a safe and supportive environment can help them avoid engaging in risky behaviors.

For teenagers who are suffering from alcoholism, reach out to a trusted adult support system. You may get in trouble for underage drinking, but you can overcome it if you suffer from addiction. Talk to your doctor, parents, a trusted relative, teacher, or a friend's parent who can help you figure out how to navigate your situation.

Stevens, A. (2022). Alcopops: Can they be a danger to youth? Retrieved from, <https://www.oceanrecovery.com/addiction-blog/alcopops/>

Cervical Health Awareness Month

Cervical cancer was once a leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. Today, screening and prevention have greatly reduced the impact of this form of cancer. Still, nearly 14,100 women in the United States received a diagnosis of cervical cancer and nearly 4,300 died from the disease last year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Increasing screening and prevention are key components of the effort to eradicate cervical cancer. Since almost all cases of the disease are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, vaccines that protect against the virus could prevent the vast majority of cases. Also, regular pap screenings can catch any abnormalities and lead to the treatment of the disease at the precancerous stage.

For more information on Cervical Health, please visit: <https://www.aacr.org/patients-caregivers/awareness-months/cervical-cancer-awareness-month>



Check out our website and follow us on Facebook!



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