



Operation Our Town Reporter

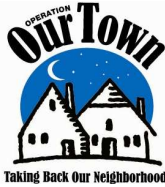
a monthly newsletter by our volunteers to our volunteers
about our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA



Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2010

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

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Prescription for Danger

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

- More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana
- One-third of all new abusers of prescription drugs in 2006 were 12- to 17-year-olds.
- The majority of teens who abuse prescription drugs get them easily and for free, primarily from friends and relatives
- The prescription drugs most commonly abused by teens are:
 - o Painkillers – prescribed to treat pain
 - o Depressants – such as sleeping pills
 - o Anti-anxiety drugs – those used to treat ADHD

Pain relievers like Vicodin and OxyContin are the prescription drugs most commonly abused by teens.

- Some teens use prescription and OTC (over-the-counter) drugs with alcohol or other drugs, which could lead to dangerous drug interactions and other serious medical consequences



Over the Counter Drugs

Teens are also abusing some OTC drugs, primarily cough and cold remedies that contain dextromethorphan (DXM), a cough suppressant, to get high. Products with DXM include Nyquil®, Coricidan®, & Robitussin®, among others.

A Dangerous High

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of poisonings and even deaths associated with the abuse of prescription drugs. Many teens believe the myth that these drugs are a safe way to get high. However, when they are abused, prescription drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs.

Free and Easy to Find

Teens are abusing prescription drugs because they are widely available, free or inexpensive, and they believe they are not as risky as street drugs. The majority of teens who abuse these products say they get them for free, usually from friends and relatives, and often without their knowledge. Because these drugs are so readily available, teens who otherwise wouldn't touch street drugs might abuse prescription drugs.

Parents are Unaware and Underestimate Their Influence

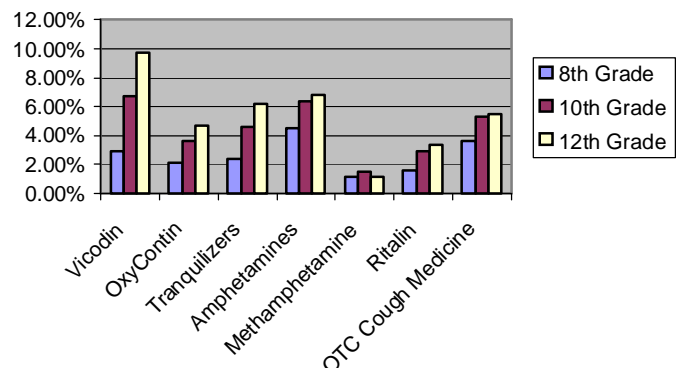
Many parents are not aware of the dangers of teen prescription drug abuse. Teens say their parents are not discussing these dangers with them, even though research shows that parental disapproval is a powerful way to

keep teens from using drugs. And parents are in a unique position to dramatically reduce teen access to prescription drugs because they are found in the home.

Reprint of article from
the Office of National
Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the
President of the U.S.
www.theantidrug.com

Rate of Past-Year Use in 2008

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/infofacts/PainMed.html>



MISSION

Facilitating partnerships between community and business to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.

Our Partners & Friends

[Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities](#)
[Crime Solvers of Blair County](#)
[Pennsylvania Gang Investigators Association](#)
[United Way of Blair County](#)

Volunteer Update

Volunteers play an important role in Operation Our Town. They participate in community events to help us reach more people. Volunteers also serve on Roundtables, the Steering Committee & the Board.

Volunteers provide valuable services such as artwork & design, software development and more.

Volunteers prove that when people get together to work for a common cause, great things can and will happen. This is how we will be able to take back our neighborhoods from illegal drugs and crime.

[CLICK HERE to register as an Operation Our Town Volunteer](#)



To serve on an Operation Our Town Roundtable, to become a Committed Business or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact Shawna Hoover by [email](#) or call 814-296-8730.

Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Wed. HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting) 7:00pm Blair Co Courthouse Jury Room

1/20 Marketing Roundtable	4:00pm OOT Office
1/21 CJAB Meeting	11:45am Blair County Courthouse
1/22 Health & Welfare Council Meeting	8:00am ARC of Blair County
1/26 Myth Busters: Treatment Public Forum	7:00pm Hollidaysburg YMCA
1/28 Pharmacy Roundtable	7:15am OOT Office
2/01 Booker T. Washington Meeting	4:00pm Community Action Agency
2/06 CBRC's Community Classic Dinner	6:00pm The Bavarian Hall, Altoona, PA
2/11 The Chamber Breakfast Club	7:45am The Casino at Lakemont Park
2/11 Faith Based Roundtable	1:30pm St. Luke's Episcopal Church
2/17 Crime Solvers Meeting	8:00am Park Hills Country Club
2/17 Marketing Roundtable	4:00pm OOT Office
2/18 CJAB Meeting	11:45am Blair County Courthouse

***OOT Meetings:** For more information about Operation Our Town meetings, contact Shawna Hoover at oot@lsfiore.com or call 296-8730.

CAPTURED!



Matthew Alan Maxwell



Nicholas Roy Allen

Operation Our Town's Most Wanted List

Two more individuals have been arrested that were named on the list. Both men were arrested on January 5, 2010. Maxwell's charges included burglary and Allen's charges included possession with intent to deliver and criminal conspiracy. Once again, we have worked together to bring about these arrests. Let's continue the fight!

December Drug Bust Nabs 15

On Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, agents from the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, assisted by members of the Blair County Drug Task Force, conducted a raid in the Blair County area. A total of 15 subjects were arrested on drug charges ranging from cocaine, crack, marijuana, heroin, and psychedelic mushrooms to prescription drugs such as Suboxone and Oxycodone. Arrest warrants were also issued for another 15 subjects.



Blair County DA Rich Consiglio, Randy Feathers from PA Attorney General's Office and members of the Blair County Drug Task Force

[Click here to read the whole story](#)

Operation Our Town Receives Grant



Congressman Bill Shuster secured \$300,000 in the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process for Operation Our Town. The grant will be used by Operation Our Town to facilitate partnerships between community and business leaders to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention strategies.

Upcoming Events

Myth Busters:

A Public Forum on
Treatment for Substance
Abuse/Addiction at the
Hollidaysburg YMCA
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Sponsored by:
The Human Services and
Faith-based Communities
Roundtables of
Operation Our Town
and the Hollidaysburg
Ministerium

Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission's Community Classic Dinner

Sat., Feb. 6, 2010 at 6 p.m.
The Bavarian Hall, Altoona, PA

Proceeds benefit the Booker T.
Washington Revitalization
Project and the CBRC
Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by U.S. Foodservice™



Operation Our Town
Year in Review
At Blair County's
Chamber of Commerce
Breakfast Club in
The Casino at
Lakemont Park
February 11, 2010 7:45 a.m.

The world is a dangerous place,
not because of those who do
evil, but because of those who
look on and do nothing.
-Albert Einstein

BE ON THE LOOKOUT...

An Amtran bus was outfitted with a new look - a bus wrap featuring Operation Our Town and the tip line number for Push Out The Pusher.



The Marketing Roundtable did an awesome job in designing this moving billboard and we are excited to see the results.

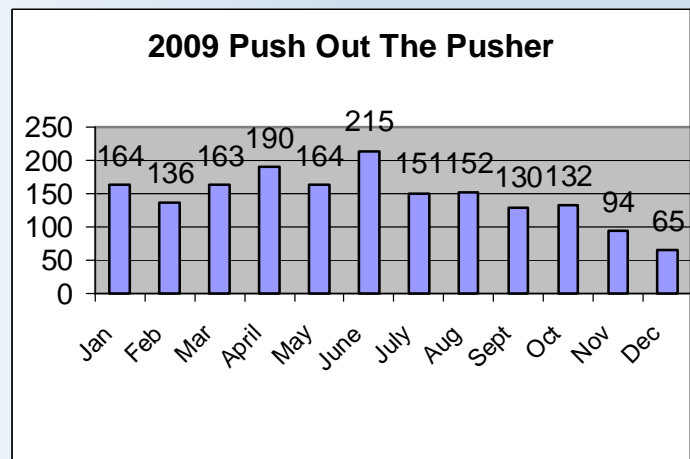


Information that comes into the tip line is documented on a regular basis and constantly fed to law enforcement agencies. It is important to note that these tips rarely result in a quick arrest. In most cases, tips help build strong cases over a period of time.



In 2008 a total of 1,419 calls were received.

The Push Out The Pusher tip line saw an increase in calls during 2009. The total for the year was 1,756 calls. Of those calls, 1,183 came in through the voice mail system and 573 were live calls answered through the 911 Center. The highest number of calls came in June, just after the marketing campaign conducted in May. These calls allow information to get to the proper authorities so they can work to get the drug dealers off the streets.



Contact Info

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You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.