

August 2020

# VERNON ROCKS COALITION

## Your monthly news & updates

Happy August! This month's newsletter recaps our Annual Meeting, and what is next for the coalition! Discusses the rising rates of overdoses in Connecticut, and provides new information about nicotine addiction and the opioid crisis in relation to the Hispanic/Latinx community. Don't forget, August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day!

[Visit our Website](#)

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." – John Quincy Adams

---

## ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Like many things lately, this year's Annual Meeting looked a little different. Instead of our usual big luncheon event to celebrate the coalition's successes, we opted for a socially distanced picnic in the park!



We presented and discussed our [2019-2020 Annual Report](#), detailing the coalition's accomplishments and achievements for the year.

We honored our amazing group of RHS Seniors, who have been instrumental in the success of the coalition, for graduating from RHS!

We awarded Emily as Coalition Member of the Year for constantly going above and beyond in her efforts in Real Talk and the Coalition!

To end the meeting we celebrated with a sweet treat of ice cream!

We want to give a sincere 'Thank You' to all who helped make this year a success, despite the challenges we faced!

To read more about the event click [HERE](#)



---

## NEWSWORTHY

### CT Overdose Rates Rise in One-Year Period



Connecticut has experienced a 17% increase in the number of overdose deaths from December 2018 to December 2019 compared to the national average of 4.8%. Opioids were the most common drug with 50,042 opioid overdoses reported in December 2019 reported throughout the United States.

To read more from the CDC click [HERE](#)

To learn more about opioids [watch this short video](#)

### Read SAMSHA's Issue Brief on The Opioid Crisis and The Hispanic/Latinx Population

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released an issue brief to detail the impact the opioid crisis has on Hispanic/Latinx individuals. Stating, "recently, a demographic shift has been observed in the epidemic with dramatic increases in opioid misuse and overdose deaths among Hispanic/Latino"

To read the full brief click [HERE](#)

---

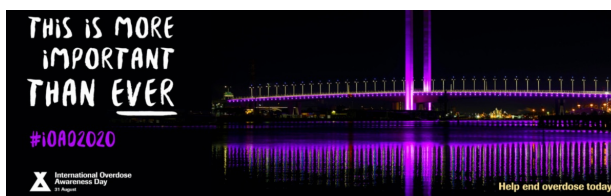
### Maybe We Should Rethink How we Treat Nicotine Addiction

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released a study detailing that there are two different brain regions linked with nicotine addiction severity and nicotine withdrawal, and current smoking cessation treatments affect the activity of one area but not the other.

Read the study notes [HERE](#)

---

## INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY



[International Overdose Awareness Day](#) is held across the world on August 31st to raise awareness of overdose, memorialize those we've lost to addiction and reduce the stigma associated with drug misuse. According to preliminary data, overdoses are higher this year, perhaps because of COVID, compared to the data from the same time last year, making this year's awareness day vital.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE COALITION?

[MVPP](#) has some things in the works in the continuation of our cross-town prevention efforts

Are your young children bored at home?

Download our Prevention Placemat [HERE](#)

Stay tuned to find out!



## Check out our [NEW BLOG POST](#)

This month's blog post discusses the importance of caregiver involvement! Be sure to check it out!



If you or a loved one is having trouble with substance abuse check out the available resources in the area.

[Get Help](#)

If you are aware of an underage party or illegal activity follow the link and submit the anonymous form below, and the Vernon ROCKS Coalition will work with the Vernon Police Department to prevent or stop the activity.

[Report it Here](#)

Are you are interested in becoming more involved with the Vernon ROCKS Coalition we are always looking for more members. You can join by visiting our website!

[Get Involved](#)