

November 2025 | Issue 2

Prevention Starts Here

The Drug and Alcohol Reduction Team (DART) of Lincoln County is a community coalition founded in 2011. The coalition is made up of dedicated volunteers representing local businesses, law enforcement, civic groups, health professionals, government agencies, parents, schools, and more.

Our mission is to prevent and reduce youth substance use in Lincoln County by raising awareness, shifting community norms, and building strong local partnerships.

DART is always looking for passionate community members who want to make a difference. Whether you're a parent, professional, student, or simply someone who cares about youth and prevention, we'd love to have you at the table.

To learn more or get involved, contact us at Contact@DartLincolnCounty, or visit dartlincolncounty.org. Together, we can protect what matters most: our youth.

Teen Drug Summit 2025



DART held its fifth annual Teen Drug Summit on Thursday, October 23th at NorthRoad Church. The event was attended by over 125 students from five middle schools in Lincoln County. The mission of the Teen Drug Summit is to provide Lincoln County teens with the tools and skills to "Do The Next Right Thing."



Students were able to participate in a variety of sessions and breakout rooms throughout the day, emphasizing the power of leadership and making healthy choices.

Dr. Johnathon White of the Lincoln County R-III School District opened the event with a keynote address, followed by Nichole Hofmann of the Lincoln County Ambulance District. Other presenters included PreventEd, Compass Health, the Troy Police Department, Morio Wray, and the Winfield High School Traction Team.

Between sessions and during lunch, students were able to visit exhibitor tables to learn more about substance use and healthy choices. Each table featured local organizations sharing engaging information and resources.

The event concluded with a powerful personal testimony and drum concert by Jeff Mozingo and his CHOICES program.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

DART Director Marilyn Carter pictured with Austina Morris of Ambassador Plumbing, recipient of DART's 2025 Partners in Prevention Award

DART's 2025 Teen Drug Summit would not have been possible without the support of our community sponsors! Thank you to all of our sponsors who contributed at various levels to this impactful event.

We would especially like to recognize **Ambassador Plumbing** as the recipient of our **2025 Partners in Prevention Award.** Ambassador Plumbing has been an ongoing supporter of the Teen Drug Summit, and we are so grateful for their continued commitment to educating and empowering the youth of Lincoln County. Their partnership helps make a lasting difference in our community each year.

Together, we're making a difference! DART is proud to work alongside so many dedicated partners, volunteers, and community members who share our mission to keep Lincoln County youth healthy and substance-free!



Prevention in Action



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day 2025

On October 25, 2025, DART partnered with local law enforcement across the county to participate in DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The purpose of this nationally-observed day is to allow for safe disposal of unneeded prescription drugs.

DART volunteers were stationed at Winfield Pharmacy, Elsberry Pharmacy, and Mercy Pharmacy in Troy.

According to the 2024 Missouri Student Survey, 18.9% of youth in Lincoln County reported that they perceived that it was 'Very' or 'Sort of Easy' to get prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them. Events like Take Back Day play an important role in prevention by helping limit youth access to prescription drugs and supporting a safer, healthier community!

Data from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health (2024 Missouri Student Survey).

Community Involvement

DART Partners with Addiction is Real for One Night to End Homelessness Event





DART Partners with Addiction is Real for One Night to End Homelessness

DART was proud to take part in One Night to End Homelessness, a fundraiser to benefit The Key Youth Center and Bridge of Hope Lincoln County. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community. The event brought together local organizations, students, and community members for an evening of learning, reflection, and action.

DART partnered with Addiction is Real to bring their *Hidden in Plain View* trailer to the event. This interactive exhibit is designed to look like a typical teenager's bedroom, but it contains everyday items that can hide signs of substance use.

Parents and community members were invited to walk through the trailer and learn how to spot potential warning signs, start conversations, and keep kids safe.

We were honored to be part of such a meaningful event and to join others working toward a stronger, healthier Lincoln County.

DART Participates in Local Trunk or Treat Events



DART coalition members suited up in their Halloween best to attend local Trunk or Treat events in October! DART was represented at Trunk-or-Treat events hosted by the Lincoln County Justice Center and Victory Lane.

In addition to Halloween treats, our coalition distributed trick or treating bags featuring the reminder that "Drugs are Tricks, Not Treats".

We had a great time connecting with local youth and their families while sharing important prevention messages and enjoying the Halloween fun!



On the Road for Prevention





DART Director and Coordinator Attend 2025 Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference

Marilyn Carter, Director of DART Lincoln County, and Grace Nicholl, DART Project Coordinator, traveled to Columbia, MO to attend the 2025 Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference. Many members and partners of DART were also in attendance!

This conference brings together prevention professionals, coalition leaders, and community partners from across the state to share strategies, explore new research, and collaborate on ways to reduce substance use in Missouri. Our Director and Coordinator took part in workshops and networking sessions focused on community engagement, emerging trends, and evidence-based prevention practices.

Marilyn and Grace were proud to represent Lincoln County and connect with others working toward the same goal. They are excited to bring new ideas, tools, and inspiration back to the community to strengthen prevention efforts and keep our youth safe and healthy!

Member Spotlight



Grace Nicholl

Project Coordinator



Member Spotlight: Grace Nicholl, Project Coordinator

Grace Nicholl officially joined the DART Coalition team as Project Coordinator in October 2025 after serving as an intern with the coalition over the summer. A senior at Truman State University, Grace is pursuing a degree in Community, Worksite, and Public Health with minors in Communication and Disability Studies.

Growing up in Lincoln County, Grace has a strong personal connection to DART's mission and is passionate about supporting local youth through prevention and education. In her new role, she helps coordinate coalition events, develop outreach materials, and strengthen community partnerships that promote healthy choices and reduce youth substance use.

Grace brings creativity, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community to her work. Her background in public health and communication strengthens her work in promoting prevention and community engagement.

We're so excited to have Grace on the DART team and can't wait to see all she will accomplish in her role as Project Coordinator!

Get Involved With DART!

Mark Your Calendar

November 20, 2025: DART Coalition Meeting

Join us for the DART Coalition Meeting at 9:30 AM in the LCHD Community Room.
 Connect with local partners as we collaborate on strategies to strengthen our community and support prevention efforts. All are welcome!

December 18, 2025: DART Coalition Meeting

Join us for the DART Coalition Meeting at 9:30 AM in the LCHD Community Room.
 Connect with local partners as we collaborate on strategies to strengthen our community and support prevention efforts. All are welcome!

Please note: The last two meetings of 2025 will be held on the <u>third</u> Thursday of the month due to the holidays.



Fill Out the DART Membership Form

Whether you're new to the coalition or have been part of our efforts for years, we'd love to know more about your interests, areas of involvement, and how we can best support and collaborate with you!

Filling out the form ensures we have the most up-to-date information about everyone involved in our prevention efforts.

Visit https://forms.gle/pe9HYLMWA3mPDmL4A to fill out our membership form, or contact us at contact@dartlincolncountv.org for more information.

Community Resources

Looking for resources in Lincoln County? Visit https://lchdmo.org/resource-guide or scan the QR code below to view the Lincoln County Health Department Resource Guide!



DART of Lincoln County

5 Health Department Drive Troy, MO 63379 314-827-6094 | Contact@DartLincolnCounty.org