

“PILLS TO HEROIN”



Adults and children are invited to this important presentation given by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office about an important topic regarding the abuse and addiction of prescription medication and eventual transition to a deadly street drug called heroin. This epidemic is negatively impacting the lives of many residents of Cape May County

Addiction



along with millions of people worldwide. Through the course of this presentation, you will be provided with important information to help understand the current state of this epidemic along with addiction and recovery resource outlets for people in need to seek out and get the help needed for a safe recovery for themselves or a loved one. We will also provide you with tips to help further prevent additional senseless deaths as a direct result from the abuse of prescription medication and illegal substances.

Date / Time

Venue

Location

“One Hit” is all it takes, come out and learn the facts and help save a life.

“PILLS TO HEROIN” can also be seen by visiting the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office website at

WWW.CMCPROS.NET

Pills to Heroin: A County Epidemic

By Barbara Beitel | Posted: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 9:53 am

OCEAN CITY – Heroin is the number one drug in Cape May County, it's pure, it's deadly and it's cheap. Members of the Cape May County prosecutor's office, including County Prosecutor Robert Taylor, Assistant Prosecutor Ed Schimm and Chief of County Detectives Kenneth W. Super, joined with Cape Assist's Kim Mounce, the Ocean City Police Department and the school system's administrators to present an evening seminar and film titled from Pills to Heroin Jan 22. It was offered for parents of the students in the middle and high schools of Ocean City.

Earlier in the day, they presented the program to 400 high school students, and 200 middle school students. The prosecutor's office, Cape Assist, the police department and the schools believe the epidemic in the county warrants an all-out alert and an inundation of information available to both students and their parents for dealing with and arresting the problem which is taking some lives, and stunting others.

They are spreading the facts and dangers to the students, enough to cause parents to have a serious conversation with their children. Parents are further warned to lock up any addictive medications they may have in medicine cabinets; these medications are described as gateways to heroin.

According to the varied speakers, drug addiction often begins with prescription pills, which people take to seek a high or to get over pain. Prescription pills can open the door to heroin addiction by causing the derailing of normal brain processes.

The prosecutor's office said that drug dealers sometimes give children vicodin or percocet, to incline them into usage of heroin. Sometimes they give them free heroin, knowing that taking it only once can become addictive.

Statistics in 2014 were frightening. There were 121 overdoses in Cape May County, of those, 20 were fatal. In 2015, Cape May County has so far had three overdoses, one fatal.

Schimm, a licensed N.J. pharmacist and assistant prosecutor, attended both pharmacy school and law school and is a specialist on both drugs and heroin. "We had a significant drug bust last year where we obtained 10-15 kilos of heroin," Schimm said. "The FBI determined that it is coming in, over our borders, from Mexico. These kids are facing a different environment than the one we grew up in when alcohol and pot were available."

Though there were about 200 parents in the audience, Schimm expressed disappointment that more parents in the Ocean City area did not attend. He suggested parents do some Internet research and see what happens to young people.



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Heroin is the prominent drug in Cape May County. Here, if you gave young people an hour, they can find marijuana, also a drug which leads to more dangerous addictive drugs. And they could find, in their parents, or friend's medicine cabinets opiates such as Oxycodone, Percocet, or Vicoden, which are all legal heroin. They are opium based.

"Some young people think that if it's in the medicine cabinet, then it can't be harmful. It leads to heroin," Schimm warned. He also listed other drugs, which are pathways to heroin including Fentanyl, Xanax, Ritalin, Klonopin, Valium, and Tylenol with codeine.

"In the war on drugs," Schimm counseled, "you need to pay attention to prescription drugs. You need to count them. In any kind of war, you have to control it. Count and keep track of your medicine. Don't leave it where it is available. It's a gateway drug to your child's possible addiction and maybe, death. You can also take extra leftover medicine to any police department, or to the County Prosecutor's office, who will destroy it for you."

"Kids are finding ways around Oxycodone. They beat it and crush it, use tin foil and burn it and smoke it. It's a deadly high. Kids don't understand how deadly, and they try it. It could kill you," Schimm said. "They take pills and they live in a medicated world. Don't take and mix medications. It can give you a heart attack and kill you. Abuse of pain medicine can be addictive."

Gina Casey, a young realtor in Ocean City, was in attendance with her son. "I think the presentation was very informative," she said. "I think all parents should see it. It is wonderful that the county hired a pharmacist, and that he is both compassionate about the dangers to kids, and he knows what causes what. Another wake up call is that, as the pharmacist/lawyer said, all the drug dealers care about is making money. And they are lacing the heroin with all kinds of other drugs that kill. Check out the show on channel 119, it's about drug intervention. I get it in Ocean City. The kids who are on drugs, tell their mothers, 'You will never understand what my brain, under the influence, tells me to do.' My son is 10, and he thought that the presentation was very informative.

"The speaker told us that every heroin addict tried marijuana. But not every person who tried marijuana tried heroin. The pharmacist, assistant prosecutor, was talking about prescription drugs leading to heroin and people breaking into homes and staging robberies, and taking opiate drugs from the medicine cabinet. One of my real estate clients had that happen. She said a neighbor's son watched her house and when she left, he broke in and stole both her jewelry and her medicine, the opiate pills, which were related to heroin.

"The drugs should be in a safe, or carry them with you. They should not be left in a medicine cabinet. I went to the presentation because I wanted to know the statistics of what is going on. When they are talking about gateway drugs, one leading to another, it feels like a snowball effect. And so many young children are taking things like this. They get younger and younger," Casey said.

To contact Barbara Beitel, email bbeitel@cmcherald.com.