

SCCUDD Monthly Memo

Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2016

Emerging Drug Concerns Part II: Heroin and Prescription Drug Misuse

About 60 people attended a community forum about the opioid epidemic facing the region, and the nation overall. At the forum, attendees learned about the heroin and prescription drug problem, ways to prevent use and overdose, and about treatment options in the area.

The Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD) organized the event which took place at the Watkins Glen Elementary School auditorium. At the event, a person in recovery shared with attendees how he started using drugs, how it progressed to heroin use, and his path to recovery and a mother shared her story of discovering her child's struggle with opioids.

Attendees also heard from Timothy J. Dewey, Senior Investigator for the NYS Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, about ISTOP Prescriptions and opioids in Schuyler County and from Kris Morseman, a community member and parent, about what parents and the community can do to help combat heroin and other opioid use in the region.

Danielle Tilden, Clinic Manager for the Watkins Glen Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling & Referral Agency (FLACRA), spoke to attendees about the importance of community members keeping their medicine cabinets secure and disposing of their unneeded medications at the 24/7, anonymous prescription drug drop box located in the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office in Watkins Glen. Tilden also discussed where community members can receive training to administer naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug, and where people can go to get treatment for substance use disorders. The forum was moderated by Chief Assistant District Attorney Matt Hayden.

The community forum, titled "Emerging Drug Concerns Part II: Heroin and Prescription Drugs," was the second in a series of forums planned by the Coalition. The next forum, "Emerging Drug Concerns Part III: Underage Drinking" is planned for late spring or early summer.

Special thanks to all the speakers at the forum and to Watkins Glen Elementary School for donating their auditorium for the forum.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Time
Coalition Meeting	Shared Services Building Conference Room	Mar. 15	3 pm

Subcommittees:

• Alcohol	FLACRA	Feb. 12	11 am
• Tobacco	Public Health	Mar. 1	9 am
• THC	FLACRA	Feb. 19	10 am
• Parent	WG Library	Feb. 24	3 pm

Did you know?

National Heroin Facts

Heroin use among 18-25 year olds has more than doubled in the past decade

In 2014, more than 10,000 people died from heroin overdose; a 6-fold increase since 2001

Of those who began using heroin in the past decade, 75% used prescription drugs as their first opioid

1 in 15 people who take prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes will try heroin within 10 years

More than 90% of people who use heroin also use one or more other drugs

45% of people who use heroin are also addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers



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Questions or comments?

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Teen use of heroin and prescription pain relievers in Schuyler County

7.6%

of seventh through twelfth grade students in Schuyler County have used prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes in their

3.6%

of seventh through twelfth grade students in Schuyler County have used prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes in the past 30 days

1%

of seventh through twelfth grade students in Schuyler County have already tried heroin at least once in their lifetime

Lifetime Use of Heroin and Rx Pain Relievers in Schuyler County (%)

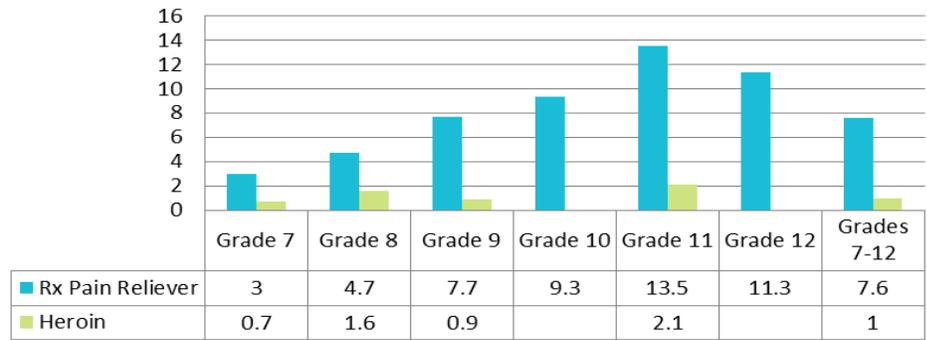


Figure 1: Percentage (%) of Schuyler County students reporting they have used heroin and prescription drugs in their lifetime. Based on the 2015 Schuyler County Communities That Care Youth Survey which surveyed students in Grades 7 through 12 in the Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour central school districts.

What the community can do to help prevent opioid use and overdose

Talk to kids about the dangers of using alcohol, prescription drugs, nicotine, and other substances

Parents can let kids know they don't approve of them using alcohol or other drugs

Ensure that your medicine cabinet is secure and you know what, and how many, you have of different substances

Dispose of unwanted prescriptions using the 24/7, anonymous drop box at the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office in

Call the Schuyler County Sheriff's Tip Line if you suspect illegal activity such as drug sales

Prevent Crime – Call the Tip Line 607-535-8224

If you discover someone overdosing, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. Do not worry about getting yourself or the overdosing individual in trouble; New York's 911 Good Samaritan law protects the person who has overdosed and the person seeking help from charges or prosecution for drug possession

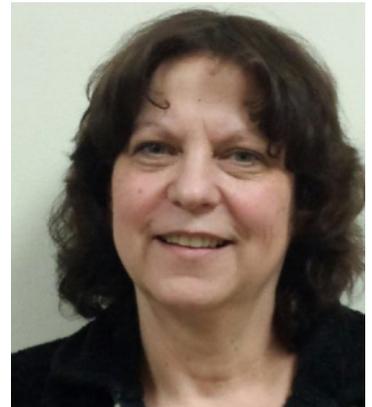
Upcoming activities and events



- Emerging Drug Concerns Part III: Underage Drinking
- Youth-designed events
- Community Survey
- And much more!

Meet a Member: get to know people in SCCUDD

- Name: Robin Johnson
- Occupation: Stay at home mom
- Why did you decide to join SCCUDD: I wanted to join with other community members in taking a proactive stance on substance abuse.
- Hobbies: My latest is adult coloring books
- Favorite food: I like all food
- Do you have any pets: a dog, bear
- What is one interesting thing people should know about you: I've played guitar since I was eight.



Sources:

2015 Schuyler County Communities That Care Youth Survey

Abuse of Prescription Pain Medications Risks Heroin Use. (2014). Retrieved January 28, 2016, from <http://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/abuse-prescription-pain-medications-risks-heroin-use>

Cicero, T. J., Ellis, M. S., Surratt, H. L., & Kurtz, S. P. (2014). The changing face of heroin use in the United States: a retrospective analysis of the past 50 years. *JAMA psychiatry*, 71(7), 821-826.

Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse. (n.d.). Retrieved January 27, 2016, from <http://combatheroin.ny.gov/>

Overdose Death Rates. (2015). Retrieved January 28, 2016, from <http://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>

Today's Heroin Epidemic. (2015). Retrieved January 28, 2016, from <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/>

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