



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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PRESS COVERAGE, TASK FORCE HEARING OF AUGUST 29, 2012

[Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Holds Forum at Monmouth County Library, The Patch, \(08/30/2012\)](#)

For New Jersey families, heroin and opiate addiction hits a lot closer to home than many want to admit. Over 100 residents from all over the state gathered at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan on Thursday to hear the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GCADA) hold their third hearing on drug and alcohol addiction. A panel of 12 professionals in the addiction field, including former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey, ran the GCADA's task force on heroin and other opiate use amongst New Jersey youth and young adults meeting.

[Rising Youth Drug Use Prompts Public Forum, The Patch, \(08/15/2012\)](#)

Under the umbrella of the GCADA, the state Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults is holding its third public forum on the subject of substance abuse later this month at the Monmouth County Library's main branch in Manalapan at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29. "Many Monmouth County families are impacted each day by heroin and other opiate drugs," said Barry W. Johnson, director of the county's Office of Addiction Services. "We encourage Monmouth County residents to testify at the public hearing about their experiences with these powerful and dangerous drugs."

Additional coverage:

New Jersey 101.5 aired a week-long, five-part series about the abuse of heroin and other opiates among New Jersey's youth. News reporter Stacy Proebstle talked to recovering addicts, parents, prevention specialists, substance-abuse professionals and law enforcement officers to address current trends and issues along with possible solutions.

[Prescription Drug Abuse Rises Among NJ Teens \[SERIES, 1 of 5, 08/20/2012\]](#)

Prescription drug abuse is the nation's fastest growing drug problem and in New Jersey its reached epidemic proportions. In part one of a week-long series, we look at a growing health issue among our youth – painkiller addiction.

[Prescription Drugs Pose Challenges For NJ Law Enforcement \[SERIES, 2 of 5, 08/21/2012\]](#)

The problem for law enforcement across the state is that prescription drugs aren't illegal when properly prescribed. "It is something that we are focused on, both on the enforcement side and the education and prevention side" said Doug Collier, a special agent with Drug Enforcement Administration, New Jersey Division.

[NJ Students Share Stories Of Prescription Drug Abuse \[SERIES, 3 of 5, 08/22/2012\]](#)

Prescription drug addiction could happen to anyone. Jesse is a 20 year-old junior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He started drinking alcohol in sixth grade. After trying cocaine in high school, he transitioned into “study drugs” adderall and ritalin. “I knew what I was doing and I knew that it was harming me, but I didn’t want to stop and I couldn’t stop” he said.

[Fatal Drug Overdoses, Every Parent’s Worst Nightmare \[SERIES, 4 of 5, 08/23/2012\]](#)

In New Jersey, overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death. Almost 6,000 people have died from drug overdoses in the state since 2004. More than 700 people died from drug overdoses in 2009 alone. Opioids were involved in more than 75 percent of the deaths. For Abby Boxman, July 13th, 2011, is a day she will never forget. Police knocked on the front door of her home with news that 21 year-old son Justin had died of a drug overdose.

[Preventing Drug Abuse Starts At Home \[SERIES, 5 of 5, 08/24/2012\]](#)

Because prescription drugs are most often in a medicine cabinet with easy access, steps need to be taken when it comes to your medication. “Keep them out of the reach of children and lock them up” said Angelo Valente, executive director of the Partnership For A Drug Free New Jersey.

[Abuse of painkillers seen as an epidemic, The Courier Post, \(09/03/2012\)](#)

Robert Richter got his first taste of Vicodin as a teen, when his sibling had a tooth pulled. A dentist prescribed the popular painkiller and Richter, who grew up with an addicted mother, helped himself to a white, oval pill. “The feeling was very calming and numbing,” recalls Richter, now 20 and a counselor at Recovery Advocates of America offices in Hamilton and Woodbury. “And I continued to use opiates, because of the emotional pain I was in.”

[Weekend rally to take aim at heroin, The Courier Post, \(09/14/2012\)](#)

Later this month, Patty DiRenzo will mark the second anniversary of her son’s death from a heroin overdose. DiRenzo, who will take part in an anti-heroin rally Saturday at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Camden, one of simultaneous events taking place nationally.

[Surviving families members of heroin victims rally in Camden, The Gloucester County Times, \(09/16/2012\)](#)

Patty DiRenzo, a driving force behind the Camden rally, stated that events like this are important because they shine a light on the problem of addiction. “The stigma has got to be lifted,” she said. “Families are ashamed sometimes that they have a loved one who has this disease, and we have to let them know that it’s OK, that there are people and places where help is available.”