Alpha Delta Nu and Will County Health Department Partnership

Pregnancy Sexually Transmitted Infection Education and Condom Distribution Event
Spring 2017
Heroin Today, Gone Tomorrow:
A Multidisciplinary Perspective of the Heroin Epidemic

Tuesday, April 18, 2 - 3:30 p.m. | Snacks!
U-1024 (Auditorium) | 50/50 Raffle!
Community Resource Brochure

Students created brochure and distributed at presentation and to the community.

What is Heroin?

Heroin is an opioid drug made from morphine, a natural substance taken from the seed pods of the Asian opium poppy plant. Heroin can be a white or brown powder, or a black sticky substance known as black tar heroin.

The current heroin epidemic has been linked to a rise in opioid prescriptions. 45% of those who used heroin were also addicted to prescription opioid painkillers. Since 1990, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the United States has nearly quadrupled. In 2012 there were 259 million prescriptions written for painkillers, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills.

Heroin use has been increasing in nearly all populations, regardless of age, race, gender or socioeconomic status. In particular, heroin use has risen more than doubled in the past decade among young adults aged 18 to 25 years. As heroin use has increased, so have heroin overdose associated deaths.

How is Heroin Harmful?

- A heroin overdose can cause slow or shallow breathing, coma, and death.

- People often use heroin along with other drugs or alcohol. This practice is especially dangerous because it increases the risk of overdose.

- Heroin is typically injected but may also be snorted, or inhaled. Inhaling heroin produces effects similar to those of injection.

- Heroin-induced euphoria is short-lived, and once the drug wears off, users may experience nausea, vomiting, and a craving for more.

Eye Opening Statistics:

In 2015, there were 77,000 deaths caused by heroin overdose. This is a 28% increase from 2014.

In 2016, an estimated 116,000 people in the U.S. used heroin in the past year, and an estimated 25,000 new heroin users.

Heroin-related overdose deaths have more than quadrupled in the U.S. since 2010.

In the event of an overdose, naloxone administration can save lives. For more information:

- American Red Cross
- National Safety Council
- American Association of Poison Control Centers

If you suspect heroin overdose call 911 immediately.

Community Resources

There is hope for recovery through addiction treatment centers and support groups.

- Will County Governmental Mental Health and Addiction Services
  815-727-9021
  14 Main Street, Plainfield, IL 60546
  www.willcountyhealth.org

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
  800-662-HELP (4357)
  https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

- Silver Cross Hospital
  Chemical Dependency Unit
  815-332-7124

- Edward Hospital
  Naperville Psychiatric Ventures
  601 S. West Avenue, Naperville, IL
  Main: 630-719-0590
  Office: 630-719-0227
  The Heroin Foundation
  www.theheroinfoundation.org
Speakers: Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization (HERO)
John Roberts
Mokena Police Department
Chief Steven Vaccaro
Will County Safe Passage Initiative
Heroin: Barriers To Treatment
Dr. Kathleen Burke
Will County Drug Overdose Prevention
Naloxone Training
Dr. Aaron Weiner

Healthcare’s Responsibility in Creating, Sustaining, and Containing an Epidemic

Linden Oaks Behavior Health