

# **PRESCRIPTION PILLS & HEROIN**



**SCHAUMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION**

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**&**

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# HOOKED ON A HIGH



# **A GROWING EPIDEMIC**

- **Types of prescription pills abused**
  - **What is Heroin**
  - **How does Opioids use lead to Heroin use**
  - **How are Opioids and Heroin consumed**
  - **Effects of Opioids and Heroin**
  - **Crimes associated with use**
  - **Suburban teenage use**
  - **Overdose / Narcan**
  - **Resources available**
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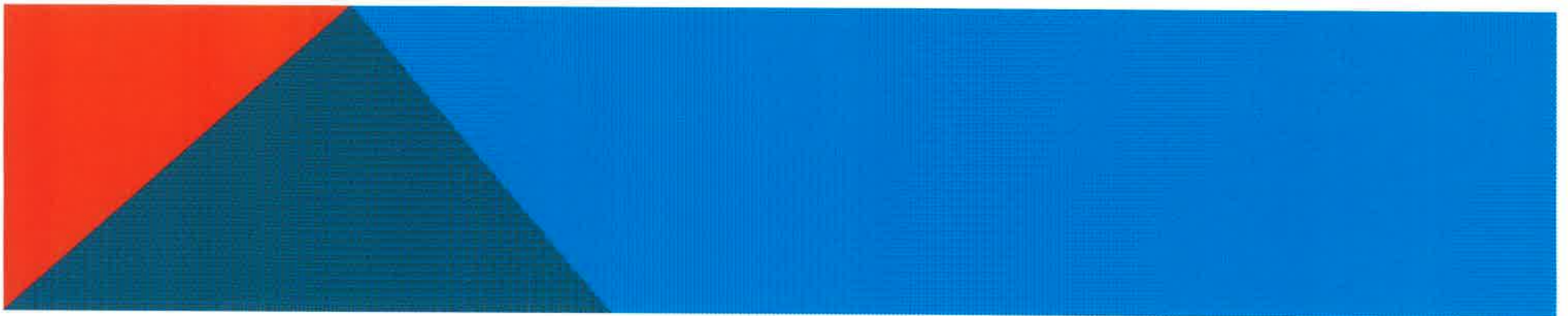


# **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE**

- **Prescription drug abuse is when someone takes a medication that was prescribed for someone else or takes their own prescription in a way not intended by a doctor for a different reason (like to get high)**

## **3 most common kinds of prescription drugs abused**

- 1. Opioids – Painkillers (most common/dangerous)**
- 2. Depressants – anxiety or sleep related**
- 3. Stimulants – treated for ADHD**



# ABUSED PRESCRIPTION PILLS

## 1) OPIOIDS

- Sedative narcotics
- Typically prescribed to treat pain
- Oxycontin, vicodin, codeine, hydrocodone, etc.

## 2) DEPRESSANTS

- Prescribed to relieve anxiety or help with sleep
- Valium, Xanax, etc

## 3) STIMULANTS

- Typically prescribed for ADHD
- Adderall, ritalin, etc

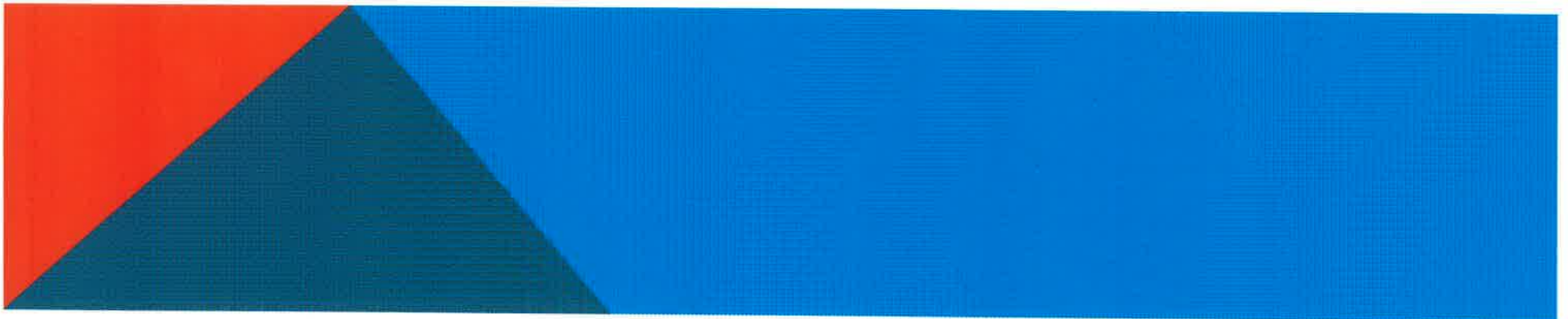


## QUICK FACTS

- Highly addictive ( users as young as 14) (most common 17-25 years of age)
- Prices range from \$2-10 dollars per pill depending on dosage (mg)
- Easily prescribed by doctors physicians ( depressants and stimulants)
- Users constantly at risk of an overdose
- Typically taken by mouth but can be crushed up and snorted or melted up with liquid to inject
- Felony PCS charge if found in possession without a valid prescription

# OPIOIDS

- OPIOID written prescriptions and pills dispensed have tripled over last 25 years
- US largest consumer globally of OPIOIDS
  - ✓ 100% of the worlds total for hydrocodone (vicodin)
  - ✓ 81 % of the worlds total for oxycodone (percocet)
- OPIOIDS account for the greatest proportion of all the prescription drug abuse problem
- ☐ Recent study showed that 2.1 million people suffered from substance abuse disorder related to prescription Opioid pain relievers and only estimated that there was around 500,000 heroin users in the US (however numbers are rising in both categories)



# **PRESCRIPTION PILLS**

- Teens get prescribed medication from injuries/surgeries by a doctor or physician (mental or physical needs)
  - get them from friends who are prescribed them
  - steal them from family members (medicine cabinets, bathrooms, etc.)
- \*Most common way for teens to obtain prescription medication**

## **PREVENTION**

1. If child is prescribed medication, monitor intake and maintain control of the prescription bottle
2. Lock up other family members prescription medication in a safe or lock box to avoid theft
3. Discard unused or old prescription medication through the Village of Schaumburg Drop Box at the PD
4. Walgreens announced they are setting up free kiosks in pharmacies to safely dispose of old medications (39 states including Illinois) this year

## **GATEWAY DRUG**

- Subjects become immune or tolerable to the prescription pills and turn to heroin for a new high



# TRANSITION FROM PRESCRIPTION PILLS TO HEROIN

## Why ?

- Heroin is an immediate high and described as a euphoric rush (compared to gradual if pills taken orally)
- Better high because its more potent (despite having similar characteristics on the brain/body as Opioids)
- Heroin is less expensive and more accessible to teenagers than prescription pills (based on interviews)
- Prescription pill abusers are 19 times more likely to use heroin
- Also, a recent study found that 8 out of 10 people addicted to heroin abused painkillers first



# HEROIN



- Heroin is an illegal drug with the following features:
- A highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy.
- It is a "downer" or depressant that affects the brain's pleasure systems and interferes with the brain's ability to perceive pain

# APPEARANCE OF HEROIN



In its purest form, heroin is a fine white powder. But more often, it is found to be rose gray, brown or black in color. The coloring comes from additives which have been used to dilute it, which can include sugar, caffeine or other substances. Street heroin is sometimes “cut” with other poisons/chemicals.



# COST OF HEROIN

- ❑ \$10 -20 per bag (Approx 1000 mg) (1/10 gram)
- ❑ \$100 for a jab (12 baggies) (Approx 1 gram)
- ❑ Addicted Heroin users tend to use anywhere between 6-12 baggies of heroin per day
- ❑ High can last about 3 hours depending on a variety of factors (tolerance, weight, etc. )





# HOW IS HEROIN USED ?

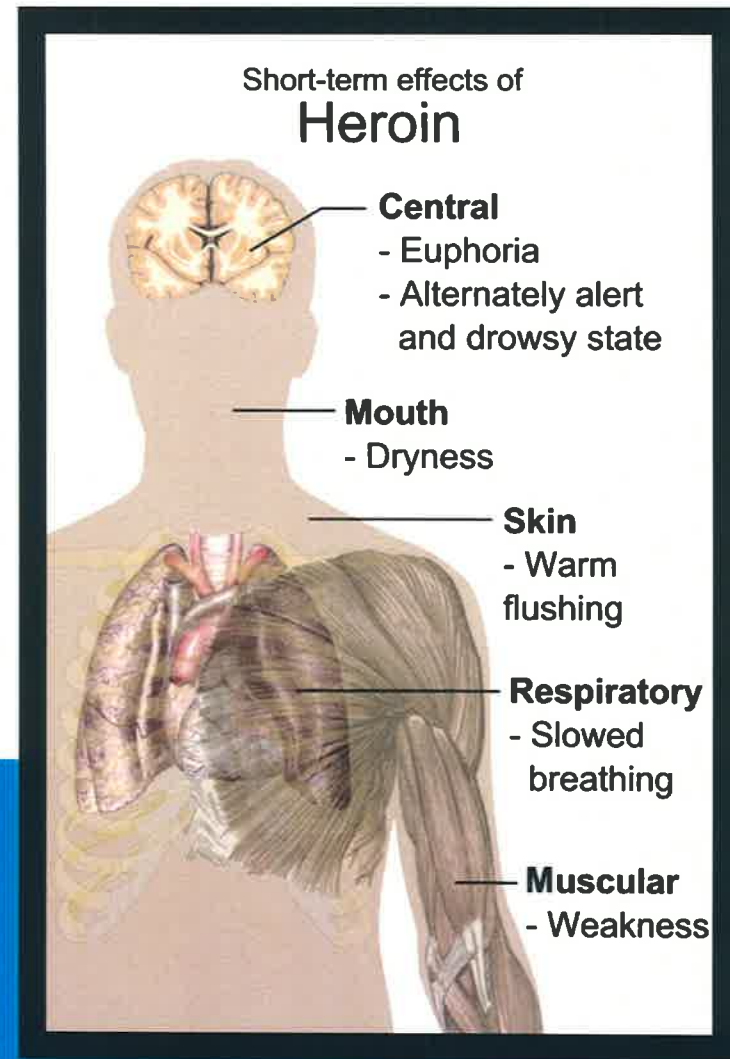
- ☐ **Smoked, injected, or snorted**
- ☐ **Addiction will occur with any of these methods.**
- ☐ **Hardcore users will inject using hypodermic needles (arms, legs, toes, wrist)**
- **Individuals 18 years and older can buy hypodermic needles ( up to 20) without prescription however, pharmacy has to over the buyer educational materials on drug treatment and offer safe needle disposal**
- **Chicago Recovery Alliance – needle exchange program (5 throughout Illinois) mobile silver van that changes locations and only stays for a specific amount of time at each location (details on their website)**
- **Purpose is to curb the spread of diseases such as HIV and hepatitis (has been very successful since 2003 when it was enacted)**





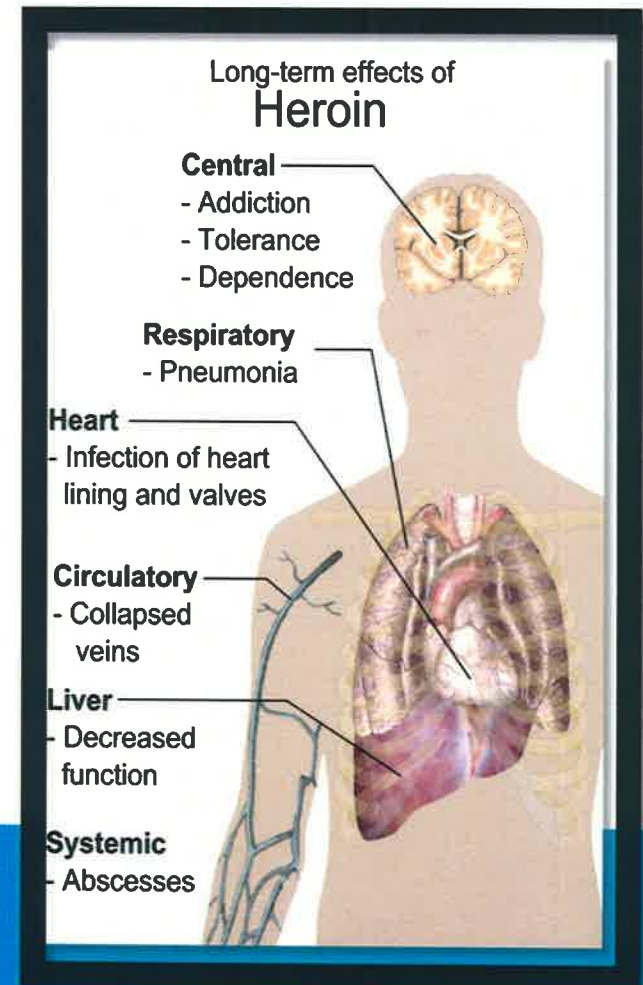
# SHORT TERM EFFECTS OF HEROIN/OPIOID

- Slowed breathing
- Slow pulse
- Passing out
- Seizures
- Blurred vision or blue lips
- Cold/clammy skin
- Disorientation
- Muscle spasm/rigid muscles
- Drowsiness
- Tongue discoloration

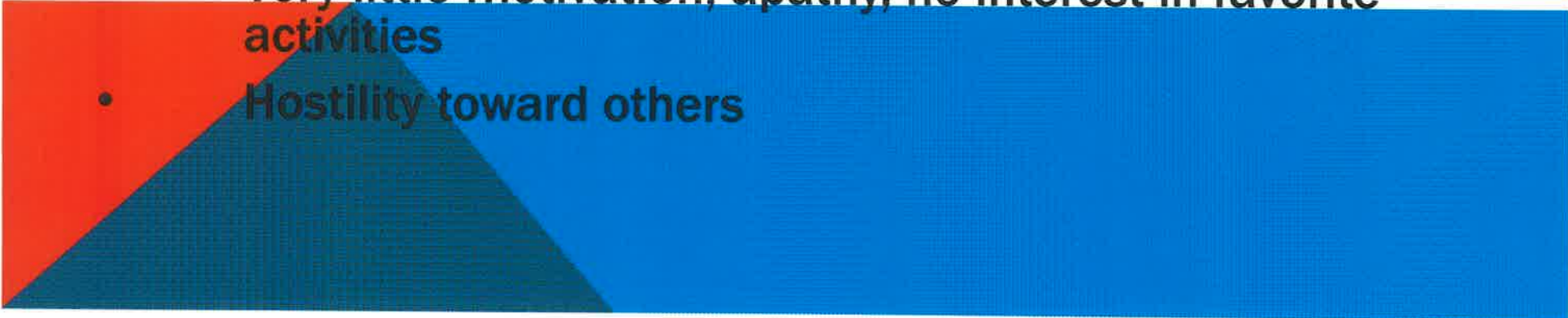


# LONG TERM EFFECTS

- Death
- Permanent damage to lungs, liver, kidneys and brain
- HIV/AIDS
- Bad teeth, inflammation of the gums
- Coma
- Muscular weakness, partial paralysis



# **BEHAVIORS THAT MAY INDICATE HEROIN & PRESCRIPTION PILL ABUSE**

- Sudden changes in behavior or actions such as poor school or work performance, being expelled or fired
  - Movement is slowed or uncoordinated
  - Disoriented
  - Extreme alertness/jitteriness followed by suddenly nodding off
  - Excessive or sudden sleeping
  - Itchiness, picking at skin (histamine release from heroin)
  - Speech somewhat slurred, garbled or incoherent
  - Very little motivation, apathy, no interest in favorite activities
  - Hostility toward others
- 



## **BEHAVIORS THAT MAY INDICATE ABUSE**

- **Lying or other deceptive behavior**
- **Avoiding eye contact**
- **Lack of hygiene and disregard for physical appearance, may not shower or bathe, repeat wearing of same clothing**
- **Withdrawal from friends and family**
- **Spending a lot of time with new friends and/or alone**
- **Wearing long pants or long sleeves (to hide needle marks) even in very warm weather**
- **Suddenly wearing sunglasses frequently or inappropriately**



## **INDIRECT WARNINGS SIGNS OF DRUG ABUSE :**

- Large increase in mileage on the car used by your loved one (showing trips to purchase drugs)
- Missing prescription pills (or entire bottles), especially Vicodin (hydrocodone), OxyContin (oxycodone) or codeine
- Missing money or valuables or frequent requests to borrow money, particularly with nothing to show for it

### **Party Pack**

- Needles or syringes (check sock and other drawers)
- Tiny orange caps from syringes
- Spoons with burn marks (used to heat the heroin in water prior to injection)
- Aluminum foil or gum wrappers with burn marks (used to smoke heroin)
- Missing shoelaces (used to tie off injection sites)
- Rubber straps or bands (used to tie off)
- Straws (used to snort), especially with burn marks (used to smoke)
- Empty plastic pen cases (used for snorting or smoking)

## **INDIRECT WARNINGS SIGNS OF DRUG ABUSE :**

- Small plastic bags / prescription bottles with no label
- Water pipes or other pipes (used in smoking heroin)
- Bottled water (water used for mixing and cap used for heating)
- Bottle caps (used in heating heroin)
- Rolled up dollar bills or paper (used for snorting)
- Razor blades, IDs and credit cards with a powder residue on them (used for snorting)
- Empty plastic/drug capsules (heroin sometimes sold in capsules)
- Antihistamine boxes (used to counteract histamine release)
- Nasal spray bottles (used for snorting heroin/water mixture)
- Unusual residue in coffee-bean grinder (to grind up heroin)
- Very small cotton balls, Q-tips, or pieces of cigarette filter (used prior to injecting)

# HEROIN HIGHWAY



## **CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE**

- 1. Fraud – fake prescription**
- 2. Theft – stealing from family members**
- 3. Retail theft – stealing items then pawning them for cash**
  - fastest way to get cash to purchase narcotics**
  - stealing expensive items (electronics, power tools, etc. )**



# NALOXONE (NARCAN)

- Easy to use, lifesaving prescription antidote that **REVERSES** an opioid/ heroin overdose
- Temporarily blocks the effects of opioids
- by removing the high and allowing the person to breath
- Narcan is administered through a nasal atomizer (spray)
- Family members can obtain and be trained to use narcan just as 1<sup>st</sup> responders are doing



# NARCAN

- Can be obtained through prescription or through a drug treatment program
  - Walgreens now sells Narcan antidote without prescription ( 35 states including Illinois)
  - for family members to assist and render aid in case of an overdose
  - Cost per unit can range from \$40-80 however, price and demand are rising to do heroin epidemic (can be supplemented by insurance)
- Narcan works in 1-3 minutes and lasts 30 to 90 minutes
- Narcan cannot be abused and it cannot cause an overdose
- It has no effect if used on an individual that is not suffering from a drug overdose

# **SCHAUMBURG HEROIN/PRESCRIPTION PILL OVERDOSES**

**2013**

**8 overdoses                      1 Fatal**

**2014**

**12 overdoses                      2 Fatal**

**2015**

**15 overdoses                      5 Fatal**

**2016**

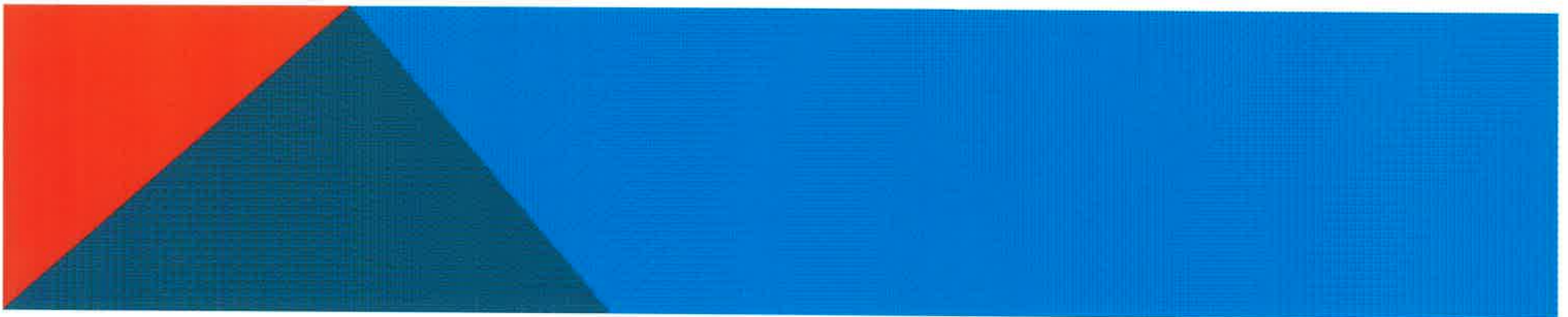
**16 overdoses                      1 fatal**

**(from January 1 to May 10)**

- **Chicago October 2015**
- 74 overdoses in 72 hours (reported)**
- batch of heroin laced with fentanyl ( pain reliever)**

# NARCAN USAGE IN SCHAUMBURG

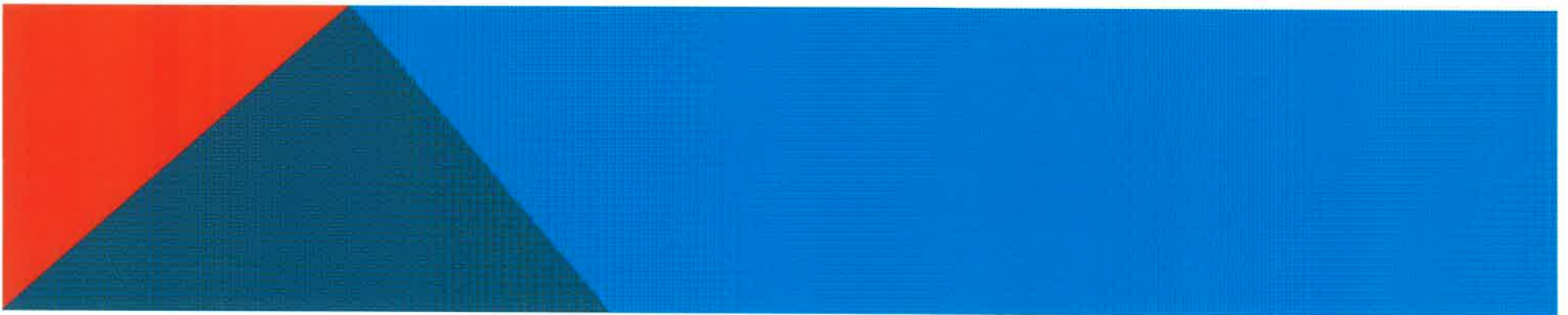
- SPD started carrying Narcan in the beginning of 2014
- Total uses = 11
- Total saves = 8
- Stats are from 2014 to current Date by SPD only
- Narcan has been administered 6 times this year alone by SPD (from January to May) and only 5 times from 2014-2015



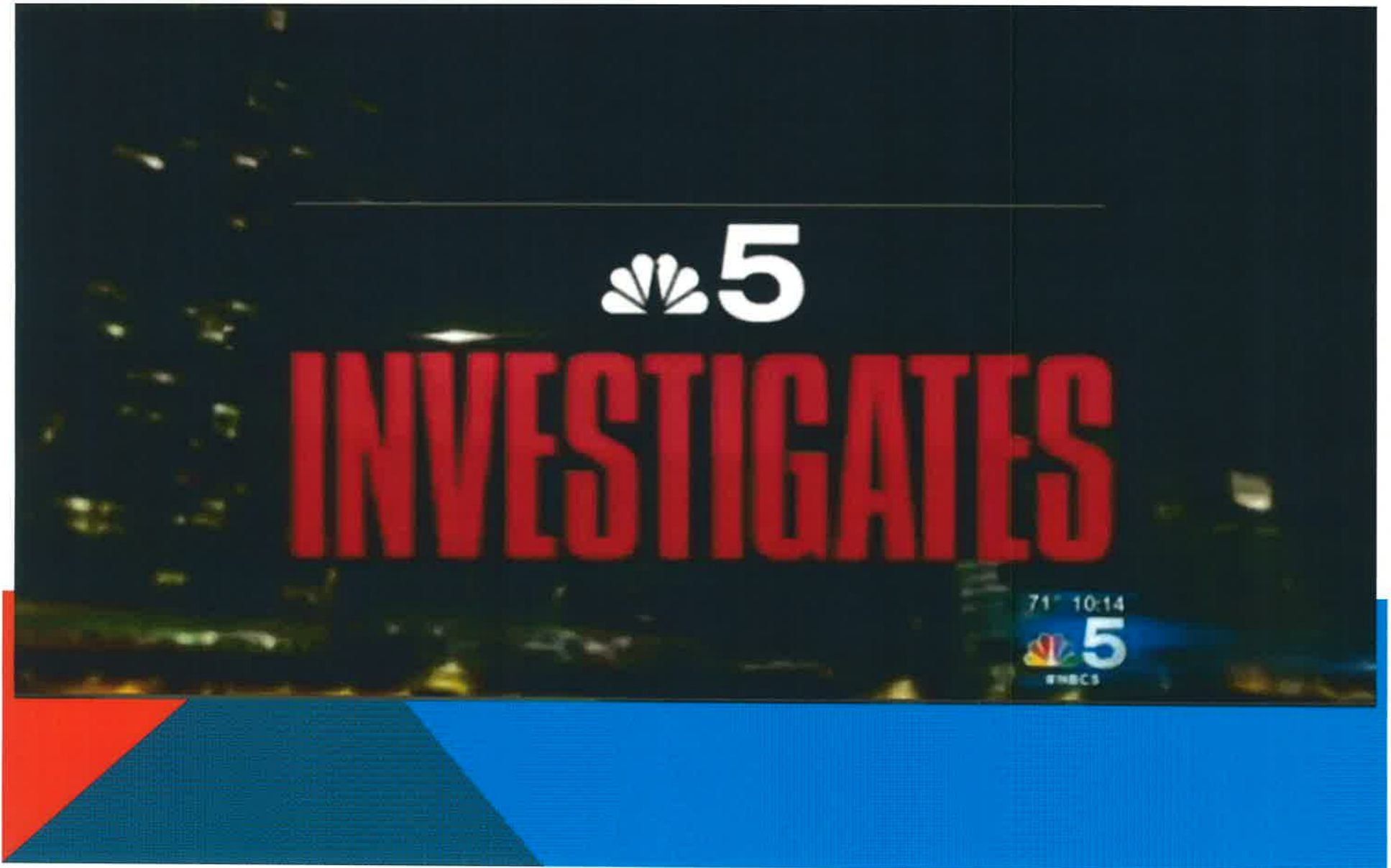


# **NAPERVILLE /SCHAUMBURG**

- ✓ **Similar demographic**
- ✓ **Similar education level**
- ✓ **Similar median income**
- ✓ **Similar geographic location**



# HEROIN EPIDEMIC VIDEO



# TREATMENT AND RESOURCES

- **SHARE**

1776 Moon Lake Blvd, Hoffman Estates

(847) 882-4181

[www.leydenfamilyservice.org](http://www.leydenfamilyservice.org)

-Offers detox and 28 day inpatient recovery

-Will not refuse to treat addiction due to inability to pay / insurance

- **Live4Lali**

3275 N Arlington Heights Rd, Suite 403, Arlington Heights

(844) 584 5254

[www.live4lali.org](http://www.live4lali.org)





## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Gateway Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centers**

multiple locations in Northern IL

**(847) 505 4673**

**[www.RecoverGateway.org](http://www.RecoverGateway.org)**

### **Schaumburg Interventions & Counseling Center**

1340 Remington Rd, suite K, Schaumburg

**(847) 882-8908**

**[www.schaumburginterventions.com](http://www.schaumburginterventions.com)**



# QUESTIONS ?

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# THANK YOU FOR COMING

