

## MESSAGES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT:

“ In my 29 years of law enforcement, I have worked tirelessly to combat illegal narcotics and addiction in the communities I have served. Nothing can compare to the devastation that the opioid epidemic has brought to Hagerstown's door steps.

Opioid addiction does not discriminate by any demographic in our society and has in fact touched all of us in some fashion. Law enforcement alone cannot arrest our way out of this horrible crisis.

It will take education, perseverance, selflessness and the dedication from all community stakeholders to combat this epidemic and the terrible effect has on our community. I believe that as long as we are united, we can and will make an impact."

- Chief Victor Brito, Hagerstown Police Department



Washington County Health Department -  
Local Addictions Authority  
Phone: 240-313-3310

Washington County Mental Health  
Authority  
Phone: 301-739-2490

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Washington Goes Purple is an ambitious and important project, and your support is greatly appreciated. All contributions are tax-deductible, made through our partner the Community Foundation of Washington County. When you click the link to donate, choose the "Washington Goes Purple" drop down. If you'd like to offer in-kind support, please contact us.

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

Never leave anyone who needs help. Whether there's an overdose on alcohol or drugs, dial 911 and then WAIT FOR HELP. The Good Samaritan Law protects people who help from certain crimes. It does NOT protect people who leave!

## NARCAN TRAINING

If you know someone using or abusing heroin, call 240-313-3310 for free Narcan training.



Have the "new conversation" -  
Talk to your kids about the  
dangers of misusing prescription  
painkillers

# Prevent Addiction.

[www.washingtongoespurple.com](http://www.washingtongoespurple.com)

91 PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY FROM HEROIN OR PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER OVERDOSE.



Washington Goes Purple is a substance abuse awareness program that will engage our community and youth to stand against substance abuse.

Painkillers are **synthetic heroin**. It's time to have "the new conversation" with our kids about prescription pain killers.

More information on Washington Goes Purple is available at [www.washingtongoespurple.com](http://www.washingtongoespurple.com) and [facebook.com/washingtongoespurple](https://facebook.com/washingtongoespurple)

## TEEN RX DRUG ABUSE FACTS

- 6 percent of 12th graders report using narcotic drugs, among the most dangerous of prescription medications
- 14 percent of 12th graders report using one or more of these prescription drugs —narcotics, sedatives, tranquilizers, and/or amphetamines
- 3 percent of 10th graders report using the narcotic pain reliever OxyContin
- 18 percent of high school students report taking a prescription drug without a prescription
- Most teens report getting prescription medications from friends or relatives
- Teens today perceive fewer risks associated with misusing or abusing prescription stimulants than did their peers in 2009

Source: Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Miech, R.A., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2015). Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2014. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan

**13.9% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**  
USED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG NON-MEDICALLY  
IN THE PAST YEAR.



(Source: University of Michigan, 2014 Monitoring the Future Study, [www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org))

## MESSAGES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT:

“Most opioid addictions begin with the use and abuse of prescription opioids. Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Morphine, Percocet and Vicodin are all synthetic opioids and should be monitored closely when prescribed and used only for a very short time.

There is no set time for how long it takes for the body to transition from drug dependence to opiate addiction, but the longer and more you use opiates, the faster addiction will occur.

Please be responsible and consult with your physician when using these prescriptions. Overdose deaths in Washington County far exceed the number of deaths by motor vehicle crashes and homicides combined."

-Sheriff Mullendore, Washington County Sheriff's Department.

