

# HOPE Agenda

Heroin, Opioid Prevention & Education



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
JOHN NYGREN – ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 89

# The Growing Epidemic in Wisconsin

- Heroin and prescription opioid cases have been spiking in the last few years in Wisconsin. It is now considered an epidemic.
- This epidemic affects big cities as well as smaller communities.
- Rural areas are also at risk. These areas are less equipped to handle this problem than larger cities like Milwaukee and Madison.
- The heroin and opioid epidemic has become a problem that has increased crime statewide and shocked entire communities.

# Statistics

- A precursor to heroin is prescription drug abuse. Heroin use in on the rise in Wisconsin; with that increased use comes an increased number of heroin overdoses.
- Drug overdoses have doubled since 2004 and surpassed motor vehicle traffic deaths in 2008.
- More Wisconsin residents died in 2013 from drug poisoning than from suicide, breast cancer, colon cancer, firearms, influenza, or HIV.
- The State Crime Lab has seen a steady increase in opioid cases in the past decade, rising from 170 in 2004 to 640 in 2013, according to the WI Department of Justice.
- Nationwide, 28 percent of police agencies reported controlled prescription drugs as the greatest drug threat last year, compared to less than 10 percent in 2009, according to the 2013 National Drug Threat Survey.

# Rep. Nygren's Story



# HOPE Agenda: The Introduction

- In 2013, Rep. Nygren introduced seven bills that laid the foundation for the HOPE Agenda. These bills focused on combating Wisconsin's heroin epidemic and were passed unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature. Governor Walker signed all seven HOPE Agenda bills into law in April 2014.
- During the 2015-16 Legislative session, Rep. Nygren offered 10 additional bills as a continuation of his HOPE Agenda. Instead of focusing solely on heroin, the bills from this session target the root of Wisconsin's epidemic: prescription drug abuse and addiction. **In the majority of cases, heroin addiction begins with an addiction to prescription medications.** Whether these medications are obtained legally or not, we need to do our best to curtail the illegal use of these dangerous substances.
- Today, there are 17 proposals that make up the HOPE Agenda legislative package. All 17 bills were approved unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature and 16 of these proposals have been signed into law by Governor Walker. The last remaining proposal is expected to be signed into law shortly.

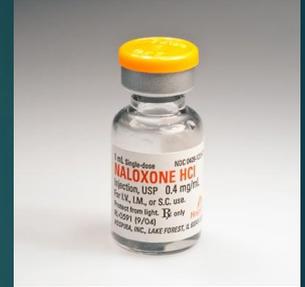


# Opioid Antagonist Legislation

Opioid antagonists are life-saving drugs that, when administered to a person experiencing an overdose, may reverse the effects of the overdose. Expanding access to opioid antagonists will prevent unnecessary overdose-related deaths and, in turn, offer people another chance at life.

## 2015-16 Assembly Bill 427:

- Expands access to opioid antagonists like Narcan by offering the drug for purchase from certain pharmacies without a prescription through a standing order.



# Opioid Antagonist Legislation Cont.



## 2013 Wisconsin Act 200:

- Provides all levels of EMTs, first responders, police, and fire the ability to be trained to administer Narcan (naloxone).
- Any person who administers the drug is immune from civil or criminal liability provided their actions are consistent with Wisconsin's Good Samaritan law.
- This law is already saving lives. First responders have reported administering opioid antagonists over 1,000 times in the past year in Wisconsin.

# Treatment and Diversion Legislation

Treatment and diversion programs are alternatives for individuals charged with certain crimes to prosecution and incarceration. The individuals enrolled in the program will have the chance to receive the help and support they need in order to become and remain contributing members of society.

## **2013 Wisconsin Act 195:**

- This law increases access to comprehensive opioid treatment programs in rural and underserved areas of Wisconsin.
- Under this law, 3 regional treatment and diversion pilot programs have been created.

## **2013 Wisconsin Act 197:**

- This law provides grants to counties that offer substance abuse treatment and diversion options in lieu of incarceration.

## **2015-16 Assembly Bill 657:**

- This bill allocates \$2 million each fiscal year to go toward treatment and diversion programs.



# Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Legislation



## 2015 Wisconsin Act 266:

- Changes the requirement for those who dispense certain prescription drugs to submit information to the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) from 7 days to 24 hours.
- It will also require a practitioner to review a patient's record when initially prescribing a monitored prescription drug (for example, a Schedule II drug).



# Dose of Reality



**DOSE OF REALITY**  
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

[DoseOfRealityWI.gov](http://DoseOfRealityWI.gov)



- The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) recently kicked off a new campaign called “Dose of Reality” aimed at curtailing prescription drug abuse and addiction.
- This campaign is a statewide effort that offers information, resources, and program materials for those who are interested.
- For more information of the campaign, visit [www.DoseofRealityWI.gov](http://www.DoseofRealityWI.gov).



# Get Involved

- There are many things you can do to get involved and help fight Wisconsin's heroin and opioid epidemic.
1. The DOJ facilitates statewide drug take back days sporadically throughout the year. If you have unused, unwanted, or expired prescriptions in your medicine cabinet, you can turn them in for safe disposal on drug take back days. More information on dates and locations can be found on DOJ's Dose of Reality website: [www.DoseofRealityWI.gov](http://www.DoseofRealityWI.gov).
  2. Keep an open line of communication between you and your prescribers. It's important to stay informed of the risks associated with prescription pain medications.
  3. Many times, over the counter medications will suffice to treat pain after a minor surgery or injury. If you don't feel as though you need a prescription pain medication to manage your pain, tell your prescriber.

