

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: On the front lines of the Opioid Epidemic in CT

Hartford Connecticut is known for a high population of drug distributions as well as high overdose rates throughout the area. A recent news post from MSN discusses information from the Chief State Medical Examiner indicating in 2019 there were 1,200 accidental drug overdose deaths across the state- an 18% spike experts say reflects both a lack of education about addiction and a comprehensive, statewide strategy to turn the tide.

Experts agree that fentanyl is behind the increase in overdoses. Hartford police last year seized nearly 50,000 bags of heroin mixed with fentanyl, and also found cocaine, crack and pressed pills laced with the opioid. Sixty-three people under the age of 25 died of drug overdoses in 2019, nearly all of them involving fentanyl. Additionally, last year's total overdoses consisted of 69 homeless individuals, which is in correlation to the biggest cities with the highest homeless rates. As the opioid epidemic rises, so does the issues associated with it, such as lack of shelters, medical resources, education on opioid addiction and ways to battle against the temptations these homeless individuals face every day.

According to the article, there have been 133 deaths throughout all communities in the Hartford area. A group of Connecticut physicians recently began developing a standard of care to treat addiction, a tool they hope the state government will use to address the epidemic. Their plan would establish a single best practice for the state — combining medication-assisted treatment with counseling and psychoeducation — and explain how different health care providers and agencies should work together to coordinate the care of all patients with opioid-use disorder. It would also establish how to get the latest science on addiction and treatment to health care providers. There appears to be a misunderstanding of the medical condition of addiction also stretches to many physicians and smaller communities that have resisted offering in-town addiction services or practicing harm reduction, such as providing clean needle exchanges and overdose prevention kits.

The need for prevention education for youth and adults about how serious this opioid epidemic really is and how community organizations, medical centers, educators, etc. can work together to aid in helping individuals in every aspect of their lives is critical at this juncture.

MSN customizes and curates collections of trusted news. To read the full article please visit <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/connecticut-drug-deaths-spiked-in-2019-those-on-the-front-lines-of-the-opioid-epidemic-say-they-arent-surprised/ar-BB10ie6A?ocid=spartandhp>.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness

campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org.