

A Message from the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association



Dear Fellow New Yorker,

New York City police officers work 24 hours a day to prevent crime and protect New Yorkers in every single neighborhood. But we can't do it alone. The PBA represents the 24,000 rank-and-file police officers who patrol this city, and the majority of us live in the five boroughs ourselves. We know that real public safety begins with cops and community members talking to each other, honestly and openly, about what we're seeing on the streets.

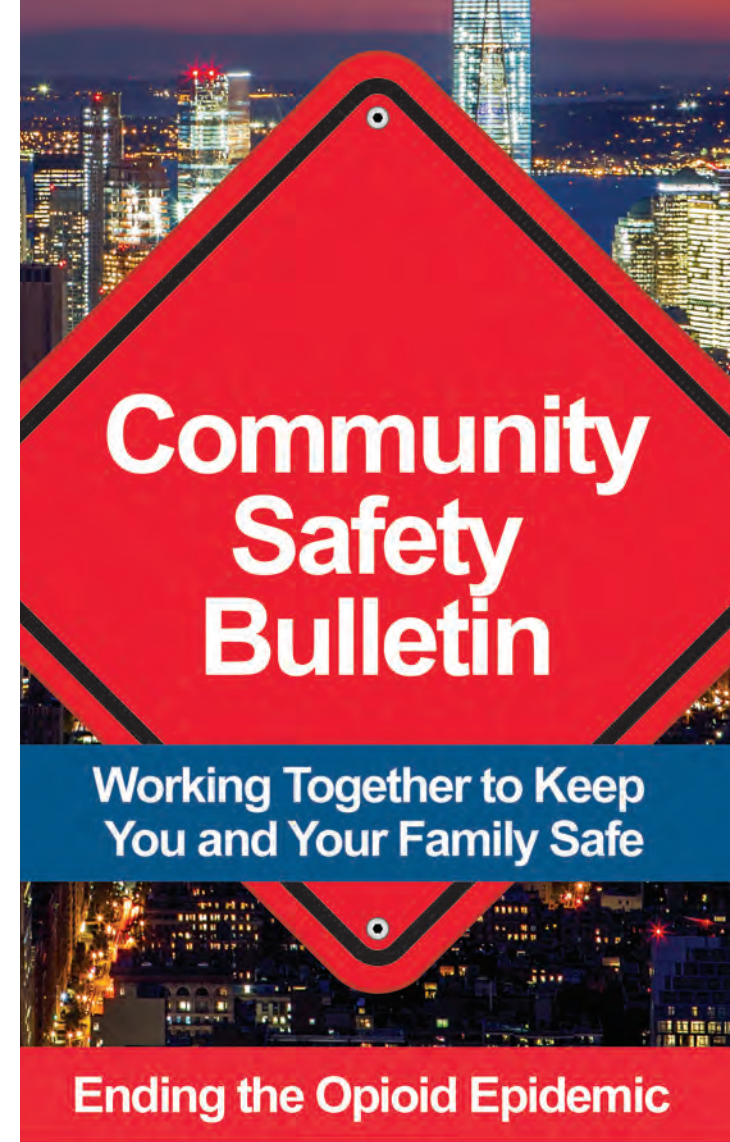
This bulletin is intended to provide an overview of what is happening in public safety in the city – particularly related to the rise in opioid abuse – as well as ways we can prevent the epidemic from growing further and negatively impacting residents and entire communities.

While the rise in opioid abuse is a serious matter, you can rest assured that your police officers are fighting every day to halt this epidemic and keep a lid on crime overall. To win that fight, we need your support and cooperation. We hope the information in the pamphlet is helpful in learning how you can protect your family. We also urge all New Yorkers who see evidence of the illegal sale or distribution of opioids to call the NYPD.

Let's work together to make sure New York is a place where we can all live, work, and raise our families.



Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
of the City of New York, Inc.
125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004



Community Safety Bulletin

**Working Together to Keep
You and Your Family Safe**

Ending the Opioid Epidemic



Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
of the City of New York

WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

THE DANGERS OF OPIOID ABUSE IN NYC

PREVENTING ABUSE IN YOUR FAMILY

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “**Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain**” that fall into the following categories:

Prescription opioids

“Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate to severe pain, but can also have serious risks and side effects. Common types are oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, and methadone.”

Fentanyl

“Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever. It is many times more powerful than other opioids and is approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. Illegally made and distributed fentanyl has been on the rise in several states.”

Heroin

“Heroin is an illegal opioid. Heroin use has increased across the U.S. among men and women, most age groups, and all income levels.”

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Opioid abuse in New York City has been on the rise in recent years, including a dramatic increase in the number of overdose deaths.

The Facts

- “In 2016 an estimated 1,300 New Yorkers died of drug overdose—the highest number on record. Approximately 1,075 of those involved an opioid.”
- “Almost 90 percent of fatal opioid overdoses in 2016 involved heroin or fentanyl.”
- “Before 2015, fentanyl was involved in fewer than 5 percent of all overdose deaths in NYC.”
- “Rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths increased by 43% for the period 2010 to 2014, from 8.2 per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 11.7 per 100,000 residents in 2014.”

(Source: NYC Mayor’s Office, 2017; NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dec. 2015)

According to the New York State Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse, the following are key steps you can take to help protect your family from the dangers of opioid abuse:

“Talk to your kids about the dangers of substance abuse and make it clear such behavior will not be tolerated. Keep the lines of communication open so [they] feel comfortable coming to you in a time of need”

“Parents who are involved and engaged in their children’s lives are more likely to notice the warning signs of substance abuse and are able to prevent it before it happens.”

“Store prescription medications safely and take inventory of the medications in your possession.”¹

NYC police officers are being trained and equipped to prevent overdose deaths. To help combat the opioid crisis, the PBA recently agreed to have all of its members carry and use the life-saving drug Naloxone, which can prevent an opioid or heroin overdose from becoming fatal. **In the event of an overdose, call 911 immediately.**

¹(Source: NYS Task Force to Combat Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse)



Important Contact Information

Emergency: **911**

Non-Emergency: **311**

NY State Task Force to Combat Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse:
1-877-8-HOPENY
or visit www.oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp

For a complete list of local NYPD precincts in all five boroughs, www.nyc.gov/nypd