

NATIONWIDE OPIATE EPIDEMIC

In response to the growing nationwide Opiate Epidemic, the Piscataway Township Police Department in conjunction with Piscataway high School will be implementing a new interactive Opiate awareness program entitled #NotEvenOnce. This course, which was researched and developed by the Manchester Township Police Department, is a collaborative effort between law enforcement and educators with the goal of informing students about the dangers of Opiates before they leave for college or enter the workforce. This program, which meets all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health classes, is taught to students during their high school years. The ultimate goal behind this program is to educate students about Opiate abuse and give them the tools they need to make better decisions. The target audience for this course will be this year's freshman class. Detectives Daniel Higgins and Raymond Rose will be instructing the course in health class twice a week for a four-week period beginning in January 2018.

On Thursday, October 26, 2017 President Trump declared that the opiate crisis is a National Public Health Emergency. To help combat this crisis, Piscataway Police Chief Scott Cartmell comments "This country has never seen a health epidemic as severe as this. In 2016 over 64,000 people in the United States died as a result of opiate overdose. This equates to 175 people per day. This crisis affects people from all walks of life and all socio-economic backgrounds. It is our duty as a police department to explore every avenue and to use any tools at our disposal to help reduce the number of deaths due to opiate overdoses. We are going to use this program to attempt to reach out to the young people of our community to give them the knowledge of the risks of opiate use and the skills/abilities that will hopefully assist them with avoiding becoming a statistic in this crisis."

For more information, please contact Captain Scott Cartmell at 732-562-2318.