



# DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Borough of Berwick  
Police Department  
(2014)

# WAR ON DRUGS

- ❑ In the last two years the Borough of Berwick Police Department has made just shy of 600 drug related arrests.
- ❑ The police department recognized that there was a large scale drug problem in the community. We then initiated a coordinated response to the drug problem by creating a “Special Operations Group”. SOG has worked collaboratively with multiple agencies and Task Forces to systematically beginning rooting out the problem.

# METHAMPHETAMINE

- ❑ Methamphetamine is a unique drug. It is made primarily of common household items and prescription medication. Manufacturing Methamphetamine is extremely dangerous and involves many common household chemical products. In Berwick the most common process of manufacturing Methamphetamine is the “One Pot Method”. This process involves mixing all the precursors in a single vessel and takes less than two hours to make. This is the cheapest, fastest and most volatile. Fires and explosions have occurred during the manufacturing process. The health and safety of those whom reside in a home where “One Pots” are active are significantly affected.

# METHAMPHETAMINE



## Precursors

Pseudoephedrine, Ammonium Nitrate, Lithium, Sodium Hydroxide, Muriatic acid, Sulfuric acid, Ronseal, Naphtha Petroleum, Aluminum and Sodium Iodine



## Backpack Kit

An entire "One-Pot Method" Methamphetamine laboratory can be stored in a single backpack



## Dump Sites

Methamphetamine users often discard the vessels, generators and ingredients anywhere they can. We have located Methamphetamine waste in dumpsters, alongside roads and in remote areas.

# KEY PRECURSORS

- ❑ The key precursors regarding the manufacturing of Methamphetamine are Pseudoephedrine, Ammonium Nitrate, Lithium and Sodium Hydroxide.
- ❑ Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine are commonly found in cold and allergy medications, instant cold packs contain Ammonium Nitrate, common household drain cleaners contain Sodium Hydroxide and Lithium batteries are stripped for the Lithium metal inside and placed into the “One Pot Method” reaction vessel.

# COMMON PRECURSORS

- ❑ In addition to the four key precursors, the following additional precursors will be found in varying combinations.
- ❑ Muriatic acid, Sulfuric acid, Ronsonol, Naphtha Petroleum, Aluminum and Sodium Iodine

# “ONE POT METHOD”

Reaction Vessel



Gas Generators



# “ONE-POT” EXPLOSION



# METH LAB RECOGNITION

- ❑ Frequent visitors showing up at a residence all hours of the day and night, staying only a short time and an increase in disturbances at the residence.
- ❑ An increased amount of household chemical products in the trash and a strong chemical odor coming from the residence often.
- ❑ The installation of surveillance cameras and the covering of windows.
- ❑ Dramatic change in behavior and appearance of the residents.

# HEROIN



# RECOGNIZING SIGNS

- ❑ **Performance** – This can either be at school, work or socially. Are the person's grades suddenly dropping? Is the quality of work assignments becoming progressively worse? Does the person's performance suffer? When someone suddenly becomes worse at something they are good at, this can be a sign of Heroin use. Additionally, someone using Heroin may stop showing up on time or at all.
- ❑ **Personal care** – This is a sign common to many substance abuse problems. Someone using Heroin may not take good care of themselves. You may notice that personal hygiene, such as regular showers and changing one's clothing regularly, is no longer important. They may no longer care about fixing their hair, or performing other grooming tasks.

# RECOGNIZING SIGNS

- ❑ **Tendency toward recklessness** – Someone using Heroin often does not care about the natural consequences of their actions. They may do reckless things, such as commit crime to get money for more drugs or even engage in other more dangerous behaviors.
- ❑ **Withdrawal from friends, family and activities** – Someone using Heroin will have new unfamiliar friends. They may also become more secretive, desiring to be left alone by family members. They also may begin withdrawing from enjoyed activities, such as going out with regular friends or participating in clubs and organizations.

# PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF HEROIN

- ❑ Physical dependency.
- ❑ Psychological dependency.
- ❑ Serious physical deterioration.
- ❑ Needle marks on the body.
- ❑ Severe weight loss.
- ❑ Serious loss of appetite.
- ❑ Severe constipation.
- ❑ Loss of motivation.
- ❑ Unable to concentrate.
- ❑ Often appear drowsy.
- ❑ Runny nose, constant sniffing.
- ❑ Speech is slow and slurred.
- ❑ Displays hostility toward others.
- ❑ Continuously getting infections.

# PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF HEROIN

- Glassine bags.
- Small plastic zip-lock bags.
- Tinfoil that is burnt black.
- Q-tips.
- Funnels, made out of tinfoil, to look like straws.
- Injection needles.
- Small caps of water.
- Burnt teaspoons.
- Needle marks.

# SYNTHETIC DRUGS



## Spice & K2

Synthetic cannabis is a designer drug in which herbs are sprayed with lab-synthesized liquid chemicals to mimic the effect of “THC”.



## Molly

The lab-created chemicals mimic the effects of Ecstasy; most of them are central nervous system stimulants that cause euphoric highs.



## Bath Salts

Like Ecstasy and Methamphetamine, the drug known as “Bath Salts” is a designer drug. These drugs contain synthetic chemicals that are similar to amphetamines.

# SYNTHETIC DRUGS

- ❑ There is no exact definition, because the term is used to describe a wide range of chemical products that are ever-changing. Synthetic marijuana and "bath salts" are the most common of these drugs, which are often sold as incense or plant food. Unlike other drugs, these drugs do not come from plants; they are manmade. Synthetic marijuana consists of drug chemicals that are sprayed on plant materials and sometimes marketed as potpourri.
- ❑ Congress passed the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act in July 2012, which controlled 26 compounds by name. But there are hundreds of compounds, and every time the government makes one illegal, chemists alter the formula slightly to make it a substance that is no longer controlled.

# MOLLY



- ❑ The lab-created chemicals mimic the effects of Ecstasy; most of them are central nervous system stimulants that cause euphoric highs. They can also cause a rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, blood vessel constriction and sweating, and can prevent the body from regulating temperature. Some of the chemicals have been reported to cause intense, prolonged panic attacks, psychosis and seizures
- ❑ After they wear off, the chemicals can cause devastating depression. Several of these compounds have caused deaths.
- ❑ Molly is dangerous because of the toxic mix of unknown chemicals; users have no idea what they're taking or at what dose. Unlike other illegal drugs that have known effects on the body, the formulas for these synthetic drugs keep changing, and they're manufactured with no regard to how they affect the user.

## SPICE & K2



- ❑ Synthetic Marijuana is a designer drug in which herbs, incense or other leafy materials are sprayed with lab-synthesized liquid chemicals to mimic the effect of “THC”, the psychoactive ingredient in the naturally grown Marijuana plant. Synthetic Marijuana, also known by the name of “Spice” or “K2” first became available in the U.S. in 2008. It was frequently marketed as an incense in colorful three ounce pouches and labeled “NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION”. Both became increasingly popular with high school students and young adults because it was legally obtainable from convenience stores, smoke shops, and online.

# BATH SALTS



- ❑ "Ivory Wave," "Purple Wave," "Vanilla Sky," and "Bliss" are among the many street names of so-called designer drugs known as "Bath Salts," which have sparked thousands of calls to poison centers across the United States.
- ❑ These drugs contain synthetic chemicals that are similar to amphetamines. Some of the chemicals used to make them are illegal.
- ❑ The effects can include agitation, chest pain, increased pulse, high blood pressure, paranoia, hallucinations, and suicidal behavior

# PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION ABUSE

- ❑ Although many types of prescription medications are abused, there is currently a growing, deadly epidemic of prescription painkiller abuse. Nearly three out of four prescription drug overdoses are caused by prescription painkillers.
- ❑ Prescription painkillers are also called opioid pain relievers. Opioids are derived from the opium poppy. Examples of opioid medications include Hydrocodone (Vicodin), Oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet), Fentanyl (Duragesic, Fentora), Methadone and Codeine.
- ❑ Prescription painkillers work by binding to receptors in the brain to decrease the perception of pain. These powerful drugs can create a feeling of euphoria, cause physical dependence, and, in some people, lead to addiction.

# MEDICATION COLLECTION BOX PROGRAM



- ❑ In an effort to provide a permanent and secure mechanism for the collection and destruction of any unused and expired medications, the Columbia County District Attorney's Office has provided the Borough of Berwick Police Department and the Bloomsburg Police Department with a Medication Collection Box.
- ❑ The public can anonymously drop off unused and expired medications 24/7.
- ❑ Final disposal of all collected medications shall be incinerated at a facility approved by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection.

# LEGAL STATUS OF MARIJUANA

- ❑ On December 6, 2012, the state of Washington became the first state to officially legalize Cannabis, with the state of Colorado following close behind.
- ❑ On January 1, 2013, the first Marijuana "club" for private marijuana smoking (no buying or selling, however) was allowed for the first time in Colorado.
- ❑ The California Supreme Court decided in May 2013 that local governments can ban medical marijuana dispensaries despite a state law in California that permits the use of Cannabis for medical purposes. At least 180 cities across California have enacted bans in recent years.



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# THANK YOU

