



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Corey K. Brown

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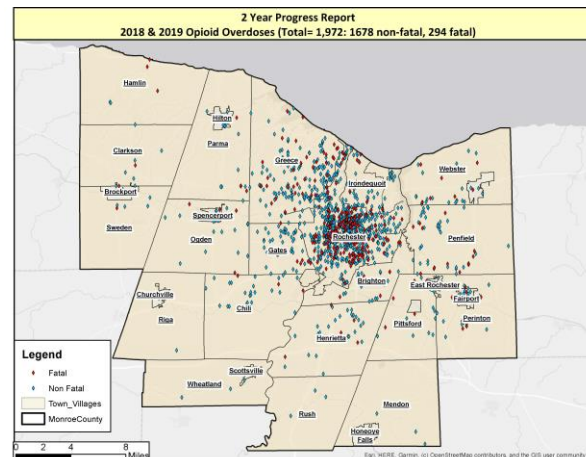
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MONROE COUNTY HEROIN TASK FORCE: TWO-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

Prevention, Enforcement, Recovery

Rochester, NY (March 5, 2020) – Today, March 5, 2020, Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter, in collaboration with Monroe County, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Monroe Crime Analysis Center (MCAC), Monroe County Health Department, Rochester Regional Health, University of Rochester, Rochester Police Department, and all of our partners in outreach, detailed a two-year progress report on the Monroe County Heroin Task Force (MCHTF). This progress report includes opioid overdose and seizure statistics, as well as opportunities available to those struggling with addiction.

Over the past two years, the Monroe County Heroin Task Force has tracked and responded to 1,972 reported overdoses, with 294 of them being fatal. MCHTF has executed 114 search warrants, seized 76 firearms, and \$794,901 in cash. The Task Force has made 147 arrests for narcotics related offenses, and has helped with nine convictions on Criminally Negligent Homicide, Manslaughter and Criminal Injection of a Narcotic Drug charges. The Monroe County District Attorney's Office currently has three cases pending.

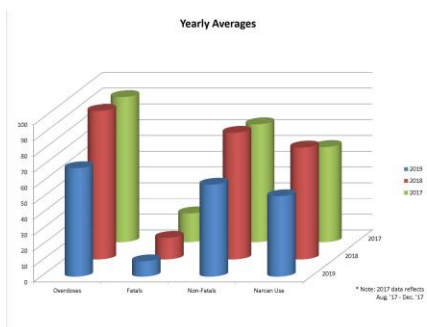


“The Monroe County Heroin Task Force Two-Year Progress Report is not an indication of victory, rather a reflection of the work that is yet to be done as our community rallies to combat the Opioid epidemic,” said Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. “We will not rest until there are no dots on the MCHTF Pin Maps. Each dot represents a soul; an individual battling addiction, a family supporting its loved one in the fight, and



in many cases, a family who has lost a loved one to this horrible disease. The courageous, relentless, passionate work of the Task Force does reflect a stabilization of the crisis and a momentum to continue the commitment to save lives. None of this progress would be possible without our partners in law enforcement, the DA's Office, education, and outreach."

The MCHTF became operational on February 1, 2018 as a direct response to the deadly opioid epidemic here at home and across the nation. One of the key components of the Task Force's success is the collaboration and relationships it builds and maintains with local non-profit agencies in an effort to provide support, resources, and outreach to addicts and their families within the critical first 24-36 hours of an opioid-related incident. It is also the collaborative work of our partners in law enforcement, Monroe County, and the District Attorney's Office that makes our community's response and commitment to this epidemic strong.



“For every number and every fatality we reference, that is a life lost and a family ruined,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “While we are pleased to show progress through the data collection of the Monroe County Heroin Task Force, we still had six fatalities and 67 overdoses in January 2020. We must continue to work as an entire community to address this epidemic and the causes of addiction. Through our collaboration with area law enforcement agencies, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office has successfully prosecuted dealers and sent these men and women to state prison on homicide

charges for selling poison that is resulting in these deaths. I pledge to continue on this path to do my part in this community crisis.”

In 2019, the average age of an individual who experienced an opioid overdose was 37 years old. In 2018, the average age was 36 years old. Every race, ethnicity, and gender is reflected in the data; proof this disease does not discriminate and knows no boundaries. We are grateful to our many collaborative partners in outreach who provide guidance, resources and embrace those struggling. We are also appreciative of the brave and courageous families who share their personal stories in the hopes of inspiring others to seek recovery, spiritual guidance, and assistance. The disease is too overwhelming to face alone, but together, recovery is possible.

As we continue to walk this journey together as a community, we strive, through education, to convince those considering taking their first hit, their first pill, to walk away and choose a different path. We will continue our billboard, television, and radio public service announcements to drive home our message. Prevention is a part of the solution and we all play a role.

Opportunities for those struggling with addiction are abundant in this community, we are fortunate and grateful for those resources and the individuals who chose a career path, vocation, or volunteer to help others. Please ask for help; someone will extend a hand and show you the way.

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