

**THIS YEAR IN THE US, MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE FROM DRUG OVERDOSES
THAN FROM VEHICLE CRASHES.**

In fact, since 1999, the annual tally of painkiller overdose deaths has quadrupled in the country and an epidemic of opiate and heroin abuse has hit the suburbs of Southern NJ.

Dear Friends,

Perhaps this headline is news to you or perhaps it is something that you are painfully aware of already. As the Executive Director of Jewish Family and Children's Service I began to explore the issue of opiate abuse in our community several years ago and was introduced to a world that shocked and saddened me. There has been a heightened use of prescription opiates in our community that are leading many, especially those in their teens and twenties, to experiment and potentially face addiction to drugs such as heroin.

The program that we are offering, in conjunction with the Audubon Public Schools and Audubon, Audubon Park, and Mt. Ephraim Municipal Alliance, will highlight many aspects of this crisis and will include eye opening presentations by law enforcement, parents who have lost children to overdose, a young individual in recovery, and an addiction specialist.

Becoming educated and learning about strategies that promote safety in the home and outside are our best defense.

I look forward to seeing YOU, students grades 7 and above, parents and any interested community members, on Tuesday evening, October 24th.

Sincerely,



Marla Meyers, MSW
Executive Director