



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHATHAM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO HOST
OPIOID AWARENESS PRESENTATION ON MAY 24TH**

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP, NJ – May 8, 2017 – [The Chatham Township Committee](#) today announced that in conjunction with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office under the direction of Prosecutor Fredric M. Knapp it will host an Opioid Awareness Community presentation on Wednesday, May 24th at 7:00 PM. The event, which will be held at the Chatham Township Municipal Building located at 58 Meyersville Road, is designed to highlight the devastating impact heroin and prescription opiates can have on families and communities.

[Mayor Curt Ritter](#), speaking on behalf of the Committee, said, "More than 33,000 Americans, about 91 a day, died from opioid overdoses in 2015, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Unfortunately, Chatham Township has not been immune to this epidemic. More broadly, in Morris County fatal opiate overdoses rose from 43 in 2015 to 64 in 2016. In just this year alone, there have been at least 27 overdoses, which is on pace to exceed last year's total. I encourage all residents to consider attending this important event as we focus on shedding light on this important issue."

The Morris County Prosecutor's Office is determined to raise awareness of the opioid and heroin epidemic and how to stop it by participating in ongoing public programs. "By raising public consciousness of this heroin-opioid epidemic, it is our hope to stem the tide of addiction and related deaths," Knapp said.

The presentation will be presented by Chief Assistant Prosecutor Bradford Seabury, head of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office Special Operations Division, and Barbara Kauffman, Director of Prevention Services for Morris County Prevention is

Key. The presentation will detail the latest national and local statistics and delve into how illicit drugs are distributed and sold in the United States. It will also describe how addiction can start and ways to combat it. The numbers are sobering. The United States has 4.6% of the world's population, but consumes approximately 80% of the world's opioids.

The proactive approach of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office coincides with state efforts to combat opioid addiction. A law signed earlier this year by Governor Chris Christie limits physicians to providing first time patients with only a five-day supply of opioid prescriptions. The limit is significant, because experts say addiction often begins when patients are proscribed far more opiates for pain than they need.

Editor's Note:

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About Chatham Township

Chatham Township is located in Morris County New Jersey. It has approximately 11,000 residents and nearly 4,000 households. Individuals interested in receiving emergency and community alerts can visit <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/resident-communications> and can learn more about Chatham Township at www.chathamtownship-nj.gov

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