Stopping Drug Dealers

- The sales and use of illicit drugs continues to be a serious problem in St. Clair County and in our nation as a whole.

- From abuse of prescription pills to methamphetamine, your St. Clair County Drug Task Force is working hard to get the dealers of poison off the streets.
In November of 2016, voters in St. Clair County passed an increase in millage for the Drug Task Force.

Because of that millage increase, the DTF has doubled in size, allowing for more investigations, more raids and more drugs and drug dealers being taken off the streets of our community.
Drug Task Force Staffing

- 1 Lieutenant
- 2 Sergeants
- 10 Sheriff’s Deputies
- 2 Port Huron Police Officers
- 1 Clay Township Officer
- 1 U.S. Border Patrol Agent
- 1 U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- 3 Secretaries
- 2 Assistant Prosecutors
St. Clair County is geographically unique:

- Over 700 Square miles
- International border
  - bridges
  - ferry service
- 110 miles of coastline
Many abusers begin as legitimate users, prescribed by their physician.

When they can no longer get a prescription for the pills, they will buy them on the street.

Some opiate prescription pills can cost up to $50 and more on the street.
PRESRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

- Seizures of prescription drugs by the DTF have declined as heroin seizures have increased
  - One reason is heroin has become so much cheaper than buying pills on the street
  - The DEA sponsored Drug Take Back Days may also be partly responsible
  - Over 1300 pounds of pills have been turned in at the Sheriff’s Office over the past seven years, including more than 300 pounds in 2017
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Pills seized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pills Seized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>564 (Jan &amp; Feb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heroin abuse is a critical problem in St. Clair County

- Tied with opiate based prescription drug abuse
- Prescription abusers may turn to heroin if they are unable to buy pills
- Heroin is cheaper than buying pills on the street, approximately $20 a bindle
Heroin

Heroin seizures (grams)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Seizures (grams)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 (Jan &amp; Feb)</td>
<td>62.5</td>
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</table>
DRUGS ARE BRINGING DEATH

- The rise in the abuse of heroin and prescription drugs has led to a large number of overdose deaths in St. Clair County.

- Naloxone (Narcan), a drug that reverses the lethal effect of opioid or heroin overdose is being used by EMS, fire departments and law enforcement to try to save those who overdose.
Drug Related Deaths

- Source: St. Clair County Medical Examiner's Office
Death toll could be worse

- Tri-Hospital EMS used Naloxone 312 times in 2015, 328 times in 2016 and 280 times in 2017.

- The slightly lower number of uses by Tri-Hospital is due in part to Naloxone being available to the public in some drug stores.

- Fire departments and many local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff’s Office have now also been trained in administering and are carrying Naloxone kits.

- Combined with the 69 drug related deaths that occurred last year, without Naloxone there was a potential for about a death a day from overdose in our county.
How you can help

- If you see or suspect drug transactions taking place, contact the St. Clair County Drug Task Force.

- The toll free number is 1-800-243-DRUG (3784).

- You can remain anonymous.

- Your tip may lead to a drug dealer being taken off the streets and a life saved.
How you can help

If you have prescription pills that are expired, unwanted or no longer needed, you can drop them off at the Sheriff’s Office Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.