

— Atlanta, GA • March 28-31, 2016 —  
**NATIONAL**  
**Rx DRUG ABUSE & HEROIN**  
**SUMMIT**  
NationalRxDrugAbuseSummit.org

*The largest national collaboration for those impacted by Rx drug abuse & heroin use.*

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## Summit Spotlight:

### [Heroin breakout sessions announced](#)

Descriptions of the six [Heroin Track](#) breakout sessions to be offered at the **2016 National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit** are now available.

While implications of the devastating heroin trend will be covered in all tracks, the [Heroin Track](#) will delve deeper into this scourge. Presentations will explore the forces driving the heroin crisis, with an eye toward identifying effective solutions. Attendees will learn from the outcomes of national, state and local responses that have been implemented on the policy, public health and law enforcement fronts.

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### [SAM Summit preliminary agenda announced](#)

The preliminary agenda for the 3rd Annual **SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) Marijuana Education Summit**, to be held Thursday, March 31, 2016, in conjunction with the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit, has been released. Remember, a separate registration is required for this event.

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## Top Stories in the News:

*Disclaimer: Articles and links within articles do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the National Rx*

*Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit or Operation UNITE.*

## [MA chief's tack on drug war: Steer addicts to rehab, not jail](#)

*Katherine Q. Seelye, The New York Times*

CANTON, Ohio - Leonard Campanello, the police chief of Gloucester, Mass., took the microphone here in mid-December and opened with his usual warm-up line: I'm from Gloucester, he said in his heavy Boston accent. "That's spelled 'G-l-o-s-t-a-h.'"

A casually profane man with a philosophical bent, Chief Campanello, 48, first drew national attention last spring when he wrote on Facebook that the old war on drugs was lost and over. Convinced that addiction is a disease, not a crime or moral failing, he became the unusual law enforcement officer offering heroin users an alternative to prison.

"Any addict who walks into the police station with the remainder of their drug equipment (needles, etc.) or drugs and asks for help will NOT be charged," he wrote. "Instead we will walk them through the system toward detox and recovery" and send them for treatment "on the spot."

To date, 56 police departments in 17 states have started programs modeled on or inspired by Gloucester's, with 110 more preparing to do so. In addition, 200 treatment centers across the country have signed on as partners.

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## [NYU study finds three-quarters of high school heroin users started with prescription opioids](#)

*New York University*

Nonmedical use of prescription opioids such as Vicodin, Percocet and OxyContin has become increasingly problematic in recent years with increases nationwide in overdoses, hospital treatment admissions, and deaths. Use also appears to be contributing to heroin initiation, which has increased in recent years, as the demographics of users are shifting. Those previously at low risk-women, whites, and individuals of higher income-are now using at unprecedented rates.

A recent study, published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* by Joseph J. Palamar, PhD, MPH, an affiliate of the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR) and an assistant professor of Population Health at NYU Langone Medical Center (NYULMC), is among the first nationally representative studies in the U.S. to examine the linkages between nonmedical use of opioids and heroin in high school seniors. The researchers examined associations between frequency and recency of nonmedical use of opioids and heroin. Sociodemographic correlates of use of each drug were also examined.

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## [Painkillers lead to addiction for local teen athletes](#)

The worst four years of Mike Phillips' life began on a basketball court at Tufts Park in Medford the spring of his freshman year in high school. Phillips, who at the time played football, basketball and baseball, met up with friends for a game of 3-on-3 to greet the warm air they had been craving all winter.

A harmless game among buddies - until Phillips got hurt. Phillips had broken a growth plate at the end of his fibula, an injury that would keep him on the sidelines for the next few months.

But for Phillips, like for so many other teens who engage in contact sports, the painkillers he was given after his injury prolonged his suffering well beyond the time it took for the dosage to wear off. Eventually, Phillips turned to heroin. But like the majority of heroin users, his addiction started with prescription drugs.

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## [Doctor, pharmacist among dozens charged in Texas-Louisiana pill mill operation that used homeless as runners](#)

*Naheed Rajwani, The Dallas Morning News*

More than 25 people from Texas and Louisiana are accused of being involved in a "pill mill" operation that hired homeless people to pose as patients and obtain prescriptions for pain killer medications, authorities say.

Four of the suspects, including a Dallas doctor and an Arlington pharmacist, were arrested Wednesday on federal charges of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, the office of John R. Parker, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, announced in a news release January 21.

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