

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE FORUM: | THE GROWING EPIDEMIC OF ADULT OPIOID ABUSE AND YOUTH ALCOHOL USE



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 | 6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

Rockport High School Auditorium, 24 Jerden's Lane, Rockport, MA

**OVERDOSES:** The leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., drug overdose and addiction can happen to anyone; young or old, from any demographic, and for a host of reasons. The statistics for drug overdoses are alarming; in 2015, there were 52,204 lethal overdoses. Opioid addiction is driving this epidemic, with 20,101 overdose deaths related to prescription pain relievers, and 12,990 overdose deaths related to heroin in 2015.

**TEEN ALCOHOL:** 25% of high school students report binge drinking (having 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row in a couple of hours) in the past 30 days. (Aggregate data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys conducted in 2015-2016 across Cape Ann, (Gloucester, Rockport, Beverly, Manchester, Essex and Ipswich)). 61% of 12th graders across the US have reported using alcohol at some point in their lives. (NIDA, Monitoring the Future Study, 2014)

## THERE WILL BE TWO PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND A Q&A SESSION\*:

1

- An overview of opioid epidemic
- Harm reduction techniques
- Resources for adults struggling with addiction in our community

2

- Harm of underage drinking
- Steps the community can take to prevent future substance use for youth

**Speakers to include,** PAARI; North Shore Health Project; One-Stop; Sydney Jimenez, MD; Dr. Yvonne Smikle, Middlesex Recovery Center; Alex Doyle of Conley's Pharmacy; Healthy Gloucester Collaborative and more

## FREE OF CHARGE, ALL ARE WELCOME

Parents, Students, Healthcare Personnel, Teachers, Law Enforcement and Safety Personnel, Caregivers, Nurses, Boards of Health, Community Members, and all others are invited to join us for this informative session.

RSVP not necessary but is very helpful. Feel free to bring a guest to this important session. Please email your response and how many in your group to [mpeters@rockportma.gov](mailto:mpeters@rockportma.gov). \* You may send questions to be forwarded to the panel if you wish.

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