



"Anytime you deal with death, it is not a good subject"

Deputy Coroner Killian shared his personal perspective on the opioid epidemic. While talking with him for a few minutes as he commented on his ongoing concerns for the opioid epidemic in Stanislaus County; "anytime you deal with death, it is not a good subject" they all leave families behind, regardless of the person's lifestyle, background, age, ethnicity, etc. it affects all segments, and "reaches all faces of society".

Deputy Killian mentioned that as we continue to explore the best ways we can address the needs of the community we serve, we must begin with understanding that opioid related overdoses, or any illegal drug in the matter, do not always come from the streets; "people think when they hear 'opioid'; it's from somebody who is using street drugs, but a lot of times it has to do prescription medications, they get hooked on their prescription and pretty soon they need more", and that is what seems to be the problem, over-prescribing is part of the problem.

Deputy Killian shared his experiences as an investigator out in the field, he stated that in his own frame of work he thinks "depression has a lot to do with it, depression seems to be a common denominator" it is during those times that he comes to understand that there are also a lot of other social issues that have to do with the drug overdose deaths he has had to investigate.



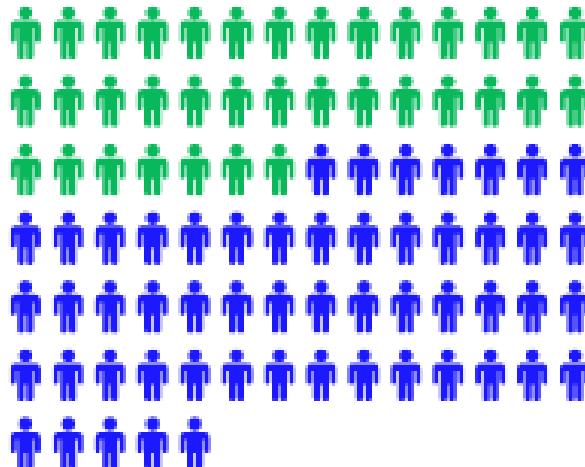
STANISLAUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORONER'S DIVISION

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In Stanislaus County in 2018, 89 people died of drug related overdose; 35 out of those 89 people died from an opioid related overdose.



*For more information about the Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition, e-mail
StanOpioidCoalition@stanbhrs.org or visit stancountyrxsafety.org*

The opioid epidemic is known to be a nationwide crisis that crosses boundaries and demographics, and the reason behind the escalating epidemic involves a variety of factors, Deputy Killian mentioned that a lot of the drug overdose deaths "start because of a person's mental health, but a lot of it also comes from poor choices, we have seen people who others tend to see come from an ideal home, the ideal family, and yet, still get involved in drugs, a lot of poor choices." Unfortunately it may or may not get any better, due to many laws changing there is "nothing we can do to help people receive treatment" if it does not come from within themselves to receive and change.

Deputy Killian mentioned that opioids should not only be the sole focus to decrease all drug overdose deaths; currently in our county, "Methamphetamine is right up there next to some of the most common opioids", and that is where the focus leans towards because they can go after issues like over-prescribing, but if "they saw all these deaths and numbers they'd be surprised, because they may start with opioids, then go to meth, and then goes something else" essentially leading to an overdose.

Deputy Killian commented on the Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition and said that have had a great start, but there are a lot of people that still need to come to the table to help with the development of the coalition and its work. He also said that the incorporation of the coalition and other programs are important because they can educate people and that is what can become a better foundation to teach others how easy it is to become addicted, that also means starting with schools and showing the youth the effects that can come about with the use of drugs.

STANISLAUS COUNTY
Opioid Safety Coalition

