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Scott Stokes  
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

**State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse**

1 West Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7851

July, 2013

To Interested Parties:

On behalf of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the final report and recommendations from the Heroin Ad-hoc Committee; *Wisconsin's Heroin Epidemic: Strategies and Solutions*.

There is growing evidence that drug overdose deaths are increasing nationally and in Wisconsin. Wisconsin deaths and medical visits associated with heroin use have increased substantially in recent years. Between 2008 and 2011 the number of deaths from heroin overdose doubled in Wisconsin. Recent increases in the number of treatment admissions for opiate abuse, the number of hospital visits for opiate overdoses and the number of acute Hepatitis C Virus infections (associated with individuals who inject drugs) statewide are clear indicators that Wisconsin is facing a growing public health concern related to opiate and heroin use.

The Prevention Committee of SCAODA, in recognition that heroin use is a growing problem in the state, established an Ad-hoc committee to research not only the incidence of heroin use but the systems and infrastructure for preventing, reducing harm and treating heroin dependence. The resulting report focuses on a "Five Pillar" approach to address concerns related to the public health impact of heroin use, 1) Prevention, 2) Harm Reduction, 3) Law Enforcement, 4) Treatment and 5) Workplaces. This report details the research findings and statewide recommendations that the Ad-hoc Committee developed after careful discussion and review of available data in each of these five pillar sectors.

This report will be a valuable tool for those around the state who are interested in promoting the health, safety and well-being of Wisconsin residents. If you have any questions about *Wisconsin's Heroin Epidemic: Strategies and Solutions*, please contact Scott Stokes at [scott.stokes@arcw.org](mailto:scott.stokes@arcw.org). If you or anyone you know would like additional copies of this report, it is available online at: [www.scaoda.state.wi.us](http://www.scaoda.state.wi.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Waupoose".

Michael Waupoose  
Chairperson

Cc: Governor Scott Walker  
Kitty Rhoades  
Kevin Moore