



PHOENIX POLICE

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

The Phoenix Police Department strives on a daily basis to keep our residents safe. One of our biggest challenges right now is related to the Opioid Epidemic that has struck families and communities across the nation. Like many of these communities, Phoenix has not been immune to the dangers presented by abuse of prescription drugs and their illegal street counterparts which are often disguised and sold as legitimate medications. Help is available. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please urge them to work with their medical service provider, reach out through the Angel Initiative, or the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family.

Jeri Williams, Police Chief
Phoenix Police Department



As Commander of the Phoenix Police Department's Drug Enforcement Bureau, I know how damaging the Opioid Epidemic is to our city. Every day, people abusing prescription medications or using illegal drugs are overdosing and dying in our community. The Phoenix Police Department urges people using prescription medications to work closely with their doctors and follow their treatment plans only as prescribed. Illegally purchasing medications or drugs is extremely dangerous. There are numerous counterfeit medications and illegal street drugs that are being sold as one thing, but contain a number of different chemicals that have created overdose deaths around our state and in our city. We urge those at risk individuals to seek assistance from any reputable treatment facility before another life is lost. Medication return boxes are available at all Phoenix Police Precincts to help properly dispose of unused medications.

Aaron Thomas, Commander
Drug Enforcement Bureau



What we have seen in Phoenix

Illicit pills being sold as oxycodone hydrochloride are containing more than fentanyl. The Phoenix Police Crime Laboratory has identified a variety of compounds in illicit pills seized within the city. Some of the additional compounds include: heroin; cocaine; lidocaine, a medication used to numb tissue; fentanyl; acetyl fentanyl, a chemical similar to fentanyl with a potency 5 to 15 times of heroin; and tramadol, a synthetic opioid added to enhance the effects of fentanyl.



Counterfeit Oxycodone

The additional compounds added to the counterfeit pills are use to either assist in the binding of the substances during production and/or to enhance the effects of the drug. These pills are stamped with pill identifier markings and to the untrained eye look identical to a pharmaceutical product. These chemical compounds can potentially be lethal or harmful to the consumer.

Treatment Resources Available

Are you looking to get help? There are resources available to those seeking treatment.

The Maryvale-Estrella Mountain Precinct is piloting the Arizona Angel Initiative in West Phoenix. The Arizona Angel Initiative allows citizens to walk into a police precinct, turn in their drugs and request treatment without fear of prosecution.

The following criteria must be met in order to participate:

- Must be an adult, age 18 or older
- Must be willing and able to follow staff directions
- Must have a valid Identification Card
- Must agree to abide by all rules and refrain from engaging in illegal and/or inappropriate activity
- Must be willing to go to detox and obtain medical clearance, if detox is required
- Be physically and mentally able to self-manage personal hygiene and self-care within a non-medical, non-psychiatric facility
- Not be a fugitive from justice or have any prior or pending charges for crimes involving violence, arson, sexual offenses, children, or the elderly

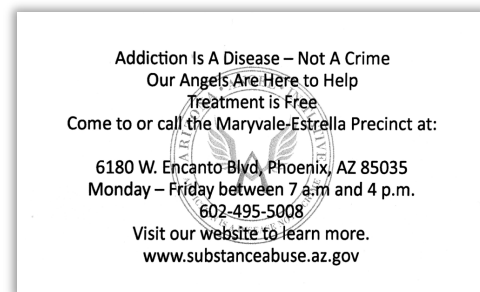
If you meet this criteria and would like to participate in the Angel Initiative, all you need to do is show up at the Maryvale-Estrella Precinct with a valid State I.D., between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., turn in your drugs and request treatment. Although it is preferred that you arrange care for your children while you get help, the Angel Initiative will find caregivers who will take them in while you get help, you may be able to take your children with you in some cases.

Maryvale-Estrella Precinct:
6180 West Encanto Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85035
602-495-5008

Participation in the Arizona Angel Initiative is in line with the primary goal of the Phoenix Police Department, to help the community we serve. Drug use and addiction is a serious problem with a known link to crimes such as burglary, theft, prostitution and others. Drug addiction is a disease with a stigma attached. Addicts often desperately want help with their addiction but aren't sure how to get it and are afraid to admit to anyone, let alone the police, that they are users.

Drug overdoses frequently occur within the Maryvale-Estrella Mountain Precinct which also has the highest rate of child removal by the Arizona Department of Child Safety. The number one reason for these removals is drug use in the home. We want to help keep families together and reduce the chance of these children growing up to engage in criminal behavior. By offering help we can remove the stigma surrounding addiction as criminal, reduce the crime rate, reduce child removals, and reduce overdoses.

This program is made possible in cooperation with Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, Phoenix District 7 Councilman Michael Nowakowski and City of Phoenix officials.



If you or your loved one are not ready for the Angel Initiative but still interested in treatment, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family maintains a list of providers. Visit www.substanceabuse.az.gov to find a provider.



Med Return Box

Unwanted or expired medications may be disposed of in the Med Return Boxes located in the lobbies of the following Phoenix Police Stations:

- Black Mountain Precinct — 33355 North Cave Creek Road
- Cactus Park Precinct — 12220 North 39th Avenue
- Central City Precinct — 1902 South 16th Street
- Desert Horizon Precinct — 16030 North 56th Street
- Maryvale Precinct — 6180 West Encanto Boulevard
- Mountain View Precinct — 2075 East Maryland Avenue
- Police Headquarters — 620 West Washington Street
- South Mountain Precinct — 400 West Southern Avenue

