

**Do you have concerns,
questions, or need support?**

**Please feel free to reach out
to me or my staff.
We will do our best to help.**

**Pete
Lopez**

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Protecting our Children and Families from Heroin and Opioid Abuse

A Special Report from
ASSEMBLYMAN
**Pete
Lopez**



Dear Neighbor,

Heroin and opioid abuse is rampant throughout New York State and our region is no exception.

Our young people are falling prey to this epidemic and the death toll for overdose-related deaths is increasing at an extremely alarming rate. Parents are understandably concerned for the safety of their children and many are worried that their family will be the next to be affected.

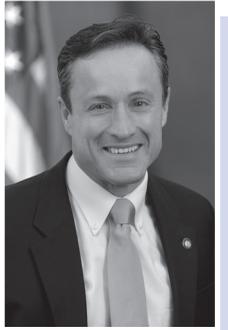
This year, I supported legislation specifically designed to combat this plague. Enclosed you will find specifics on these measures and how they affect our communities and those battling addiction.

You will also find information on heroin-related legislation that we continue to work on as well as some facts and important contact information.

My colleagues and I take this issue very seriously and will continue to fight for the safety and well-being of New York's families.

Sincerely,

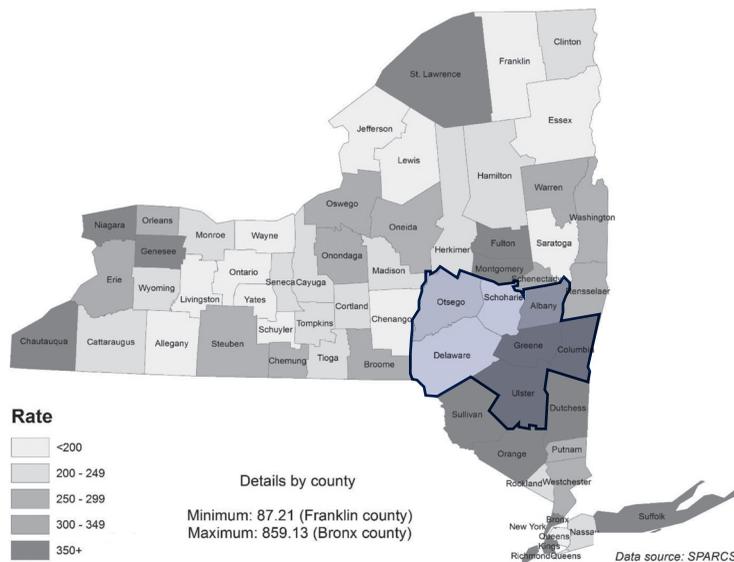
*Assemblyman Peter D. Lopez
102nd Assembly District*



Assemblyman Lopez: Fighting the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

The rate of opioid-related hospital admissions is alarming

Below is a map comparing the counties in our region to other New York counties.



*Rates are per 100,000 population.

Source: SPARCS. Prepared by NYSDOH AIDS Institute, June 2015

This year, the New York State Legislature passed significant legislation to save lives in the battle against heroin and opioid abuse. I supported the passage of each of these measures:

- ✓ **A.10725 requires insurance companies to cover a five-day emergency supply of prescribed medications for the treatment of substance abuse without prior authorization and extends the period of time an impaired individual can be involuntarily held to receive treatment from 48 to 72 hours.**
- ✓ **A.10726 allows a wider range of licensed professionals to administer the life-saving drug Naloxone in an emergency situation.**
- ✓ **A.10727 requires all health insurance policies to provide unlimited inpatient coverage for necessary treatment for substance abuse in OASAS-certified, in-network residential settings and limits Schedule II, III, or IV opioid prescriptions to 7-day supply after initial consultation or treatment of a patient.**

For more information and help:

Contact the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

518-473-3460

www.oasas.ny.gov

There is still more work to be done!

My colleagues and I put together the Heroin ELimination & Prevention Plan (HELP), which came from a broader task force report, to take further steps to rid our state of this scourge. The plan includes measures to:

- Require schools to provide drug education beginning in 3rd grade, with a focus on interactions between pupils, peers, and individuals;
- Provide state support for school resource officer programs;
- Provide additional funding to increase the number of detoxification beds throughout all regions of New York;
- Require a mandatory 72-hour hold by hospitals for anyone who has been administered Naloxone;
- Develop a civil process to allow families to petition a court to order a severely addicted individual into outpatient and/or inpatient treatment;
- Lower the amount of heroin required to constitute a class A-I or class A-II drug felony, both non-divertible felony charges, making more drug dealers ineligible for drug diversion and subject to harsher penalties; and
- Require each county and state correctional facility in New York to have a wing dedicated to the detoxification and rehabilitation of inmates.

To view the full task force report visit goo.gl/iQkMtx on the web or call my office for a copy.

Pete
Lopez