

## **Pills To Needles -- The Pathway to Rising Heroin Deaths** **A Community Alert and Call to Action**

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama, the UAB School of Public Health, and the Jefferson County Department of Public Health are pleased to invite you to join us at a community awareness summit on the rising abuse of prescription opiates and heroin and the epidemic of heroin deaths in our community. The summit is scheduled **Tuesday, June 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the UAB National Alumni Society House, 1301 1st Ave. South, Birmingham.**

The abuse of prescription opiates and heroin have led to a sharp increase in deaths in our community. Such deaths have reached epidemic proportions across the country. The goal of this summit is to raise awareness of the local heroin problem and mobilize different sectors of the community to take action by highlighting the devastating effect prescription opiates and heroin have had on our community.

The summit will present a variety of speakers and panel discussions addressing topics including the link between a growing dependency on prescription painkillers and heroin addiction and overdose deaths; law enforcement efforts to combat the problem; challenges and availability of prevention and treatment resources; and school intervention and education efforts to combat use and addiction. We will conclude with a discussion and audience input on developing and implementing a community action plan to address this dangerous and deadly epidemic.

### **Background**

In the summer of 2012, amidst a backdrop of skyrocketing heroin overdose deaths, federal and local law enforcement from Jefferson, Shelby and Tuscaloosa counties met in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Birmingham to discuss law enforcement action. As a result of this meeting, enforcement actions to divert the supply of heroin into North Alabama and to identify and incarcerate those trafficking it were undertaken. More than 50 defendants were prosecuted through this joint action, in which state prosecutors worked alongside federal

prosecutors. Some of the heroin recovered in the course of the investigation was more than 95 percent pure. Two of the individuals prosecuted were charged with a mandatory minimum 20-year penalty for selling heroin that resulted in an overdose death, and one of those defendants has pleaded guilty to the charge.

### [Keynote Speaker](#)

**The Honorable James M. Cole, Deputy Attorney General, United States  
Department of Justice**

### [Proposed Agenda](#)



### [Who Should Attend](#)

- Parents
- Educators
- Doctors
- Health Practitioners & Pharmacists
- Community Leaders & Organizers
- Victim Advocates & Service Providers
- Non-Governmental Community Groups
- State /Federal Judges & Prosecutors
- Faith-Based Organization Leaders
- Law Enforcement Officials
- Concerned Citizens

**[State Department of Education Continuing Education Credit  
Available for Attendance](#)**

**This event is open to the public.  
SEATING IS LIMITED.**

**Please Forward to Interested Colleagues and Associates.**

## **REGISTRATION FORM**



**Complete the attached form and email to**  
[lyndon.laster@usdoj.gov](mailto:lyndon.laster@usdoj.gov) or fax 205.244.2180.

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