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How heroin is affecting the Bradford County Correctional Facility

- The heroin problem in our area has affected many aspects of our facility, we have dealt with many drug epidemics over the years but heroin is one the toughest and most expensive to deal with.
- One of our biggest concerns is medical issues associated with heroin use; we have seen an increase in diseases attributed to intravenous drug use. For instance Hepatitis C and AIDS, these are very expensive disease to treat and each person who undergoes treatment can cost the county thousands of dollars a month just in medication. For a small county such as Bradford this can deplete the entire projected pharmacy budget and cause money shortages in other areas.
- We have also seen an increase in female inmates of which are large number claim to be or to have been on heroin prior to being committed. Female bed space in most county jails is limited and we have been forced to board inmates out to other counties. As more and more female heroin users are committed to jails the available bed space is far and few between and those in need are forced to transport inmates to jails in other areas of the state. This can cause hardships on Sheriffs offices for transports, courts for hearings and the inmate's families who have to travel to visit.
- There is also the issue of pregnant female inmates who have started a detox program using methadone, if they have started the program they cannot stop when incarcerated and we would be forced to find a clinic and to take them to and from daily. There is no clinic in our county and we would be forced to take them to another one for treatment.
- We have attempted to help the situation by diverting more people into treatment programs and have allowed some to be placed onto a supervised bail program instead of incarceration.
- I would like to see more help from the legislature in the funding areas, as I have stated above the costs associated with the care and treatment is very expensive and can be hard to obtain in a small rural county. Because we are mandated by law to provide the needed care and treatment services it would be a great service to have help from the state in funding these.

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