



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS

“Golden Hub of Innovation Award” in Public Safety



Pictured from left to right: Heather Stratman, CEO of ACC-OC, Sheriff Hutchens, Sgt. Mike Pixomatis

The [Association of California Cities Orange County](#) (ACC-OC) presented The Orange County Sheriff's Department with the “Golden Hub of Innovation” award in Public Safety today for their series of community presentations on the 3Gs: Guide, Guard and Govern. The presentations provide parents with the proper tools to address drug related issues among teens.

The abuse of opioids and heroin is an increasing problem across the United States. Teens usually obtain the prescription drugs, or opioids, from the homes of friends, family or acquaintances. However, prescription drugs are expensive and difficult to find. Therefore, drug users usually progress to heroin, which is cheaper and easier to find on the streets. Deaths from heroin have [increased 248% from 2010 to 2014](#). According to The Partnership at DrugFree.org, 1 in 5 teens report that they have taken prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them.

While opioids and heroin are a huge problem, the OCS.D's presentations also focus on marijuana and alcohol abuse. Whether it be prescription drugs, marijuana, or alcohol, the OCS.D equips parents with information and strategies in hopes of preventing drug use among teens.

The OCS.D provides the [Parent Tool Kit](#), which is a useful tool that lists some skill sets that parents can teach their children starting as young as 2-years-old. Parents can teach their children life-long skills such as coping skills, social skills, life skills, etc. These skills will ultimately decrease the likelihood of drug abuse among children.

The tool kit also includes an “Asset Checklist” that parents can go through with their child, conversation prompts to bring up with their child, and a contract for their child to sign. All of these tools are useful in in order to encourage conversation and awareness in the family and community.