

Summer Crime Reporter
Jul 18, 2011

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A WAR IS RAGING

Winnebago County law enforcement agencies continue to join their U.S. and world counterparts in the battle against drugs. The data is clear:

• More than half of all people arrested in the U.S. test positive for illegal drugs

• Drug addiction often leads to increased property crime and robberies

• More than 25% of inmates committed their offense while under the influence of drugs

Without question, drugs have a tremendous negative impact on our communities, as well as a very high social and financial cost to all of us. New trends are even more alarming.

Recently, designer drugs have become a dangerous epidemic in our communities. In the past year, hospitals in our county have seen an increase in emergency room visits as a result of people using synthetic marijuana and cocaine products.

How do people get their hands on these dangerous substances?

Sadly, many of the products are readily available in retail locations throughout the area. What was previously a shady transaction with a drug dealer is now a simple over-the-counter purchase. The ease of access has made these dangerous designer drugs even more appealing. Fortunately, our laws are slowly catching up with the epidemic. Many retailers also carry products such as smoking devices, scales, and concealment items that are clearly associated with drug use.

Today, synthetic cannabinoids and Mephedrone (bath salts) are illegal throughout the State of Wisconsin. Recently, Governor Scott Walker signed Senate Bill 54 and Act 31, which prohibits the distribution, delivery, manufacture and possession of designer drugs. A person who manufactures, distributes, or delivers a synthetic cannabinoid, or who possesses a synthetic cannabinoid with the intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver it, is guilty of a Class H felony and subject to a fine up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to six years, or both.

One of the greatest strengths in fighting a war is the enlistment of allies. We are asking you to join with us in ridding our communities of these designer drugs and associated products by ensuring that neither legal nor illegal products are for sale in retail establishments. Not only will you be helping to make our area safer, you will be reducing the likelihood of crimes being committed by drug-motivated thieves. Retailers also need to take note that by removing these items can protect themselves from the possibility of a criminal or civil action in the future should someone become ill or worse yet die.

For more information on these products, please contact your local crime prevention officer.

re:TH!NK "Parents are the Key."

re:TH!NK Winnebago's Healthy Living Partnership, housed in the Winnebago County Health Department, exists to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse while promoting healthy lifestyles.

One of the major risks for teens lives is driving. Every parent knows this when they give the keys to the car to their new driver. Every insurance agent knows this when they have to give the insurance price increase for a new driver added to a policy. Nationwide there are eight teens killed every day with auto accidents.

In Winnebago County, motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of unintentional injuries resulting in deaths of children resulting in

1546 ER Visits 2002-2008

106 Hospitalization 2002-2008

17 lives lost; most were males age 16-19 2005-2010

Causes: No seatbelts, drug or alcohol use, extra teens in the car, inexperience, speeding, texting and emotional instability.

Parents are the key to keeping kids safe on the road. This program, which will roll out in fall of 2011 in Winnebago County, encourages parents and new drivers to read, talk about and sign a contract for driving. This contract assists parents in having that talk and not missing any of the very important points with their teen driver. It also reminds parent what questions to ask and restrictions to place on their new drivers.

This contract can give parents the confidence to hand over the keys. Local schools in Winnebago County and behind the wheel instructions services will have these materials. People can also begin by visiting the re:TH!NK website at www.rethinkwinnebago.org

QPR: CPR for Suicide Prevention

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Available from Community for Hope of Greater Oshkosh, Inc. Doug Bisby, Exec Director , 920-230-4840

Question the person about suicide Persuade the person to get help Refer them for help.

Suicide Prevention Gatekeepers are trained to recognize a suicide crisis and, because of their training, know how and where to find help. QPR gatekeeper training takes just one hour and is taught in a format that is clear, concise, and applicable for a wide variety of audiences. Gatekeepers are given information that is easy to understand, and reinforced by a QPR booklet and card complete with warning signs, methods to encourage a person to get help and a list of resources available in your community.

QPR was created and developed by Paul Quinnett, Ph.D. of Spokane, Washington. Dr. Quinnett began a QPR Instructor Certification Program to allow qualified candidates to teach QPR and increase the

number of people trained to act in a bold, positive manner to prevent a suicide and save a life.

Ask a Question, Save a Life How QPR Differs from Other Suicide Prevention Programs

• QPR recognizes that even socially isolated individuals usually have some sort of contact within their community (e.g. family, doctors, teachers, employer, banker, counselor, etc.)

• QPR teaches diverse groups within each community how to recognize the "real crises" of suicide and the symptoms that accompany it.

• QPR addresses high-risk people within their own environments (verses requiring the individual to initiate requests for support or treatment on their own).

• QPR offers the increased possibility of intervention early in the depressive and/or suicidal crisis (when the level of suicide may be less).

• QPR encourages the gatekeeper to take the individual directly to a treatment provider and/or community resource.

• QPR stresses active follow-up on each intervention that occurs.

The individual trained in QPR often plays a preexisting role in the at-risk person's life. This increases the sense of continuity, support likelihood of a positive resolution.