



Law Enforcement Facts You Should Know

The Marathon County Medical Examiner reports that deaths from drug overdoses in Marathon County have increased from three in 2010, eight in 2011 and six overdose deaths in 2012. Heroin accounted for zero of the overdose deaths in 2010, three of the deaths in 2011 and four in 2012. City of Wausau Emergency Medical Services reported 54 drug overdoses in 2010, 52 in 2011 and 39 in 2012. The City of Wausau experienced five deaths related to drug overdoses in 2012 compared to just one death related to a drug overdose in 2011. Three of the deaths in Wausau in 2012 were heroin overdoses.

How you can help support law enforcement:

1. Of all the illicit drugs currently available in the community, heroin is the fastest growing trend due to easy access, availability and low cost. Police and treatment centers have expressed the need to increase public awareness of heroin so they can identify drug dealers and those who need treatment for drug addiction. The lack of public awareness about the dangers of heroin makes the community even more vulnerable.
2. Heroin is a highly addictive drug that has become cheaper and more accessible in recent years, traveling quickly to Central Wisconsin's smaller communities via dealers in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/Saint Paul.
3. Users can ingest drugs in many different ways using a variety of ingestion tools and accessories (such as needles, caps for cooking and cotton). Sharing of those contaminated ingestion tools is extremely risky behavior and easily spreads infections like hepatitis C and HIV. A 2011 Wisconsin Department of Health Epidemiological study, which included Marathon County, concluded that the primary cause of reported new hepatitis C infections, especially in young adults, were a direct result of people sharing needles to inject illicit drugs, including heroin.
4. The number of hepatitis C cases has more than doubled in north central Wisconsin since 2000, with 50 confirmed cases in Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties alone during 2010.
5. Below are the number of drug arrests in Marathon County between 2009 and 2012. Note these rates do not reflect multiple sales of heroin by the individual charged with the crime. Clearly the number of arrests and amounts of illegal drug activity are on the rise.

| Arrests for Delivery of Heroin | Possession with Intent to Deliver | Arrests for Possession of Narcotic Drugs |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2009 - 3 | 2009 - 1 | 2009 - 25 |
| 2010 - 2 | 2010 - 0 | 2010 - 32 |
| 2011 - 10 | 2011 - 11 | 2011 - 37 |
| 2012 - 15 | 2012 - 9 | 2012 - 48 |

6. In the City of Wausau, illicit drug sale and possession arrests have increased 43% since 2010.
7. Examples of other increased crime associated with drug or alcohol abuse in the City of Wausau include:
 - Aggravated Assaults rose from 88 arrests in 2010 to 105 in 2011.
 - Weapons offenses increased from 15 in 2010 to 44 in 2012.
 - Robberies have increased from 34 in 2010 to 98 in 2012.
 - Thefts are up from 676 in 2010 to 723 in 2012, and
 - Fraud and Counterfeiting arrests rose from 211 in 2010 to 268 in 2012.



8. Detective caseloads have increased substantially as well due to drug and alcohol related crime according to Chief Hardel. Wausau detectives investigated 743 cases in 2012, 209 more than the 534 cases handled in 2011.
9. Other communities in Marathon County also are experiencing more criminal activity due to increased drug abuse. Wally Sparks, Chief of Police for the Everest Metro Police Department stated, "There is a significant relationship to drug use and criminal activity. Two well publicized crimes in the past year (2012) at Everest Metro Police Department were the Xiong homicide and the string of church burglaries, where drug use played prominent roles. Some of the more addictive drugs tend to be strongly affiliated with criminal activities as those addicted to these drugs will do anything to obtain money to purchase these drugs. The increase of methamphetamines and heroin in the metro area is extremely problematic due to the highly addictive nature of these drugs. We are seeing people with gang ties bringing drugs into our communities from Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Being able to curb these trends before some of these criminal organizations take permanent residence in our community and establish more formalized structures and networks is critical."