



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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DRUGS— SNOHOMISH REGIONAL DRUG AND GANG TASK FORCE

The Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force (SRDGTF) has seen many drug trends over the years. They have seen the meth labs of the early 2000's and then the popularity of prescription drugs like oxycodone. Now, they see the current epidemic of heroin use.

The task force targets moderate to high level drug traffickers, both individuals and gangs, who work across many jurisdictions. Its aim is to reduce the availability of illegal drugs in our community.

It uses old fashioned investigative techniques and modern technology to apprehend and give cases to prosecutors to take traffickers off the streets. It's team includes representatives from several local law enforcement agencies, the prosecutor's office, the Public Health District and the Medical Examiner.

The task force has adopted a new strategy of trying to get users off of their drugs. The task force works with agencies such as Catholic Community Services, Child Protective Services, Cocoon House and Adult Drug Court, anyone who can help people kick their addictions. Project 99, which was in-

tended to clean up neighborhoods and businesses along parts of Highway 99 is part of this new strategy.

Its new effort tries to get at the root problem of drug abuse and much of the crime that we see in the county. It can go after the drug dealers and try to cut off the supply, but that still leaves those who are addicted with demands for supply. The idea is to get them the treatment that they need to break their habit.

This new approach attempts to get to the root of the drug use problem. While enforcing laws, putting away drug dealers, catching burglars and car prowlers are still important, this approach recognizes that getting people off of drugs is the ultimate solution to reducing much of the crime in our community.

For more information about the task force go to: <http://www.srdtf.org/>



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NARCAN- ANTIDOTE FOR HEROIN OVER- DOSE

Narcan (Naloxone) reverses the affects of heroin, opioids and pain medications such as oxycodone, Vicodin and codeine.

In an effort to save lives from heroin overdose, Narcan is now available at four pharmacies in Snohomish County and Woodinville. They include:

- Providence Pharmacy, Stanwood
- QFC Pharmacy, Stanwood
- Haggen Pharmacy, Marysville
- Bellegorve Pharmacy, Woodinville

For more information about this program, go to:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20141218/NEWS01/141219037>

HEROIN- AN EPIDEMIC

Heroin is an old drug. It has plagued individuals and communities for decades. Currently, heroin's popularity comes from the fact that it is cheaper than prescription drugs.

Heroin can be injected, snorted, sniffed, or smoked. Any of these methods can lead to addiction and other severe health problems.

Heroin use may cause a surge of euphoria and then an alternately wakeful and drowsy mental state. Heroin overdoses frequently involve suppression of respiration.

Heroin users can successfully get off of their heroin addiction through a combination of medications and support services. A number of medications and behavioral therapies have proven to be successful. They key is to use the medications and behavioral therapies together for the best chance for success.

Recently, the Snohomish Health District issued a report that declared the number of heroin deaths in the county to be an epidemic ([http://www.snohd.org/Portals/0/Snohd/Reports/files/HeroinReport_Final_Jan%](http://www.snohd.org/Portals/0/Snohd/Reports/files/HeroinReport_Final_Jan%202015.pdf)

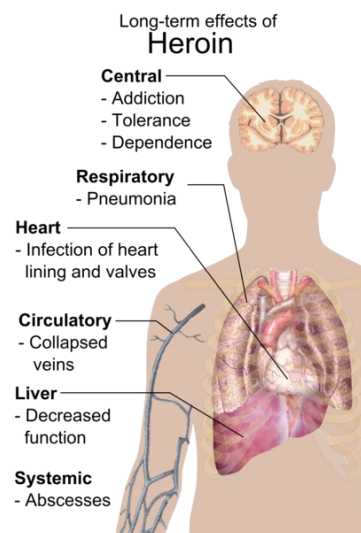
[202015.pdf](http://www.snohd.org/Portals/0/Snohd/Reports/files/HeroinReport_Final_Jan%202015.pdf)). The county's rate of heroin-related deaths, 5.4 per 100,000 people exceeds Washington State's heroin-related deaths of 3.2 per 100,000 people.

The age of the people being treated for opiate addiction is also getting younger. Those being treated are in their late teens to early 20's. Forty years ago the average age was 30's and 40's.

Last year, Providence Regional Medical Center, in Everett, treated 440 cases of opiate poisonings. Evergreen Manor, which treats chemical dependency and domestic violence, (<http://www.evergreenmanor.org/>) admitted 1,100 people into the in-patient detox program. 80% of those people were treated for opiate or heroin addiction.

Mexican cartel gangs do most of the distribution of heroin in the Puget Sound region. They embed themselves in quiet neighborhoods . As a rule, the gang members keep a low profile to not attract attention.

The I-5 corridor acts as a conduit for drugs to come north from Mexico while cash and guns head south.



MARIJUANA – KEEPING IT AWAY FROM KIDS

With the new marijuana law in Washington State, keeping kids from using marijuana has become an important goal for law enforcement, schools and parents. There is confusion about the law and about marijuana given its new status as a legal drug for recreational use by adults.

Recreational use is legal for adults 21 years old and older. Adults can possess no more than 1 ounce of usable marijuana, 16 ounces in solid form, and 72 ounces in liquid form.

Minors, those under 21, who are found in possession of marijuana can be charged with “Minor in Possession.” Minors cannot drive after using any amount of marijuana. Also, adults, including parents, cannot give marijuana for recreational use.

Also, marijuana cannot be used in view of the public. It cannot be used on federal government property and on most tribal lands.

The reason it is important to try to keep kids away from marijuana is that the brain continues developing through the age of 25. The use of marijuana, or any drug, can impair brain development. Also, teens who start using marijuana before the age of 14 are four times more likely to become addicted by the time they are adults than if they had started use at an older age.

Child experts say that parents should give their children clear guidance not to use marijuana. Some parents may think that

making marijuana taboo would only attract their children to experiment with it. However, teens who believe that their parents think that it is wrong for them to use marijuana are 5 times less likely to be current marijuana smokers by the 10th grade.

Teens might have the impression that all of their peers use marijuana. However, in Washington state, the majority of high school seniors (73%) do not use marijuana. Only about half of high school students have tried marijuana. Less than 10% smoke it at least 10 times per month.

Being involved with your child, knowing their friends, knowing where they are, are important to keeping your child away from drugs, and in enjoying your child as he/she grows up.

Set clear guidelines for your child including:

- Doing household chores
- Following your rules
- Showing respect for family members and others
- Having a reasonable bedtime
- Following laws and school regulations
- Going to school, and keeping up with homework

MARIJUANA – WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Marijuana is a complicated subject. It's difficult for most parents to keep up with the latest information about the drug. And with the internet, there is as much bad information available as there is scientifically based information.

The University of Washington's Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute has created a web page called "Learn About Marijuana." This page is an excellent resource for factual information on marijuana for parents, teens and adult consumers.

To learn more about marijuana go to:

[http://
learnaboutmarijuana.org/](http://learnaboutmarijuana.org/)

PROJECT 99- WORKING TO GET PEOPLE OFF OF DRUGS

The Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force has traditionally approached the drug problem by arresting the drug traffickers to disrupt the supply of drugs. But the drugs kept coming. And the drug users kept using.

The task force would partner with other local law enforcement agencies as well as national law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Now it has expanded its partners to local social service agencies.

Project 99 started as an effort to clean up some neighborhoods and businesses along a stretch of Highway 99 that had high crime rates. One thing led to another. The task force, and the Sheriff's Office, brought in county code enforcement officers, health workers, social workers, fire marshals, mental health workers and Child Protective Services. The group includes anyone who can help with county regulatory authority or social expertise to help get people off of drugs, or clean up problem properties.

It's a loose knit group, but they have been learning to work together toward a common goal. The philosophy is that the crime and drug problem is not just a law enforcement issue, but it is a "society issue" that may take the help of many people outside of law enforcement to solve.

The team visits old drug houses to make

sure the occupants work to clean up their act. If there are piles of trash in the yard, the team will call on code enforcement to ensure that the trash is cleaned up. The team will try to talk to drug abusers about programs that they can enter to get off of drugs. If the team finds illegal activity they will issue tickets or take people to jail, whichever is appropriate.

Law enforcement cannot deal with drug abuse alone. It needs help from experts in drug abuse; from other regulatory workers, and from families and friends.

This article from The Herald gives more of an idea of what Project 99 is about:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20141116/NEWS01/141119438>

Preventing drug abuse and dealing with drug abuse problems is an issue for all of us. If you have a problem with drug abuse in your family or you suspect a drug problem in your neighborhood, there are resources that can help you. This web page gives a listing of resources that may help you:

<http://www.srdtf.org/find-help>

If you have more questions about drugs in Snohomish County or would like someone to talk to your group about drugs, email Pat Slack at pat.slack@co.snohomish.wa.us.

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

NEWSLETTER INFO

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

Online Tips: <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477