



North Reading Police Department



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Michael P. Murphy
Chief of Police

North Reading Police- Public Awareness Bulletin

Over the past several weeks, Boston's local media has been disseminating a tremendous amount of information regarding the overwhelming amount of heroin overdoses and deaths throughout the Northeast Region. Unfortunately, it may have taken the death of a celebrity to bring this serious issue to the forefront of today's news. The Town of North Reading is not immune to this issue and the Police are well aware of the drug addiction, specifically opiates and heroin, that our community faces.

A recent story on a local Boston radio station website claimed that Opioid overdoses in Eastern Massachusetts is the highest in the nation. Click the link below for the full story.

<http://www.wbur.org/2012/12/05/heroin-overdoses-eastern-mass>

According to our local Fire Department, Narcan (a drug that can reverse an opioid overdose) is being administered more frequently than it had been in the past. Narcan is usually administered to a patient who's overdosing on heroin. On average in North Reading, Narcan is being administered once a month. That average can be somewhat misleading due to Narcan or Naloxone being available by prescription and sold at area pharmacies. In many instances, Narcan is being administered by drug users to other drug users who have possibly overdosed prior to the first responders arrival. For more information on Narcan and Naloxone, please click the follow links:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/30/police-use-narcan-to-reverse-heroin-overdoses/5063587/>

<http://stopoverdose.org/faq.htm>

The North Reading Police Department continues to work collectively with the North Reading Community Impact Team (CIT), other area Police Departments, Health Care workers, Woburn District Court HEAT program, and the DEA to address opiate and heroin addiction.

If you or someone you know has an addiction and believes they may need help, there are resources available.

- The H.E.A.T. program (Heroin Education Awareness Task Force) is a collaboration between the Probation Department at Woburn District Court and the Police Departments of the seven (7) cities and towns under its jurisdiction. Please contact Probation Officer Michael Higgins at 781-935-4000 extension 267 or Chief of Probation, Officer Vincent Piro at 781-935-4000 extension 226.
- The Massachusetts Substance Abuse Help Hotline: 800-327-5050
- The North Reading Community Impact Team's web site has a link to several helpful addiction sites. Please click the following link for the CIT's website. <http://www.northreadingcit.com/>

Please continue to monitor this site as we will be providing updates and more information as it becomes available.

If you would like to leave an anonymous tip please see the following link: North Reading Police Anonymous Text a Tip Line: <http://www.northreadingcit.com/index.php?link=cit#drug>

If you need immediate assistance, have a question, or would like to know more about the signs and symptoms of heroin or opiate use, please contact North Reading Police Detective Thomas Hatch: 978-357-5067 or Juvenile Detective Kevin Donle: 978-357-5072