

Hudson Police Department FY 2015 Town Report

Preface:

It gives me pleasure to share with the citizens of Hudson, your Police Department's FY 2015 Annual Town Report. The following information will summarize the year in a few short pages.

The Town of Hudson has a unique police department; members are very involved with the community and work closely to solve problems, provide programs, and are committed to assisting charitable organizations. Last March, the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce recognized the department by selecting us as the "Outstanding Community Partner". I can assure you there are not many police department's that are as close with the community. This partnership will keep Hudson a great place to own a business and an even better place to raise a family.

Heroin/Fentanyl

Although the media and law enforcement will use the word Heroin when discussing this problem, please understand that Fentanyl is truly the cause of this issue. What is Fentanyl? Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opiate analgesic similar to but more potent than morphine. It is typically used for patients to manage pain after surgery. Fentanyl works by binding the body's opiate receptors that control pain and emotions in the brain. When they bind, it can drive up dopamine levels in the brain's reward areas and produce a state of euphoria and relaxation. Mixing Fentanyl with Heroin can lead to euphoria, drowsiness/respiratory depression and arrest, confusion, unconsciousness, coma, and death. These conditions can only be reversed by Naloxone more commonly known as Narcan.

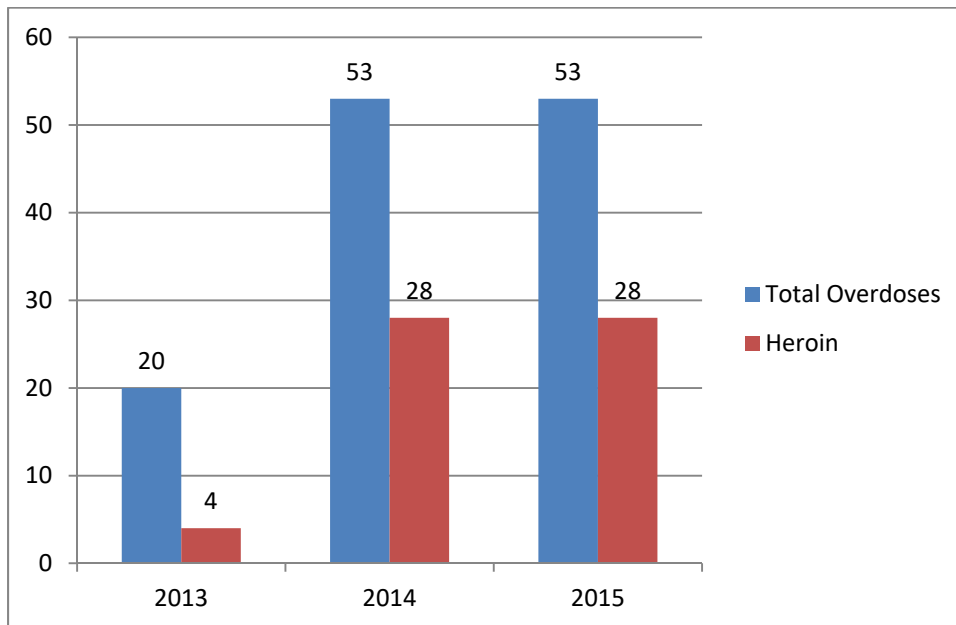
Depending on what you read, Fentanyl can be as strong as 10 to even 100 percent stronger than heroin. However, the cost to make Fentanyl in clandestine labs is as equally less expensive. Because the cost to make is so much less, dealers will sell the Fentanyl at heroin prices to increase their profit margin. Why would anyone risk death to use this powerful drug? The drug alters a person's brain so it can no longer experience normal pleasures. Depression may set in and the addict unwittingly seeks to find that better high to make them feel "better". Some people get hooked on opioids because at some point they had a doctor's prescription for pain medication. If the patient becomes addicted to the medication and when that prescription medication is no longer given to them, the cost to buy that medication on the street is very expensive. Hence, the low cost of heroin becomes their drug of choice.

Recently, family members of heroin addicts are able to possess and use Narcan at home in the event that a loved one overdoses. I am concerned that this measure will allow a false sense of security for the family with good intentions. Specifically, when a family member uses Narcan they should still do whatever they can to get the person who overdosed to the hospital. Narcan has a shorter shelf life than Fentanyl. It is possible that the amount of the overdose may be higher and last longer than Narcan does in the body. Thus, the opportunity for a potential 'second overdose' could occur. When this happens it is unknown if the nearby family members will be aware of the second occurrence.

Again, Fentanyl seen on the street typically is not being created by drug companies. Instead, they are being created in back yard labs, mixed with a small amount of heroin and/or a cutting agent and eventually sold on the streets as heroin.

In the 2014 Annual Town Report, I wrote about the concern of overdoses. The crime analysis and various tools we use to help make decisions in our operational planning identified this problem a year before it became mainstream. You will recall in calendar year 2015 the heroin epidemic first started to catch the attention of all law enforcement agencies as well as the media. We have not seen an improvement in the reduction of overdoses yet. We believe that this problem will not be solved by arrests only. The State needs to figure out a way to increase drug treatment facilities and we need to work collaboratively to get people into those treatment centers.

Below is a chart showing the total number of reported Overdoses which we have responded to during 2013, 2014 and 2015. You will see a **600 percent increase** in the Heroin Overdoses since 2013. Both 2014 and 2015 have had the same Total Overdoses as seen below:



As drugs have continued to increase in the greater Hudson area, we have made adjustments in personnel assignments to help with these issues. Specifically we have been working in partnership with a DEA Task Force. Some of the results based on those decisions yielded:

- 284 Total arrests. (1st in the New England Field Division)
- 52 Cases initiated (1st in New England Field Division)
- \$1,857,770 Total assets seized (3rd in New England Field Division)

Working in partnership allows us to expand our 'personnel' and technological capabilities without literally doing so. It allows expertise and professional growth opportunities to be developed in an area that has to be remedied.

In 2015, the Heroin epidemic started to become more visible to the entire law enforcement community. Our partnership with the DEA showed the value of that relationship. The Task Force adjusted their mission to assist with our growing problem. The Task Force started to investigate street level dealers. From February to July of 2015 the Task Force made 165 street level arrests as well as some mid to high end dealers. Additionally, the largest Oxycodone dealer in the Nashua/Hudson area was arrested; this person is a Hudson resident. We are doing what we can to reduce opportunities for drugs to be sold around our community.

Statistics:

The Police Department utilizes many policing models to help reduce, prevent and solve crimes. From July 2014 to the end of June 2015, the Police Department responded to 32,863 calls for service.

Activity	7/01/13 -6/30/14	7/01/14 -6/30/15	% Δ
Total Arrests	1,006	988	-2%
Juvenile Arrests	149	123	-17%
DWI Arrests	95	101	6%
Drug Arrests	89	111	25%
Crime vs Person			
Homicide	0	0	N/C
Aggravated Assault	31	20	-35%
Simple Assault	169	145	-14%
Sexual Assault	24	24	0%
Robbery	7	5	-29%
Crime vs Property			
Arson	2	2	0%
Burglary	53	58	9%
Criminal Mischief	136	121	-11%
MV Theft	10	17	70%
Theft/Larceny	340	314	-8%
Theft/Fraud	81	101	25%
Motor Vehicle			
State Reportable MVA's	578	669	16%
MV Citations	1,382	1,202	-13%
MV Warnings	7,075	7,412	5%
Domestic Disturbances	350	318	-9%

*N/C- not capable of being computed, zero incidents to calculate against for the prior year.

Community Programs and Events:

Citizen Police Academy: We had a great class that began last April. Participants ranged from business owners, Town employees, and residents. This one night a week for 10 week program has been well received. Many participates in this program stated they wished it was mandatory for all residents to go through.

AARP: We conducted three AARP Safe Driving classes during the year. This two day (four hours each day) is personalized for people over 55 years of age, and many may benefit with a discounted insurance rate just by taking the course. Participants are reminded of safe driving habits and are made aware of various dangers encountered while driving.

Drug Take Back Program: We collected 242 pounds of unused prescription medications. We have a drop off box where people can drop off their unused medications to us for disposal. Unused medications should not be disposed of down toilets and into the sewer system. We also participate in two drug take back programs with the DEA.

We conducted two successful Red Cross sponsored blood drives, hosted the Special Olympics Torch Run, sponsored CHiPS "Fright Night", participated in the "Toys for Tots" drive, collected donations at the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and participated in many other charity events.

Goings and Comings:

Goings:

- Captain Robert “Bob” Tousignant, Retired. Captain ‘T’ served the Town of Hudson from 1979 until 2015. He had so much experience and institutional knowledge as he was a part of numerous paradigm shifts in law enforcement. He experienced firsthand how law enforcement transitioned from an institution that was very manual in nature to adapting to technological and procedural changes. He was instrumental in helping the organization come out of the difficult years of the 1970’s and 1980’s to becoming a police department the Hudson community could be proud of. He volunteered more hours than one can count. Whether it was for blood drives, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Toys for Tots, CHiPs, Citizen Police Academies, and the list goes on. He gave so much of himself to improve our community. He was a DARE officer, a detective, a crises negotiator, a teacher, a mentor, and most importantly a friend. Simply put, he cared. One of his greatest qualities was his loyalty to this community and the pride he took in his police department. Captain ‘T’ deserves one last moment of recognition. On behalf of the Town of Hudson, thank you Bob for your years of sacrifice and service. He is surely missed by all of us at the department. Enjoy your family time and please, don’t be a stranger.
- Officer Melissa Caflisch left to seek other career opportunities.
- Officer Chris Cavallaro left to enter the private sector.
- Greg Emanuelson has left us to attend college full time.
- Deborah Anderson our part-time legal clerk left to explore other opportunities in Texas.

Comings: We had been working with a shortage of officers. It was great to have the support of the Board of Selectmen to allow these positions to be filled. Their support will allow us more opportunities to keep our roads safer, reduce crime in our community, and investigate and arrest people who commit crimes. I would like to thank the sworn personnel for stepping up over recent years while we had to operate short staffed.

- Officer Matthew Blazon came to us from Essex County Sheriff’s Department where he was employed as a Corrections Officer. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts.
- Officer Matthew Flynn came to us as a recent graduate of Arizona State University. He is also a graduate of the Hudson School system and a resident. We are pleased to have him giving back to his community.
- Officer Cody Lambert is a graduate of Bentley College. He too is a graduate of the Hudson School system and he also resides in Hudson. We are pleased to have him giving back to his community.
- Officer Tyler Toney comes to us from the private sector. He has taken college courses in Psychology and is now starting his career in law enforcement. He was recognized by the Police Academy for his motivational and leadership skills.
- Dispatcher Taylor Morin joined us this year as well. Dispatcher Morin comes from a family of public service and she wishes to continue in that same tradition. She too is a lifelong resident of Hudson.
- Dispatcher Katherine Mascaro comes to us from the private sector to start a career in public service. She went through the Hudson School system and her family still resides in Hudson.
- Dispatcher Sabrina Madi also comes from the private sector and has started a part-time career with us.

- Jonathan Buckley is our new high school assistant maintenance person.
- J. Andrew Claydon has come to us as a part-time Animal Control Officer.

Goals and Objectives for 2016:

- To continue to ensure our officers receive the best training in modern day police practices.
- Host community based programs to reduce crime and to foster our Partnership with the Community.
- Reduce the number of motor vehicle collisions on the three main arteries in Hudson through education, motor vehicle enforcement and police presence.
- Continue to identify and arrest sexual predators and to provide educational programs to parents and children through our schools.
- Continue to focus our resources on identifying and arresting drug dealers in our Community.
- Continue coordination and collection of CALEA proofs of standard compliance in preparation for future re-accreditation.
- Continue to utilize the Police Department's Directed Patrol System with emphasis on neighborhood presence to reduce criminal activity.

Closing:

On behalf of the Hudson Police Department I would like to thank the Citizens of Hudson, the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Steve Malizia, Department Heads, and the School District for their continued support.

To the employees of the Hudson Police Department; thank you for all your efforts in keeping our agency one of the best in the State. The honor is mine to represent you. I look forward to working with the community in (as I said earlier) keeping Hudson a great place to own a business and an even better place to raise a family.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Lavoie
Chief of Police
Town of Hudson, NH