

Agencies Partner in War on Prescription Drug Crimes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States. In 2010 alone, there were over 38,000 overdose deaths—and 60 percent of those involved prescription drugs. As reported in a recent article on PoliceOne.com, two companies have developed training programs to help law enforcement agencies in the fight against prescription drug theft and consumption.

Private pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P. and FBI-LEEDA, a law enforcement executive leadership training provider, travel to agencies across the country offering training, preventive strategies, and resources to law enforcement teams who wish to take the upper hand in the war on prescription drug abuse.

John P. Gilbride, director of controlled substance compliance and law enforcement liaison for Purdue, reports since its inception in November 2010, the Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion Training program has held 28 classes and trained nearly 1,900 officers. “We discuss current trends in abuse: what’s being used and how, how it’s being sold, how much it costs, how to recognize and prevent diversion scams like doctor shopping and prescription fraud.”

Agencies may choose to host one- or two-day training courses, and departments are encouraged to invite neighboring agencies for regional seminars. In addition to learning prescription terminology and dissecting peak crime data, officers are given National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) cards, which are small enough to be carried by field officers and contain pictures and descriptions of commonly diverted drugs. Attendees are also encouraged to take handouts, brochures, and extra NADDI cards back to their agencies to disseminate throughout their departments.

Gilbride reports course curriculum can vary based on the class location and specific drug problems in that particular area. “The class is interactive... the information is always very well received.”

For more information about the course or to schedule training for your department, visit www.FBIleeda.org.

For questions on this or other law enforcement topics, contact AMRRP’s Eric Duthie at (602) 368-6503 or Mike Branham at (602) 368-6624.