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911 Service Down In Marinette & Oconto Counties

Wisconsin Leads Nation In Binge-Drinking

Last Update: 9/17 5:27 pm

FOND DU LAC (WFRV/AP) - Following a report that Wisconsin still leads the nation in binge drinking, comes word from Fond du Lac County of seven drunken driving arrests in a six-hour stretch.

Sheriff's deputies say they arrested three drunken drivers during accident investigations and three others during traffic stops between midnight and 6am Saturday. A seventh person was arrested for driving drunk when they arrived to pick up one of the other suspected drunken drivers.

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Authorities say three of the drivers had blood alcohol levels of .24 -- more than three times the legal limit.

One of the arrests was while deputies investigated a crash in which a woman drove off the road and into Lake Winnebago.

A report released Monday by the Population Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison shows the state continues to be one of the nation's worst when it comes to alcohol abuse.

But Wisconsin's rates of drug abuse are, in many cases, equal to or better than national rates.

Here's a look at how the state compares to the nation, using the most recent figures available:

- Alcohol-related motor-vehicle deaths (2005): Wisconsin, 6.7 per 100,000 residents; U.S., 5.7 per 100,000 residents.
- Reported rates of driving after drinking among high school students (2005): Wis., 14 percent; U.S., 10 percent.
- Alcohol use among adults (2005): Wis., 68 percent; U.S., 56 percent.
- Drug-related deaths (2004): Wis., 6.4 per 100,000 residents; U.S., 8.7 per 100,000 residents.
- Marijuana use among high school students (2005): Wis., 16 percent; U.S., 20 percent.

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