Fox Cities LIFE Study Finds drug arrest rates increase in Calumet and Winnebago Counties since 2012 while violent crime drops

New available data from the Fox Cities LIFE Study found Calumet and Winnebago Counties have an increased drug arrest rate since 2012, which was consistent across the state of Wisconsin.

In Winnebago County, arrests for both the sale and possession of heroin or cocaine has increased along with the sale or possession of synthetic narcotics (methadone, fentanyl and other less potent drugs). Arrests for the sale of marijuana did fall slightly for Winnebago and Calumet counties and declined sharply, almost 80%, for Outagamie County. Heroine/cocaine and synthetic drug arrests in Outagamie County also declined significantly.

The new data released also shows violent crime rates in the Fox Cities region are lower than Wisconsin overall, with Calumet County showing the lowest violent crime rate of the tri-county area.

These data points are a portion of the newly updated 31 data points within the study’s categories of basic needs, economy, and safety. Interactive charts and trend information are now available on the Fox Cities LIFE Study website, with a summary of the new 31 data points on the “What’s New” page.

Data sources are: Oshkosh and Fox Cities area homeless shelters; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy; KIDS COUNT Data Center; Child Care Resource & Referral, Inc.; Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

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**About the LIFE Study:**
The Leading Indicators for Excellence (LIFE) Study provides a data-focused overview of the quality of life in the Fox Cities area. The LIFE Study began in 2001 and gives community members, nonprofits and others a look at how our community is doing. It provides insights, trends and data to gauge the quality of life in health and human services issues right here in the Fox Cities. The data presented should be a catalyst for community conversation about how we all can bring about
important change and improve the quality of life and help put effort to the greatest needs in our community. The study also is benchmarked against select counties, Wisconsin and the nation, with trending information.

The official research partner for the LIFE Study is The Polis Center of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). They specialize in working with their partners to define, measure, and actively improve community health, well-being, and resiliency. They were responsible for data collection, evaluation, and visualizing the data for this website.

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