

3% of juvenile referrals. John LaFever, Juvenile Services/Sheriff's Office, noted that in order for an offense to be classified as a drug offense, multiple items must appear in court documents. Sometimes specific cases are not detailed enough to be labeled as a drug offense, and data may be misleading.

The Council has identified key individuals/programs in the community that could provide additional needed information on this issue. Individuals who have given input to the Council on the alcohol and drug issue include those representing:

The School Resource Program:

Student Resource Officer for the Lebanon/10th District School System, Tony Neal, (Sheriff's Office) attended the November 1997 meeting. According to Mr. Neal, who provides education on drugs/alcohol to ages 12-14 (grades 6-8), there haven't been as many problems with alcohol or weapons – the bigger problems are with drugs. He estimates that 20-30 of the kids in his schools (approximately 400) have a history of trouble with the law, mainly because of drug use. Many of them get their drugs from adults. Mr. Neal believes the problems are with the youth having the wrong friends, not necessarily their family background. There are not many problems with gang-related activities with these particular kids. The school resource program provides alcohol and drug prevention education to students, and gives them an adult to talk to about issues they may be facing.

STARS:

STARS (Students Taking a Right Stand) Program Director Tim Diffenderfer is a member of the Council, and has presented detailed information on the alcohol and drug issue, and the STARS program. The STARS program offers individual counseling sessions, alcohol and drug, anger, and suicide pre-assessments, a variety of groups ("Anger", "Concerned Persons", "Teen Issues", "Changing Families", "Insight", "Grief", "CHOICES", "Stop Smoking", and "Minority Cultural Health"). The program emphasizes an abstinence approach.

Juvenile/Youth Services:

Juvenile Court/Juvenile Services – Judge Haywood Barry and Kim Nokes, Youth Services Officer

Judge Barry and Kim Nokes re-iterated the fact that most of the juveniles coming through the court system are between 15-17 ½ years of age. Both believe that early intervention is the best prevention strategy, and that parent education is also a needed intervention. Once the kids are in court, a pattern of problem behaviors has already been established. They also believe that the best interventions would take place in the schools. The School Resource Center (not affiliated with the Sheriff's School Resource Officers) was discussed. This concept that is currently in Watertown Elementary (Linda Cummings is the Coordinator) ideally is what should bring about positive results. The Center is set up