



READING POLICE DEPARTMENT

15 Union Street ▪ Reading, Massachusetts 01867

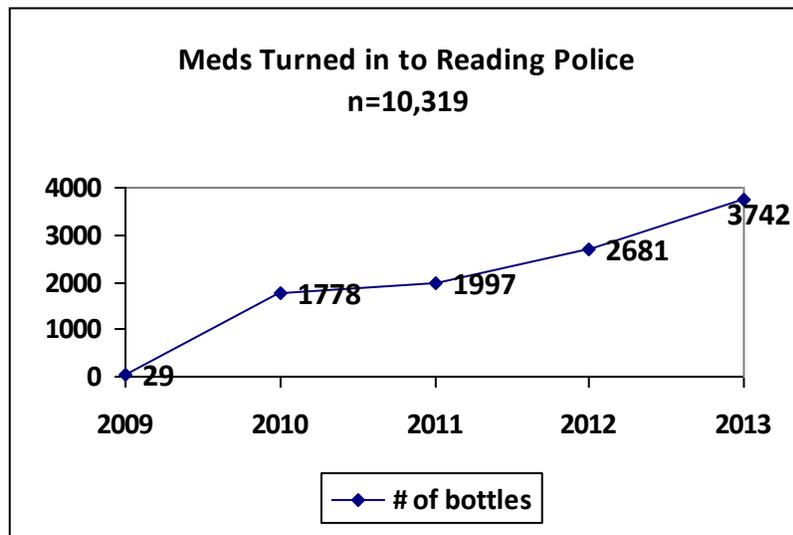
Emergency Only: 911 ▪ All Other Calls: (781) 944-1212 ▪ Fax: (781) 944-2893

PRESS RELEASE:

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Released on 01/13/2014

The Reading Police Department (RPD) and the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse are pleased to share a major milestone for their **Reading Rx Round Up** program. In December of 2013, we logged our **10,000th bottle** collected since November 2009. We delivered thousands of pounds of medications to our partner Covanta in Haverhill for environmentally friendly disposal. Resident participation in the program has grown each year. In the last three years, we had a 66% increase in the number of bottles returned.



RCASA and Reading Police started the program to reduce youth access to controlled substances in home medicine cabinets and to divert medications from our local waste stream. Some common controlled medications turned in include Xanax, Oxycodone, Percocet, Percodan and Ambien. The collection of medications is an initiative of the Detective's Division under the supervision of the Chief of Police working in partnership with RCASA staff. We would like to thank the residents of Reading for participating in the program. Thank you for helping to make Reading homes safer. Special thanks to Detective Michelle Halloran for coordinating the program and to Ken Nydam, Business Manager for Covanta Haverhill. We would like to thank the Middlesex District Attorney's office who donated the current collection box in 2012. For more information on the Reading Rx Round Up, contact Erica McNamara, RCASA Director at 781-942-6793 or visit <http://www.readingma.gov/police-department>