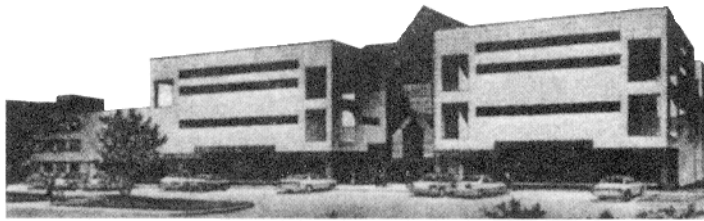


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Press Release

September 16, 2022

Public Information Awareness

In 2022, Waukesha County Sheriff's Department investigators have participated in several investigations involving psilocybin mushroom laboratories. The purpose of this release is to bring public awareness to the dangers of psilocybin use and laboratories that can be as small as a single jar.

Psilocybin is a psychedelic compound found in certain types of fresh and dried mushrooms and it is known for its hallucinogenic effects on users. The Drug Enforcement Administration has classified Psilocybin as a schedule I controlled substance, which is defined as a substance with a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the U.S., and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

A Psilocybin laboratory poses significant danger to the community as intentional/unintentional exposure to the fungal spores have been associated with lung inflammation, acute lung disease, tremors, chronic fatigue syndrome, kidney failure, and certain cancers.

Psilocybin use has been linked to panic attacks, increased blood pressure, loss of coordination, paranoia, and psychosis in some users. One of the pronounced dangers of Psilocybin mushrooms arises from misidentification. Psilocybin users, often having minimal knowledge of mushroom varieties, may easily confuse Psilocybin mushrooms with other poisonous and potentially deadly mushrooms. Psilocybin or "magic mushrooms" are often abused by teenagers and young adults experimenting with drugs in a social setting such as a rave, club, or on college campuses.

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department will continue aggressive enforcement of illicit drugs in the county and through continued collaboration with the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office to enforce drug possession and drug distribution laws.

Lieutenant Nicholas Wenzel
Waukesha County Sheriff's Office