



STATE OF INDIANA  
**INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Excise Police Cite 37 for Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Use at X-Fest Concert**

**NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (Sept. 19)** – Indiana State Excise Police officers cited 37 people on 40 charges at the X-Fest concert at Verizon Wireless Music Center, 12880 E. 146<sup>th</sup> Street, in Noblesville Saturday afternoon.

Excise officers arrested 14 people on drug-possession charges, including a 15-year-old girl who was smoking marijuana and drinking Miller Lite beer on the main area of the south concourse. Her 17-year-old sister was also consuming from a can of Miller Lite beer. The girls told police they paid \$20.00 for two marijuana cigarettes from an unknown male stranger in the parking lot. They also told officers they paid another stranger for the beer.

Excise police officers also arrested 18 people for illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, six of whom were less than 18 years of age. Another eight juveniles were cited for possession of tobacco.

Three people were also issued written warnings for illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Saturday's arrests follow new survey results of Indiana youth that indicate more high school students are using marijuana than previously. The Survey of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use, which is conducted annually by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University, indicated that marijuana use reported by high school students rose. In 2011, 19.8% of seniors reported using marijuana in the past month, compared with 19.2% in 2010 and 16.7% in 2009. Marijuana use among 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders is also up in the last two years.

"Although the State Excise Police is responsible for enforcing the alcoholic beverage statutes, the officers also focus on other violations of Indiana law, specifically laws that prohibit the use of illegal drugs," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "The presence of excise officers at concerts and other events is important to ensure the safety off all persons attending."

"The State Excise Police will continue the zero tolerance enforcement policy with regard to illegal drugs and underage consumption of alcohol," he said.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes.

*All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*

