

High school junior dies after allegedly taking prescription and illegal drugs

<http://www.koaa.com/news/view.asp?ID=8890>

A Pueblo South High School junior has died after a weekend party in which other students say he passed out after taking a lethal dose of prescription drugs, illegal drugs and alcohol.

Those students are turning to myspace.com asking for prayers. One message for prayers claims Corey Suazo took OxyContin and other drugs at a party Saturday night. He was taken to St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo where he'd been in critical condition until late Tuesday afternoon when he died.

Pueblo Police are investigating the case, but since the boy is a minor they can't comment. They are warning parents to keep tabs on prescription medication in the home.

Some call the party he attended a "pharm party" and claim some kids mixed together pharmaceutical prescription drugs that were stolen from their parents.

"They don't realize that these drugs interact with each other and you end up with results like comas, deaths. I guess that's apart of the risk involved and that's part of the thrill is that there's risk involved," said Ben Ramos, co-founder of the non-profit group Concerned Parents of Pueblo. He says he's heard stories of similar parties from other Pueblo teens.

Concerned Parents was founded in 1992 to help educate parents about kids, drugs, alcohol and gangs. The group dissolved a couple of years ago because of a lack of funding.

Lawrence Medina was the group's executive director, and thinks teens and dangerous activity are a community-wide problem. "And it's not a matter of pointing a finger at anybody, even the parents, but we as the community come together to address it because our children's life and happiness depend on it in a sense," he said.

STATEMENT RELEASED ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY OF COREY SUAZO

"We would like to thank everyone who has kept Corey in their thoughts and prayers. Corey's spirit will continue to live through the many people he will help through his organ donations."