



# Community Overdose Action Team

## *Working Together To Combat Opioid Overdoses*

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Contact: Ann Stevens (937) 443-0416, Ext. 137  
ADAMHS

### Overdoses on the Rise in Montgomery County

The Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) is tracking an increase in the number of overdoses over the past few weeks in Montgomery County. From July 26 to July 30, there were a total of 63 drug-related emergency room visits, of which, 39 were accidental overdoses and 24 were other drug-related visits.

In addition, the Ohio Department of Health has seen an increase in multiple counties across the state in the number of patients presenting to emergency departments for drug overdose based on EpiCenter data. Since Thursday, July 26, there has been an increase in the number of drug overdose encounters in seven counties – Butler, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Montgomery and Stark.

Along with this trend, the Montgomery County Coroner's Office has seen an increase in the drug methamphetamine (Meth) being present during autopsies. The COAT reminds you that **any illegal drug you purchase and use could contain fentanyl**. Fentanyl is a highly potent drug which significantly increases your chance of an overdose. It is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin.

While there is **no safe way to use illegal drugs**, it is important that drugs users, their friends and family and the public are aware of steps they can take to help reduce the risk of death.

#### Safety Recommendations for people who use drugs:

1. Call Samaritan Crisis Care 24/7 at 224-4646 for crisis, treatment and referral.
2. Have Narcan available, and someone who can administer it, in case of an overdose.
3. Do not use drugs containing fentanyl.
4. Do not use drugs alone.
5. Do not share needles.
6. In the event of an overdose, call 911 immediately.

And finally, here are some resources available that the public can use to help prevent overdose deaths.

1. **Ask local business owners to attend Naloxone/Narcan training.** Project Dawn Montgomery County offers FREE weekly naloxone overdose education & distribution every Wednesday at Noon at 601 Edwin C. Moses Blvd, Door F, CrisisCare entrance, Dayton OH 45417. (Please arrive 15 minutes early to

register). Project Dawn will schedule training during evenings and weekends by the request of businesses, faith-based organizations, service groups, and other community groups. Please call 937.734.8333 to schedule a group training

2. **Encourage primary care practices to follow Ohio's opiate prescribing limits** for acute pain and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) prescribing guidelines for opioids. To learn more about the instructions, please visit the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction's website at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=828> and the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>

3. **Be knowledgeable about local treatment options.** Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services maintains a list of local addiction and mental health treatment options on the app GetHelpNowMontgomeryCounty, as well as online screening tools at <http://www.mcadamhs.org> under "MyMontgomeryCounty" tab.

4. **Sign up for Know! E-Alerts.** Know!, part of Ohio's "Start Talking!: Building a Drug-Free Future" campaign, provides parents (or grandparents and other caregivers) twice monthly by email with parenting tips that contain current facts about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, as well as action steps they can take to help children resist peer pressure to <http://starttalking.ohio.gov/Prevention/KNOW.aspx>

5. **Complete a Mental Health First Aid course.** This 8-hour course will equip you on how to start a conversation with a family member, friend or co-worker when you recognize they may be experiencing mental health or substance use crisis. To attend a local course, please contact Jennifer Cox at [jcox@mcadamhs.org](mailto:jcox@mcadamhs.org) or 937.443.0416, the Director of Training for the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services.

*The Community Overdose Action Team was established to address the opioid/heroin epidemic in Montgomery County. The goal is to stabilize the number of people dying from drug overdoses. Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services and Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County are lead agencies in the effort to combat the epidemic.*

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**Media Contacts:**

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County: Dan Suffoletto (937) 224-3892 / [dsuffoletto@phdmc.org](mailto:dsuffoletto@phdmc.org)  
Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services: Ann Stevens (937) 443-0416 x137 / [Astevens@mcadamhs.org](mailto:Astevens@mcadamhs.org)  
Montgomery County: Cathy Petersen (937) 224-3831 / [petersenC@mcOhio.org](mailto:petersenC@mcOhio.org)

**Prepared by:**



**Dayton &  
Montgomery  
County**