



**Dayton &  
Montgomery  
County**



**Boonshoft  
School of Medicine**  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County**  
117 S. Main Street, Dayton, Ohio

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# For Immediate Release

**Public Health and Wright State's Center  
for Interventions, Treatment & Addictions Research  
are working to reduce local prescription drug abuse**

## **General public invited to participate**

**Dec. 9 - Online Community Symposium  
on Prescription Drug Abuse**

Montgomery County led the state in the number of deaths from unintentional drug/medication overdoses between 2004 and 2008, according to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) data.

Among Montgomery County residents, 645 died from unintentional drug/medication overdoses, a rate of 23.8 deaths per 100,000 people. This drug-related death rate is more than twice that for the state and the highest among all Ohio counties. 2008 data show that of the 132 drug-related deaths among Montgomery County residents, 106 were attributed to prescription opioids, primarily methadone, followed by oxycodone and hydrocodone.

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC) is working with the Center for Interventions, Treatment & Addictions Research (CITAR) at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine to address the problem of unintentional prescription drug poisonings through the Unintentional Prescription Drug Poisoning Project, which was funded by the Ohio Department of Health.

**As part of that project, there will be a live, online Community Symposium on Prescription Drug Abuse, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 9. The symposium can be viewed free of charge at [med.wright.edu/rxdrugs](http://med.wright.edu/rxdrugs).**

“The purpose of this online symposium is to raise awareness in the community at-large about the problem of prescription drug abuse and unintentional drug overdoses by providing information on the nature and extent of the problem, including signs and symptoms, alternatives and how to find help,” said symposium organizer Russel Falck, associate professor of community health and associate director of CITAR.

-More-

“We encourage anyone who uses prescription opiate pain relievers or anti-anxiety meds, as well as their family and friends, to participate in this online symposium,” said Montgomery County Health Commissioner Jim Gross.

“This symposium provides a unique opportunity for our community to begin to understand how widespread the problem of prescription drug abuse is, and how it might be addressed,” said Gary LeRoy, M.D., associate dean at the Boonshoft School of Medicine and chair of the Unintentional Drug Poisoning Coalition, “and this can be accomplished in the privacy and comfort of one’s own home.”

Viewers will be able to ask the panelists questions via email both before and during the symposium by sending their questions to [rxdrugs@wright.edu](mailto:rxdrugs@wright.edu). The complete symposium will be archived online for viewing at [med.wright.edu/citar/prescriptiondrugs](http://med.wright.edu/citar/prescriptiondrugs). A limited number of DVDs will be available free for those without computers.

For more information on the symposium or to obtain a DVD, email [rxdrugs@wright.edu](mailto:rxdrugs@wright.edu) or call the Center for Interventions, Treatment & Addictions Research at 937-775-2066.

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## **Community Symposium on Rx Drug Abuse topics and presenters**

### ***Introduction & Purpose***

Gary LeRoy, M.D., Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement, Wright State University, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Jim Gross, M.P.H., Montgomery County Health Commissioner, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County

### ***Drugs and Death: The Numbers***

Cathy Trame, R.N., M.S.N., Coordinator, Miami Valley Hospital Pain Clinic

### ***The Drugs and their Effects***

Douglas Teller, M.D., Internist and Addiction Medicine Specialist, Kettering Health Network

### ***Abuse and Addiction***

Brenda Roman, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Medical Student Education, Boonshoft School of Medicine

### ***Managing Pain: Common Sense Tips/Alternatives***

Rick Buenaventura, M.D., Pain Relief of Dayton

### ***Staying Out of Trouble and Getting Help***

Monica Sutter, R.N., B.S.N., Good Samaritan Hospital

### ***Next Steps***

Jim Gross and Dr. LeRoy

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**Editor’s note:** For more information or to schedule an interview contact: Bill Wharton, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County, 937-266-0150, [bwharton@phdmc.org](mailto:bwharton@phdmc.org), or

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