

Boone County starts overdose response team

BURLINGTON – Boone County is the latest Cincinnati area government to create a team of drug overdose response specialists.

Colerain Township, a suburb located northwest of Cincinnati, [was first to create an overdose response team](#) in Hamilton County in 2015. Kenton County Police Department started a team earlier this year.



After someone survives a heroin or other opiate drug overdose, a three-person Boone County team will make follow-up visits, according to a Boone County Sheriff's Office news release. Team members will provide answers and resources to fight addiction.

On the team will be a sheriff's deputy, an addiction services counselor and an emergency medical services representative.

"This Quick Response Team is another tool that will be added to our 24-hour helpline and other community efforts," Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore said.

Heroin and opioid addiction have become the No. 1 public safety issue in Boone County, Moore said.

Written materials are being prepared to give additional direction to families and people caught up in a cycle of addiction.

Sheriff Michael A. Helmig and Moore joined forces to bring to Boone County the same type of program that has been successful in Colerain Township. Almost 70 percent of people in contact with Colerain Township's quick response team seek treatment.

Colerain Township, the second largest township in Ohio, has reported a 40 percent reduction in overdoses.

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"We cannot arrest our way out of this crisis," Helmig said. "But be certain, we will not let up one ounce on our enforcement efforts.

"We will help those who want out of their vicious cycle of addiction all the while stepping up our investigations and enforcement of those bringing drugs into our communities."

Boone County rounded out the top five Kentucky counties for heroin-related overdose deaths, according to the [2015 Overdose Fatality Report](#) published by the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy.

Citing data from the Kentucky Medical Examiner and coroner reports, the report lists the top counties for heroin-related overdose deaths:

1. Jefferson County, 131
2. Kenton County, 51

3. Fayette County, 34

4. Campbell County, 20

5. Boone County. 19

Nancy Daly contributed to this report.