

# News Release

METRICH Enforcement Unit  
30 North Diamond Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Chief Kenneth A Coontz  
Project Director



**For Immediate Release**

**No # 2**

**Date:** 04/09/18

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**Subject: Increase in the number of overdoses/overdose deaths**

RICHLAND COUNTY, Ohio- The METRICH Enforcement Unit (MEU) is reporting that unintentional overdoses and unintentional fatal overdoses are increasing in the first quarter of 2018 compared to 2017. As of April 5, 2018, there have been 95 unintentional overdoses and 20 fatal unintentional overdoses reported for Richland County, Ohio. The METRICH Enforcement Unit wants to remind the public that help is available for those that are struggling with addiction. For those who have family members that are struggling with addiction, there are resources available in Richland County, Ohio. You can find the available resources by contacting 2-1-1 for updated information.

Richland Public Health (RPH) also offers resources for citizens at risk of opioid overdose. RPH is a Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) site, which provides education and Narcan kits to at-risk individuals and their loved ones. Citizens can call RPH at 419-774-4700 or visit [www.richlandhealth.org/my-community/project-dawn](http://www.richlandhealth.org/my-community/project-dawn) for more information.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to identify and target the source or sources that are bringing fentanyl into Richland County, Ohio.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit encourages citizens to continue to be proactive by reporting suspected drug activity. Citizens can call the METRICH Crime Tip Hotline at 419-52-CRIME (419-522-7463) or the Task Force line at 419-755-9728.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens we serve by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. The success of METRICH is a tribute to the cooperation and support within the Law Enforcement Community in the METRICH region and to those citizens who have chosen to improve the quality of life in their communities by assisting METRICH in reporting suspicious activity and valuable information.

**Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot lines at:  
419-522-7463 and [www.METRICH.com](http://www.METRICH.com)**



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