

Clermont County Busts Heroin Ring

Last Update: 10/09 6:53 pm

[Dozens Indicted in Heroin Ring](#)

It's the biggest drug bust of its kind in Clermont County history, and it's still underway. The investigation began last November when Clermont County investigators started noticing a sudden influx of what had been an unusual drug in this area... black tar heroin. The cheaper, lower quality heroin has been making inroads all across the country and has become one of the money makers for the Mexican drug cartels.

In this developing story alert, Local 12's Rich Jaffe says today's massive operation is just the start of things to come.

Throughout the day, cruisers and vans from the Clermont County Sheriff's Office arrived at the jail and dropped off their load... drug dealers, picked up in virtually every Clermont County community. While the litany of drugs they've been dealing is extensive, it's heroin that's at the top of the list.



A.J. Rodenberg, Clermont County Sheriff: "We sort of equate it to the meth problem we have had, we didn't see any meth in this county before the year 2000 roughly and that became a real problem, well now it's not meth so much, although we still have a problem, now it looks like it's going to become opiates and in this particular operation... primarily black tar heroin."

At today's news conference, police chiefs from four different communities joined the sheriff talking about the heroin problems they're seeing in their neighborhoods. Looking for 47 dealers, today alone, the drug task force roped in 26.

"Besides just the drugs, the drug paraphernalia, like these syringes, one of the things investigators are coming upon more and more often is containers contained to hide the drugs... in this case a 7 up can... you would think it's a seven up can, when in reality if you unscrew the lid, it's actually a container designed to hide the heroin."

Bill Williams, Task Force Commander: "The people that are trafficking and abusing the substance feel that offers them an edge, because it feels like a typical product that's available at any convenience store and ultimately what they are, they're just concealment containers that weigh just about the same as a normal, in this instance, can of soft drink..."

Just one of the challenges in the new war on an old drug. Operation Opiate Blocker is still underway, as members of the drug task force scour the area for the dealers. To give you a sense of perspective, last year Clermont County investigators confiscated 17 grams of heroin. In this operation alone, since January, they've already pulled in more than 300 grams of the

drug.

The suspects include:

25 year old Michael Miller (in Clermont County Jail)
27 year old Tiffany Blankenship of Milford
29 year old Patricia Jones of Loveland
27 year old David Rapp Jr. of Pierce Township
24 year old Richard Morales (in Immigration Custody)
20 year old Abrahan Juarez (in Immigration Custody)
34 year old April Schott of Batavia
32 year old Christina Hairfield of Batavia
24 year old Adam Loughner of Union Township
23 year old Michael Clagg (Clermont County Jail)
18 year old Timothy Giovenetti of Union Township
34 year old Eric Prall of Bethel
27 year old Richard Haney of Georgetown
27 year old Kerrie Haney of Georgetown
26 year old Charles Moore of Union Township
23 year old Gabrielle Campbell of Tate Township
31 year old Christopher Moore of Union Township
32 year old Dede Thompson of Cincinnati
44 year old Tammy Fredrick of Amelia
28 year old Milly Fent of Shiloh
45 year old Daniel Holloway of Union Township
21 year old Christina Baer of Milford
24 year old William Steffensen of Union Township
23 year old Charles Kelch of Georgetown
38 year old Michael Tyler of Cincinnati
26 year old Marc Brookenthal of Bethel
25 year old Michael Hibbs of Georgetown
36 year old Clarence McCarty of Georgetown
24 year old David Imjalli of Felicity
27 year old Michael Moore of Williamsburg
22 year old Jacob Kretten of Williamsburg
20 year old Lisa Fisher of Blanchester
19 year old Alex Davis of Union Township
26 year old Joshua Thompson of Fayetteville
20 year old Ronald Smith of Ripley
24 year old Nicholas Kincaid of Amelia
23 year old Keith Wieland of Morrow
47 year old David Rapp Sr. of Pierce Township
28 year old James Watson of Pierce Township
41 year old Brian Bugge of Cincinnati
33 year old Marcus Schrieber of Union Township
47 year old John Taylor of Felicity
30 year old Lela Dennison of Pierce Township
27 year old Robin Hollen of Batavia
56 year old Justo Perez of Cincinnati
22 year old Aaron Painter of Clermont County
21 year old James Lawrence of Milford
42 year old Patricia Hammons of Sardinia

22 year old Krystal Rose of Batavia
20 year old Timothy Edwards of Batavia
21 year old Jacob Wilson of Batavia
46 year old Hugh Evans of Cincinnati
33 year old John Steuer of Union Township
25 year old Elaine Cameron of Union Township
35 year old Kristi Waugh of Milford
30 year old James Plasvic (Clermont County Jail)
49 year old Gerald Dixon (Clermont County Jail)
30 year old Jaimie Dixon (Clermont County Jail)
39 year old Jeffrey Morgan (Clermont County Jail)
22 year old Justin Hawk of Goshen.