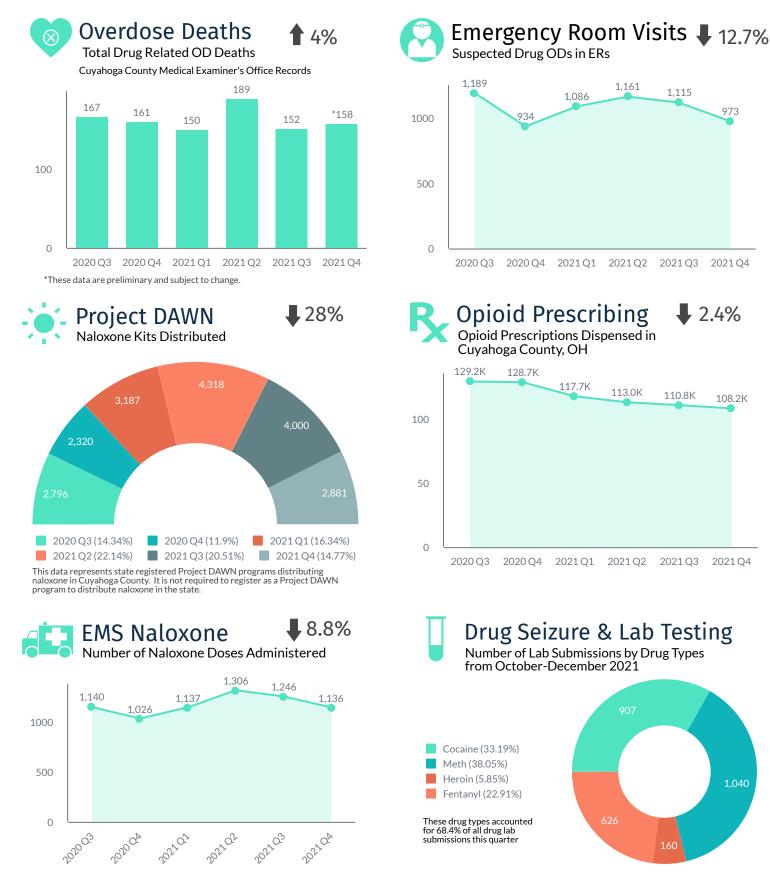
## Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Cuyahoga County Board of Health & Begun Center, Case Western Reserve University

Overdose data surveillance is intended to generate insight to drive more effective prevention and response activities by providing timely dissemination of drug overdose related trends.



EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting

## **Overdose Surveillance Quarterly Bulletin** 2021 04





# **Data Highlight**

**Demographic Characteristics of Overdose Alerts** Administered on 11/08/2021

OD2A

	CCMEO Alert	EpiCenter Alert
	N=12	N=20
Age Group (N)		
18-24		20% (4)
25-34	8% (1)	20% (4)
35-49	67% (8)	20% (4)
50-65+	25% (3)	40% (8)
Sex (N)		
Male	42% (5)	50% (10)
Female	58% (7)	50% (10)
Race/Ethnicity (N)		
Black	25% (3)	30% (6)
White	75% (9)	50% (10)
Other		20% (4)
Hispanic	17% (2)	
Other		

CCMEO shows trends from 11/06/21-11/07/21 and EpiCenter shows trends from 11/06/21-11/07/21: both alerts were sent out on 11/08/21.

On November 8th, 2021, Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) issued a public health alert stating that, Cuyahoga County, suffered at least 12 suspected overdose deaths in a two-day period. The toxicology results are still pending, but it has been confirmed that half of the deaths involved fluoro-fentanyl. On that same day, based on EpiCenter data, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health sent out an alert regarding an increase in the number of patients presenting to the emergency departments for suspected drug overdose. This is the first time both alerts (EpiCenter and CCMEO) have been sent out during the same time period. Also, the alerts presented a change of trend; more females than males in the CCMEO alert and both females and males presenting equally in the EpiCenter Alert.



## **Important Findings / Trends**

Increases or decreases are from Q3 2021 to Q4 2021 unless otherwise stated. 2021 data are preliminary and subject to change

### Quarter over Quarter.

Overall, fatal overdoses increased, and non-fatal overdoses decreased over the last guarter. Fatal overdoses increased by 4%. There was also 1 carfentanil related death in guarter 4.1

There was a decrease of 12.7% for persons presenting to the emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of all other data indictors decreased from last quarter including opioid prescribing which slightly decreased by 2.4 %.<sup>3</sup> There was a 28% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in guarter 4 of 2021.4 EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 8.8%.

From October to December 2021, methamphetamine ranked highest in number of lab submissions (1,040) closely followed by cocaine (907). While heroin and fentanyl decreased slightly from last quarter, methamphetamine lab submissions increased by 30%, while cocaine lab submissions increased by 3.5% from last quarter. There were zero carfentanil drug seizures in quarter 4.1

### Statement from the CCMEO:

"Cuyahoga County has seen the recent emergence of two benzimidazole opioids, also referred to as "the nitazenes," involved in overdose fatalities. Through Q1-Q3 the CCMEO has confirmed, 11 isotonitazene related fatalities, and 16 metonitazene related fatalities. Most of these fatalities were mixtures also involving fentanyl or its analogs. The nitazenes are potent synthetic opioids, but naloxone should be effective in reversing overdose."

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

https://www.ccbh.net/overdose-data-dashboard/

Data Sources and Notes:

- Heroin and Fentanyl Related Deaths in Cuyahoga County. December 2021 Update. Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Available at December 2021 Heroin & Fentanyl Cocaine Related
- 2 Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose Among Cuyahoga County, Residents, EpiCenter, Ohio Department of Health. Data used for this report is accessed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Similar data is available to the public at https://odh.ohio.gov/wgs/portal/gov/cdn/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/Suspected-OD-Dashboard2 3 Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Available https://www.ohiopmp.gov/County.aspx 4 Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Section Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Logs. Analyzed by Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- 5 Ohio EMS. Naloxone Administration Doses, by County. "Naloxone Watch" Available https://www.ems.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0