

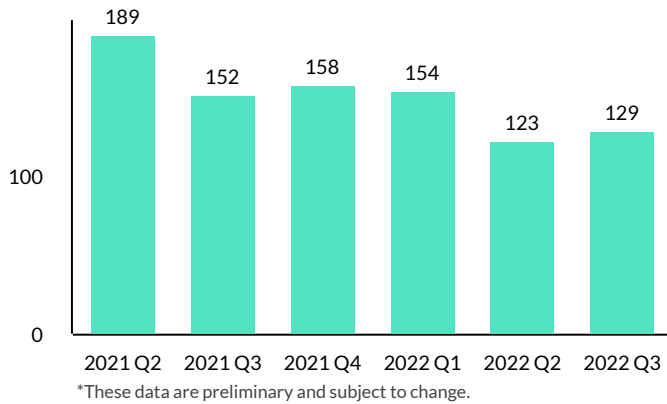
Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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.

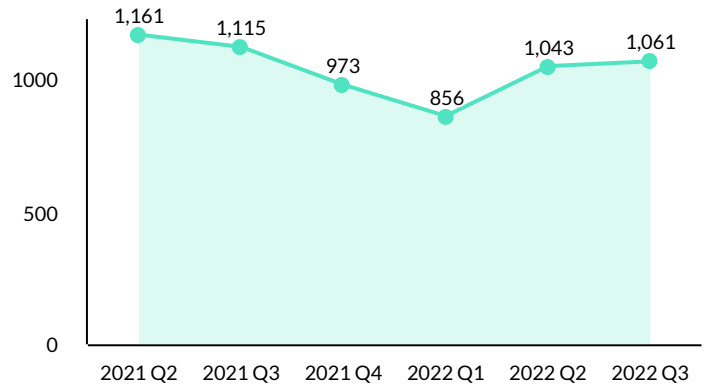
Overdose Deaths ↑ 4.9%

Total Drug Related OD Deaths
Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Records



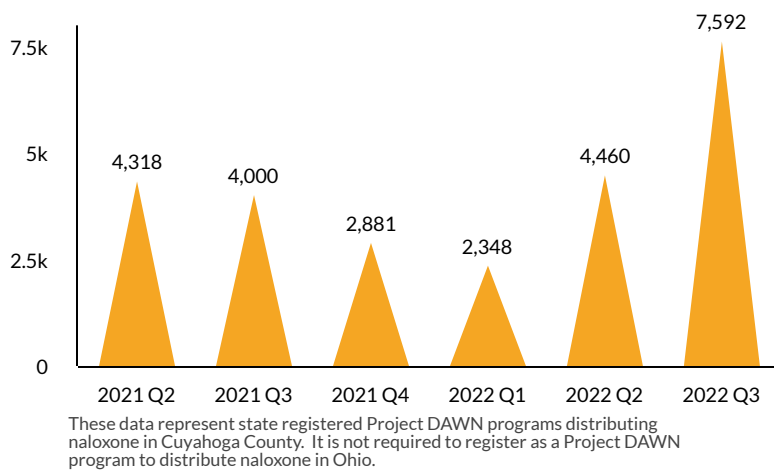
Emergency Room Visits ↑ 1.7%

Suspected Drug ODs in ERs



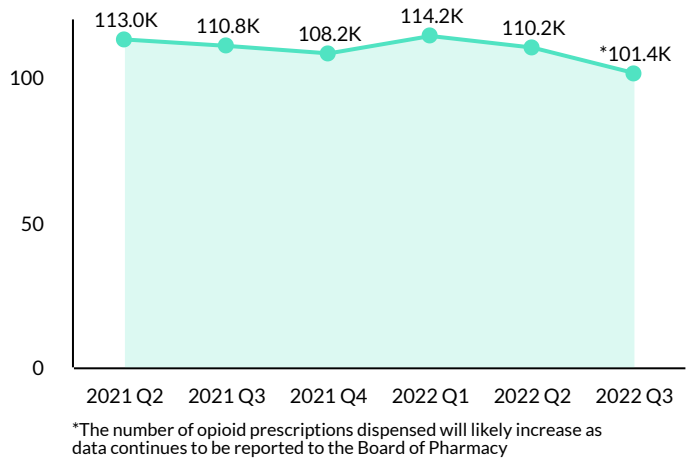
Project DAWN ↑ 70.2%

Naloxone Kits Distributed



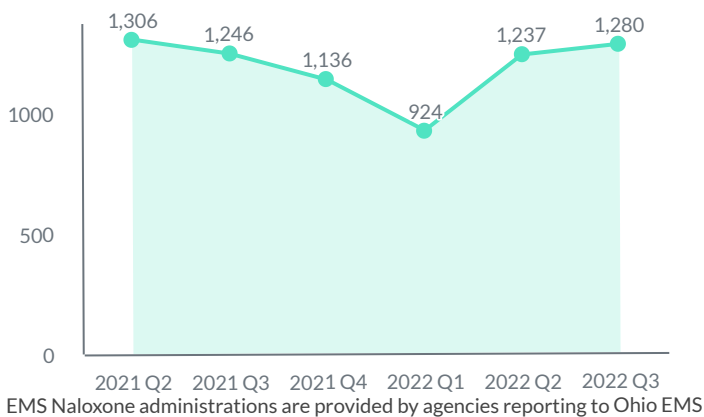
Opioid Prescribing ↓ 8%

Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed in Cuyahoga County, OH



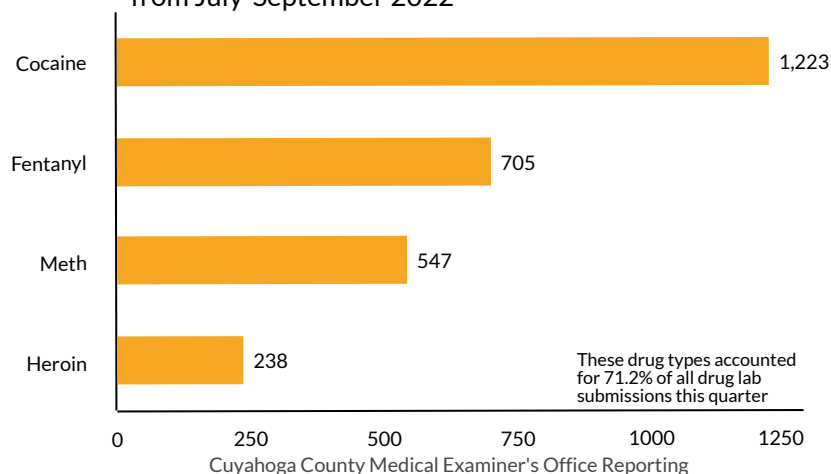
EMS Naloxone ↑ 3.5%

Number of Naloxone Doses Administered



Drug Seizure & Lab Testing

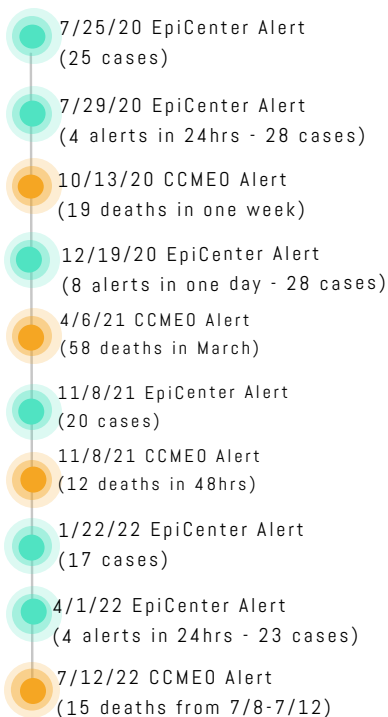
Number of Lab Submissions by Drug Types from July-September 2022





Overdose Alert Periods

(July 2020 - Present)



The overdose alert periods are a combination of non-fatal overdose anomaly (spike) detections reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, also known as EpiCenter Alerts, and fatal overdose public health alerts issued by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, shown on a timeline.



Fact Check



Xylazine info:

- **Non-opioid** veterinary medication, **animal tranquilizer**
- **Central nervous system depressant** that can cause **drowsiness, amnesia, slow breathing and heart rate**
- Used to **expand drug product and lengthen its euphoric effect**
- Used **in combination** with other drugs, particularly **illicit fentanyl**
- Administering **naloxone is recommended** although xylazine is **not an opioid**, xylazine is frequently **combined with opioids**
- In **2021**, there were **15 confirmed overdose deaths** related to xylazine in Cuyahoga County and so far, there has been **9 overdose deaths** related to xylazine through **mid-year 2022**; almost always **combined with fentanyl**

Source: NIDA/NIH Xylazine Information ([click here](#))



Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q2 2022 to Q3 2022 unless otherwise stated.
2022 data are preliminary and subject to change

Counterfeit Prescription Pill Presence in Cuyahoga County:

Cuyahoga County law enforcement personnel continue to report prescription opioid pills as a cause of suspected drug overdoses. Counterfeit pills have flooded the illicit drug market; DEA recently reported in a public safety message that "of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills analyzed in 2022, six out of ten now contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl."¹

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses increased slightly by 4.9% over the last quarter. There were zero carfentanil related deaths in quarter 3 of 2022.² There was a very slight increase of 1.7% for persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.³

The majority of other data indicators also increased from last quarter except opioid prescribing which decreased by 8%.⁴ There was a 70.2% increase in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 3 of 2022;⁵ This large increase is likely due to Overdose Awareness Day events that occurred near the end of quarter 3. EMS naloxone administrations increased by 3.5%.⁶

From July to September 2022, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (1,223) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFLS), followed by fentanyl (705). While cocaine increased by 30.4% and fentanyl increased by 16.1% from last quarter, methamphetamine lab submissions decreased by 6.7%, and heroin lab submissions increased by 34.5% from last quarter.²

Statement from the CCME0:

"The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCME0) reported that there has been a decrease in overdose deaths in 2022 compared to last year. There were dips in June and September of suspected overdose deaths. The mid-year prediction is 629 cases of suspected overdose deaths; this amount is down from 675 suspected overdose deaths in 2021 for Cuyahoga County."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drug Seizures:

In August 2022, the CBP reported the highest amount of fentanyl seized in any month; the total reported was approximately 2,301 lbs.⁷

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

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

Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 DEA Public Safety Alert: <https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-laboratory-testing-reveals-6-out-of-10-fentanyl-laced-fake-prescription-pills-now-contain>
- 2 Heroin and Fentanyl Related Deaths in Cuyahoga County. September 2022 Update. Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Available at https://cuyahogacounty.us/docs/default-source/me-library/heroin-fentanyl-cocaine-deaths/2022/september-report.pdf?sfvrsn=cd8e89ab_1
- 3 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/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/Suspected-OD-Dashboard2>
- 4 Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Available <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/County.aspx>
- 5 Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Section - Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Logs. Analyzed by Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- 6 Ohio EMS. Naloxone Administration Doses, by County. "Naloxone Watch" Available <https://www.ems.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0>
- 7 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drug Seizures. Drug Seizure Statistics. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>