

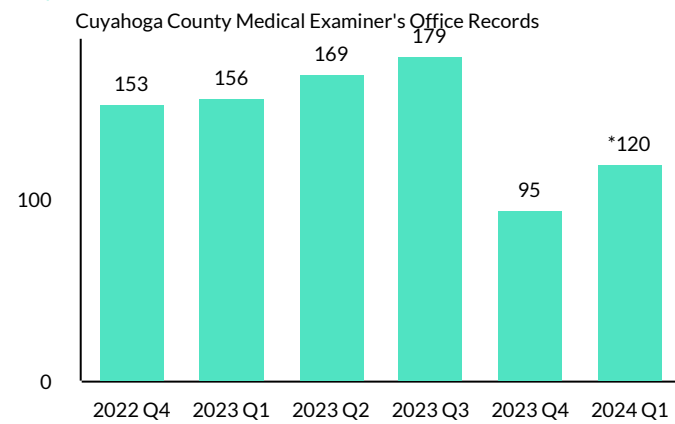
Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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

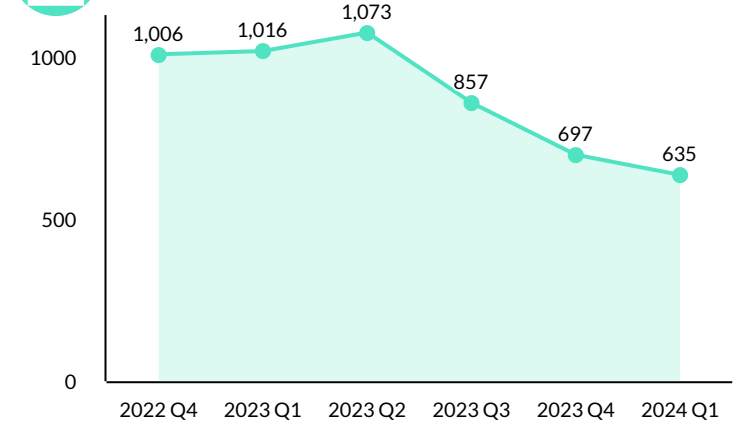
Total Drug Related OD Deaths **↑ 26.3%**



*These data are preliminary and subject to change.

Emergency Room Visits

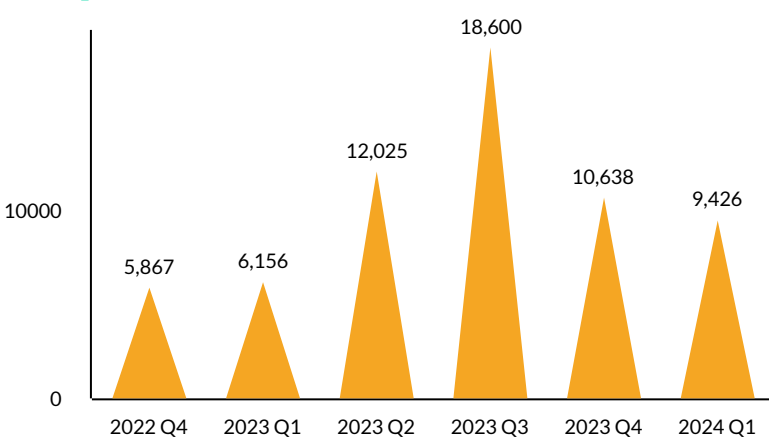
Suspected Drug ODs in ERs **↓ 8.9%**



*Underreporting may exist due to facilities temporarily out of surveillance.

Project DAWN

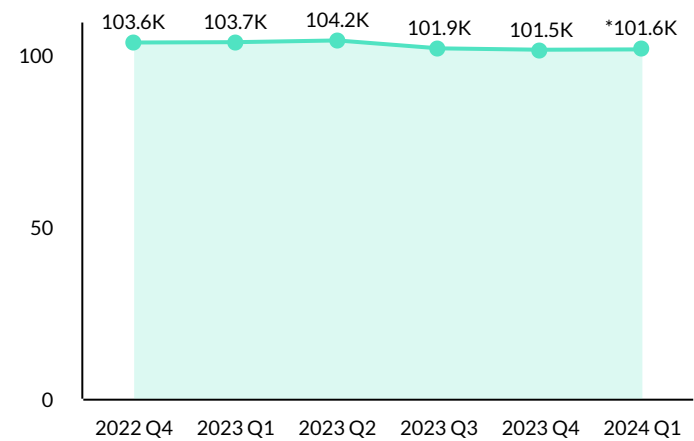
Naloxone Kits Distributed **↓ 11.4%**



These data represent state registered Project DAWN programs distributing naloxone in Cuyahoga County. It is not required to register as a Project DAWN program to distribute naloxone in Ohio.

Opioid Prescribing

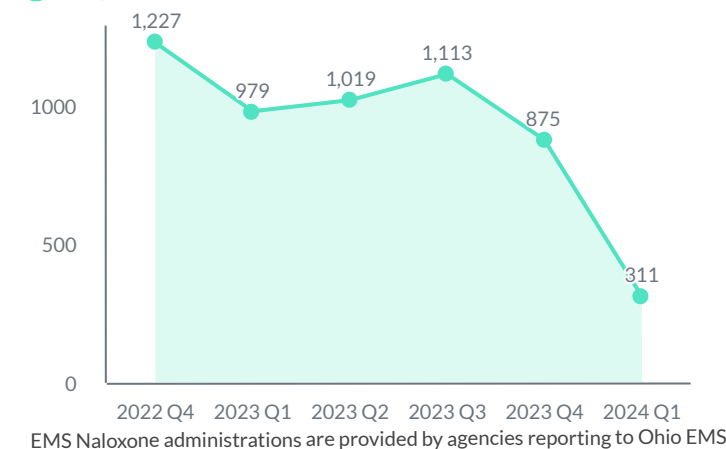
Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed in Cuyahoga County, OH **↑ 0.2%**



*The number of opioid prescriptions dispensed will likely increase as data continues to be reported to the Board of Pharmacy

EMS Naloxone

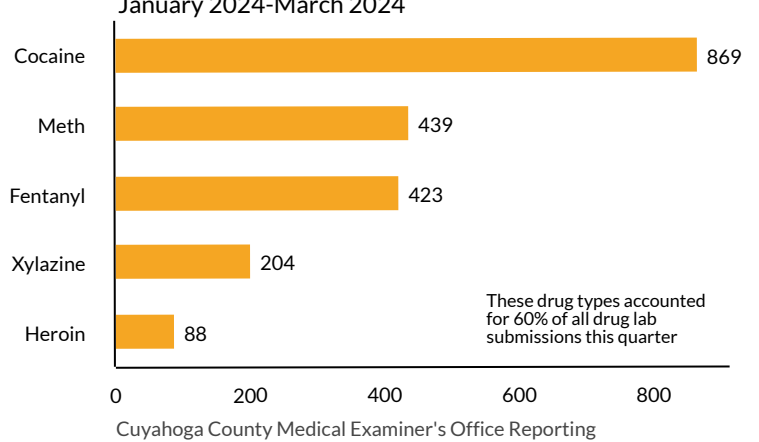
Number of Naloxone Doses Administered **↓ 64.5%**



EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS

Drug Seizure & Lab Testing

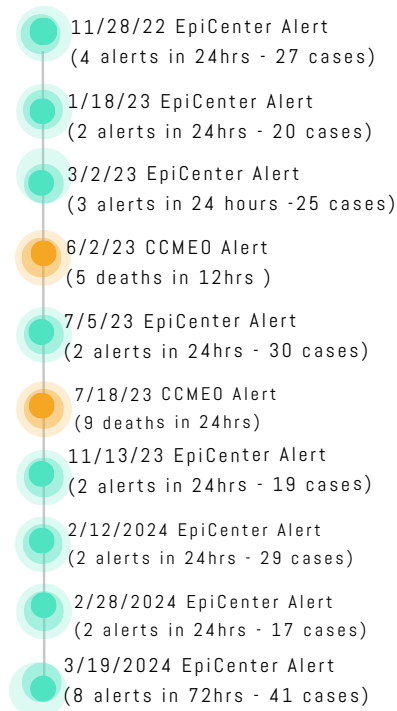
Number of Lab Submissions by Drug Types from January 2024-March 2024



These drug types accounted for 60% of all drug lab submissions this quarter

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting

Overdose Alert Periods (November 2022 - 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.



Increase in Overdose Alerts

Within the first quarter of 2024, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) issued three overdose alerts due to spikes in non-fatal suspected drug overdoses. Cuyahoga County typically averages one alert per quarter. Two of the three alerts occurred following "holiday" weekends, one being Super Bowl weekend and the other over the weekend of St. Patrick's Day. Altogether, the three alerts totaled to 87 patients visiting the emergency department for a suspected drug overdose.

The first alert, issued on February 12th, included 29 patients, with a high proportion (over 50%) aged 35-49 years. The second alert, issued on February 28th, included 17 patients and showed an unusually high proportion of females (over 80%) and youths (over 40%).

The third alert, issued on March 19th, included 41 patients. Analyses showed Black/African Americans represented nearly 50% of cases; approximately 20% of cases were under age 18, and reported cannabis use (including edibles) involvement was observed for this population; among adults, specified drugs included primarily opioids and stimulants. The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office saw an increase in overdose deaths (8 suspected) during this alert period as well.

CCBH overdose alerts will begin to be communicated through two additional systems: Cuyahoga County's ReadyNotify and The SOAR Initiative's Overdose Surge and Bad Batch Alerts. To sign up for notifications from these systems visit the links below:

- <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/ready/readynotify/readynotify>
- <https://thesoarinitiative.org/deadly-batch-alerts/>

Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024 unless otherwise stated.
2024 data are preliminary and subject to change

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses increased by 26.3% over the last quarter.¹ There was a decrease of 8.9% for persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.²

There was a slight increase (0.2%) in opioid prescribing this quarter.³ There was a 11.4% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 1 of 2024.⁴ EMS naloxone administrations also decreased by 64.5%.⁵

From January to March 2024, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (869) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by methamphetamine (439). Lab submissions of cocaine decreased by 22%, fentanyl decreased by 19%, methamphetamine decreased by 10%, xylazine decreased by 8%, and heroin decreased by 35% from last quarter.

Statement from the CCMEO:

"The CCMEO ruled 635 overdose related deaths in 2023, down from 642 deaths in 2022. 2023 saw the highest number of fentanyl and cocaine involved deaths with 251. Xylazine also moved into the top 5 drugs seized in Cuyahoga County, however did not contribute to many deaths."

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
<https://www.ccbh.net/overdose-data-dashboard/>

Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 Heroin and Fentanyl Related Deaths in Cuyahoga County. 2024 1st Quarter Update. Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Available at https://cuyahogacms.blob.core.windows.net/home/docs/default-source/me-library/heroin-fentanyl-cocaine-deaths/2024/1stquarter2024.pdf?sfvrsn=4641e284_3
- 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/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>