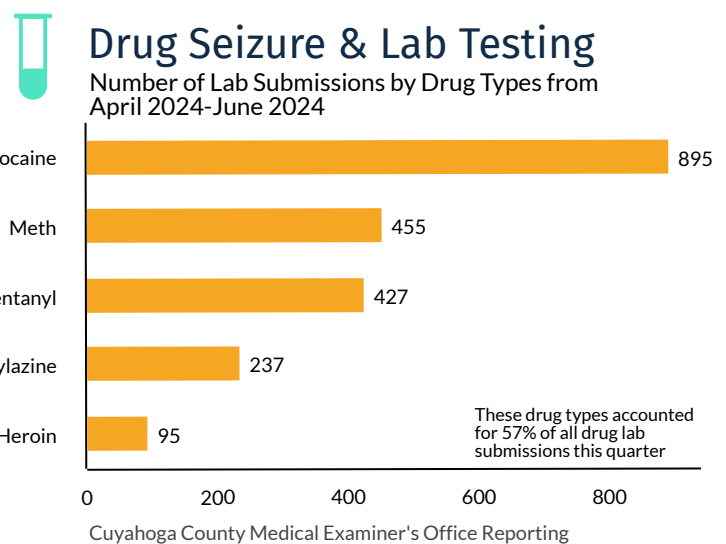
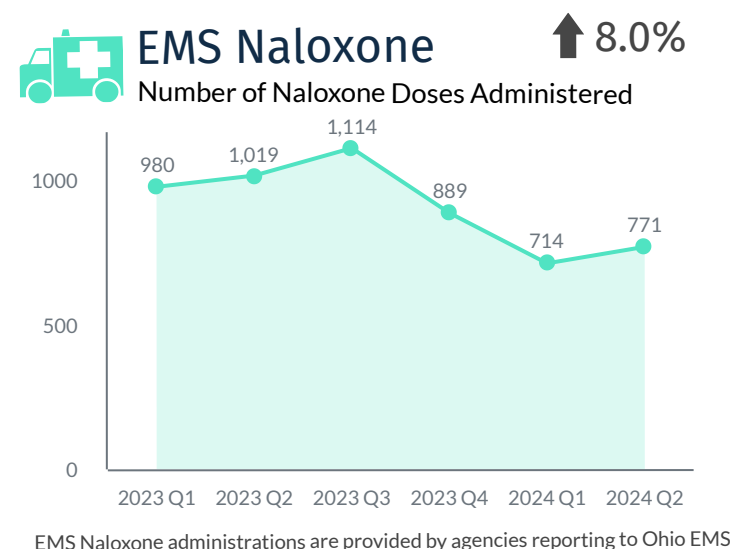
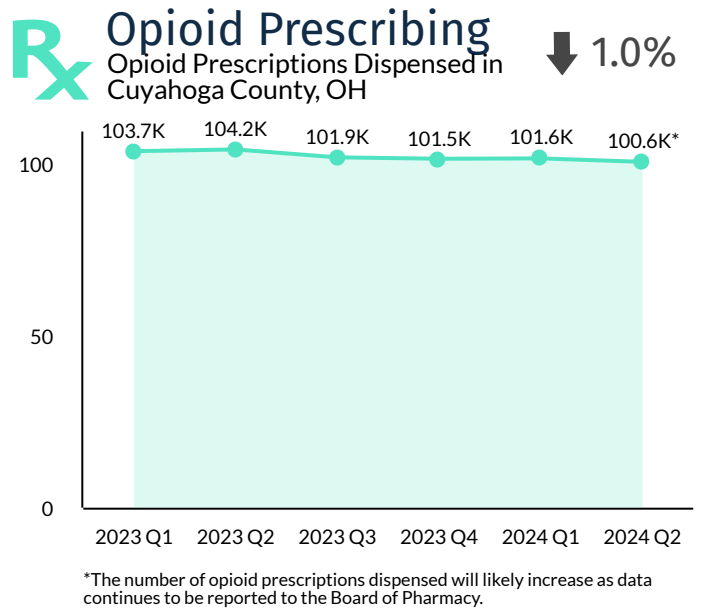
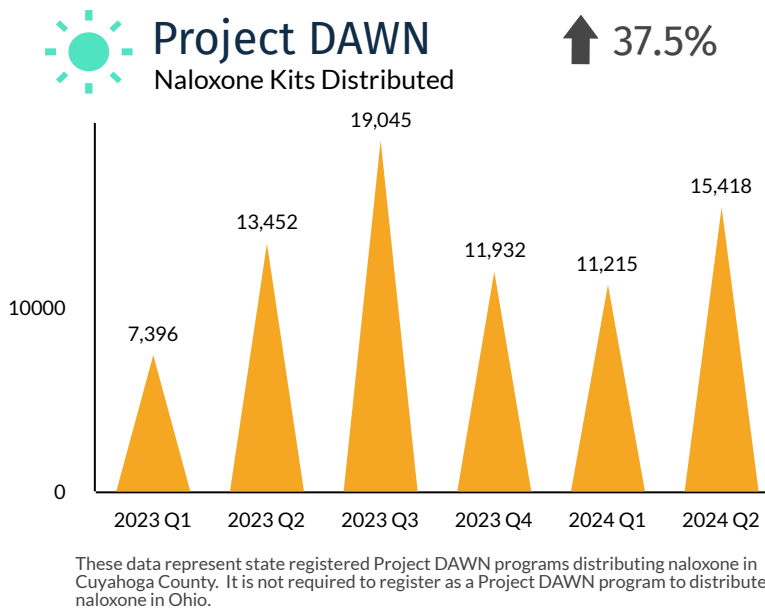
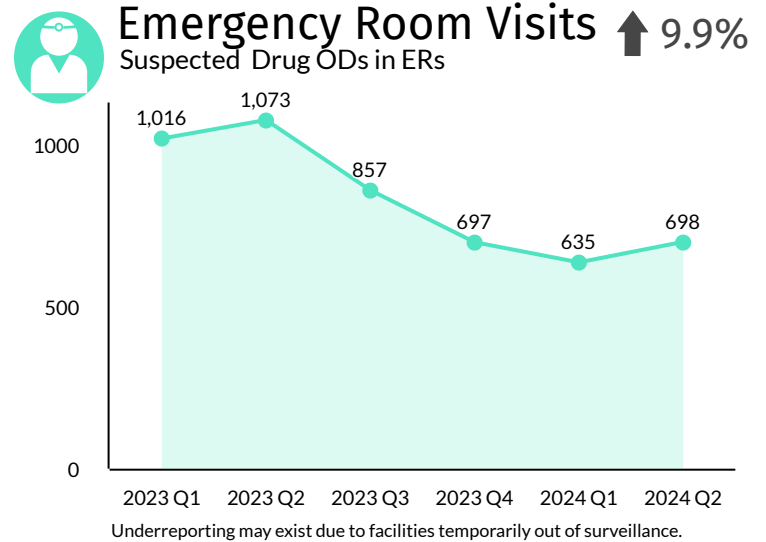
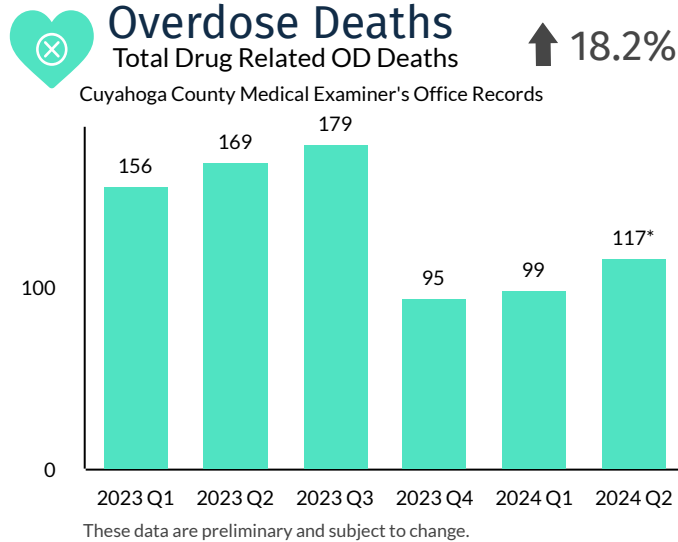


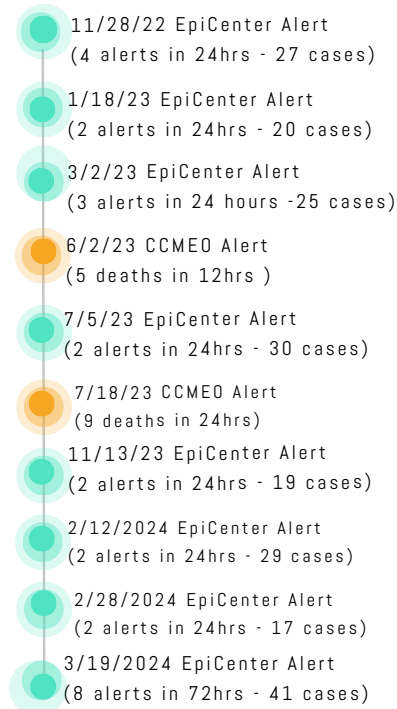
Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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 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.



Highlight



Disparity in Overdose Deaths in City of Cleveland Compared to Cuyahoga County and Drug Mixture Impact

Based on data collected by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, in 2023 there were 635 drug-related overdose deaths in Cuyahoga County, a 1.1% decrease from 642 in 2022. However, the city of Cleveland, which accounts for over half of all fatal drug overdoses locally, experienced a 9.1% increase from 329 to 359 over the same period. The top five Cuyahoga County zip codes in terms of number of resident drug-related deaths were 44109, 44102, 44111, 44105, and 44103, all in the city of Cleveland.

Cleveland also had significantly higher rates of overdose death compared to Cuyahoga County. The estimated crude drug-related mortality rate for Cleveland in 2022 was **91.0** per 100k population compared to **51.9** per 100k for Cuyahoga County. In 2023, the estimated rate for Cleveland was **99.0** per 100k compared to **51.5** per 100k for the county.

When comparing involved drug types in Cuyahoga County and Cleveland, the use of fentanyl alone contributed to 74% of deaths in both jurisdictions in 2023. The proportion of drug-related deaths involving methamphetamine and fentanyl mixtures was also similar at 12% for both the city and county. However, cocaine and fentanyl mixtures contributed to a higher percentage of deaths in the city of Cleveland (43%) compared to Cuyahoga County (39%).

Preliminary data for the first half of 2024 show drug overdose deaths in the city of Cleveland are lower than mid-year 2023 counts but again outpacing the rest of the county as a whole. Top zip codes remain similar.



Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q1 2024 to Q2 2024 unless otherwise stated. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses increased by 18.2% over the last quarter.¹ There was an increase of 9.9% for persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.²

There was a decrease (1.0%) in opioid prescribing this quarter.³ There was a 36.9% increase in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 2 of 2024.⁴ EMS naloxone administrations increased by 8.0%.⁵ In quarter 1 of 2024 there was a data lag in the reporting of both Project DAWN naloxone kit distributions and EMS naloxone administrations. This resulted in lower counts being reported previously for quarter 1 of 2024, which have now been updated.

From April to June 2024, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (895) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by methamphetamine (455). Lab submissions of cocaine increased by 3%, fentanyl increased by 0.9%, methamphetamine increased by 4%, xylazine increased by 16%, and heroin increased by 8% from last quarter.

Statement from the CCME0:

"The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office saw a considerable decrease in fentanyl-related overdose deaths this quarter, which has also reduced our total overdose deaths in the first half of 2024 relative to last year. We have also noticed a 50% reduction in our fentanyl-related drug seizures at the Forensic Laboratory. Although it is hard to pin-point the exact cause of the reduction, it is a welcome change in our County as we are currently projecting having fewer than 500 overdose fatalities this year, which has not occurred in the past decade."

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

Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Quarterly Updates
- 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>