

# 2024 Ohio Drug Epidemic in Review: Key Numbers & Trends

Data Brief, February 2025

2024 drug overdose deaths in Ohio are estimated to reach their lowest level in nearly a decade, declining from 4,745 deaths in 2023 to a projected 3,639 deaths in 2024. This change and decreases of other drug-related overdose indicators coincide with shifts observed with the illicit fentanyl supply, which may be [influencing overdose trends](#). Furthermore, harm reduction efforts have continued to increase and expand across the state. This data brief outlines the trajectory of key metrics and highlights important considerations for 2025.

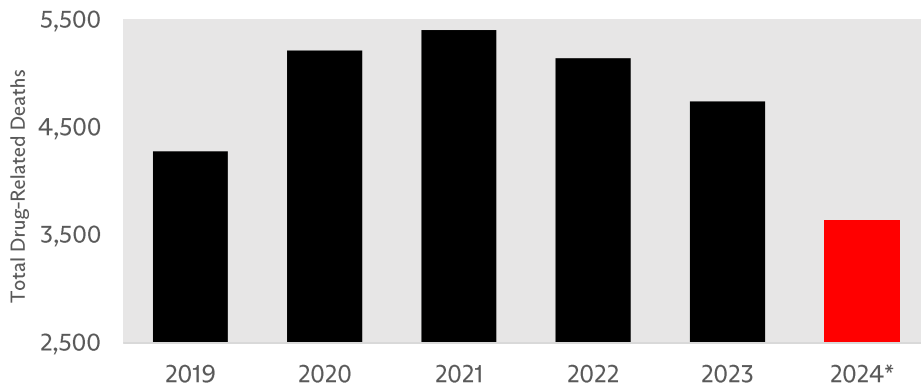


Fig. 1: Ohio Drug Overdose Deaths By Year (scale adjusted for clarity)

Drug overdose deaths are projected to decrease by

# 23%

\*between 2023 and 2024.

**32% decrease\***  
in naloxone doses



administered by Emergency Medical Services

**31% decrease\***  
projected in



emergency department suspected overdose visits

**19% increase\***  
in take-home naloxone



distribution through Project DAWN

## Looking Forward to 2025

While the number of overdose deaths is expected to decrease in 2025, the drug epidemic remains a critical threat to public health and safety. For example, minority populations continue to suffer [disproportionately high mortality](#) rates, underscoring disparities that require targeted attention. New cutting agents and substances also pose emerging public health risks. These trends warrant continued monitoring and research to support improvements in harm reduction and substance-use education and prevention.

### Emerging Threats

- [Xylazine](#)
- [BTMPS](#)
- [Desalkylquazepam](#)
- [Medetomidine](#)
- [Protonitazene](#)
- [Methocarbamol](#)
- [Tianeptine](#)



Data Sources: Fig 1 utilizes [CDC Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts](#), with the 2024 estimate calculated using available incomplete 2024 data. Other Data Sources include [Ohio EMS Naloxone Administration](#), [Epicenter Syndromic Surveillance System](#), and [ODH Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Log Data](#). 2024 estimates for overdose deaths and ED visits were calculated using incomplete 2024 data trends and annual trends from 2022-2023. Funding Acknowledgement: This data brief was supported by grant #15PBJA-22-GG-04436-COAP awarded to the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County and funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Bureau of Justice Assistance or the ADAMHS Board.

