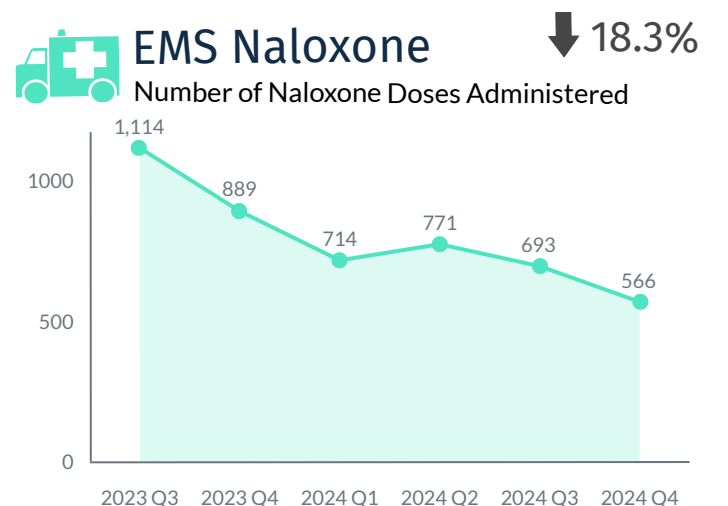
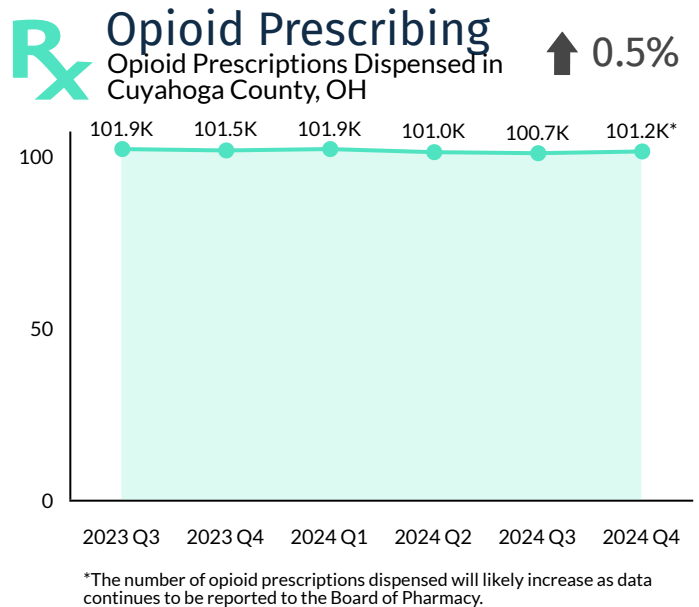
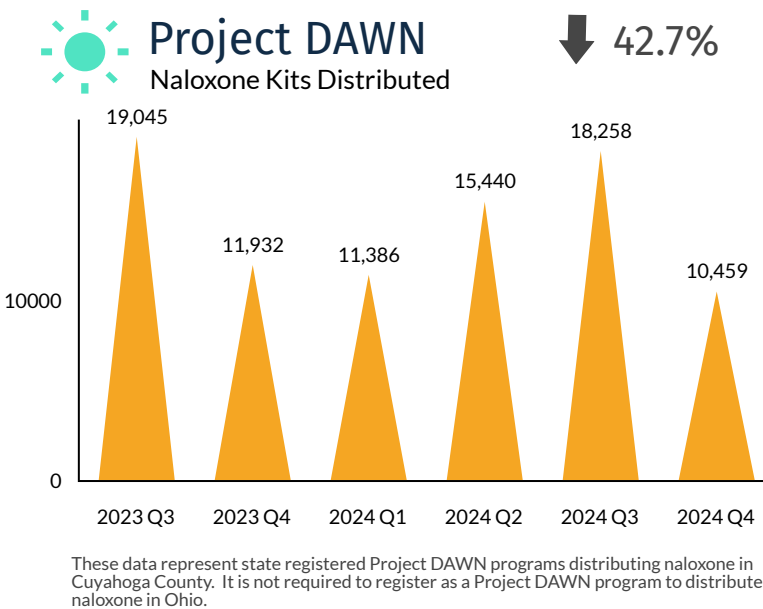
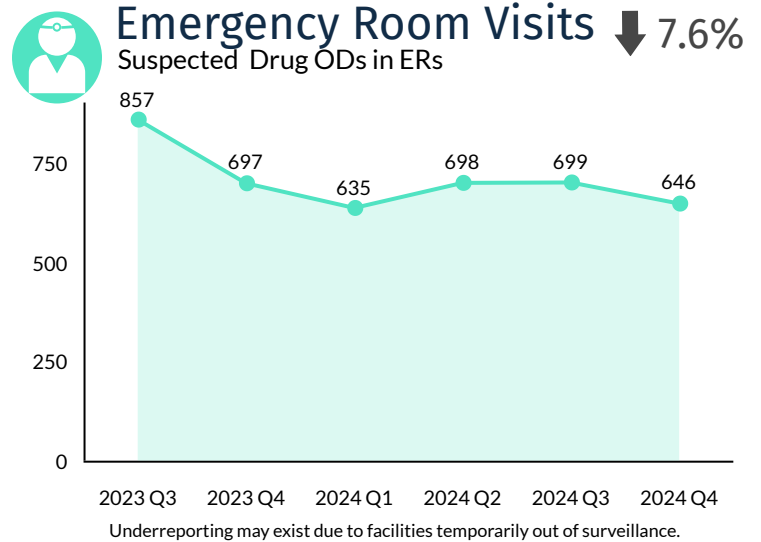
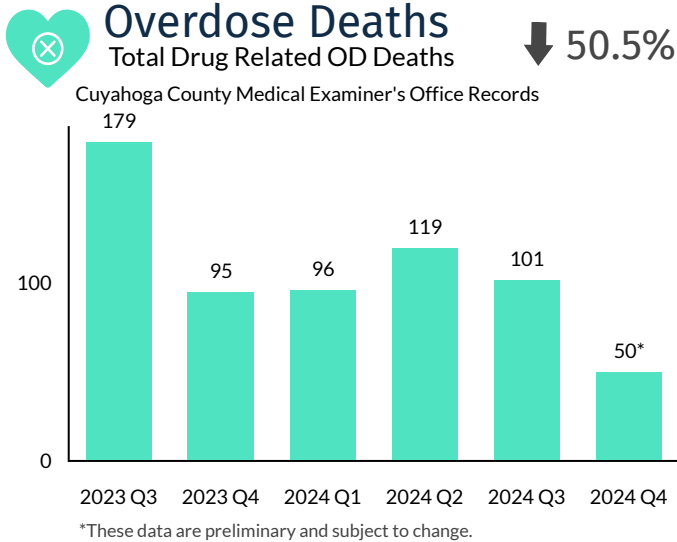
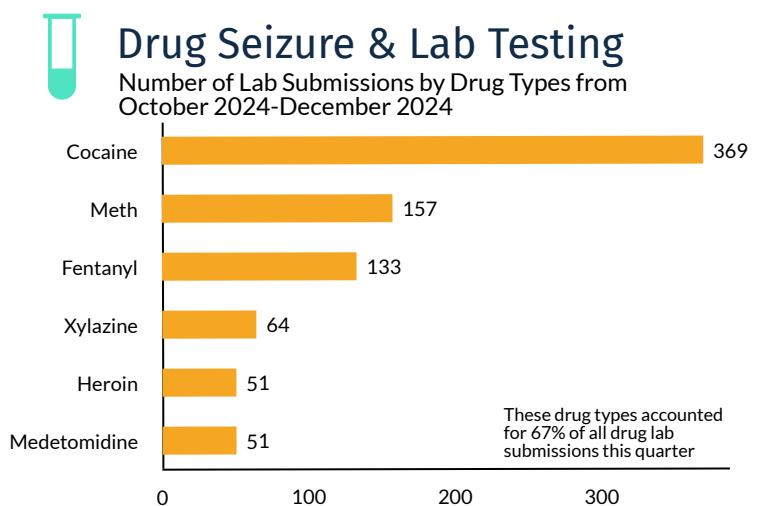


# Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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.

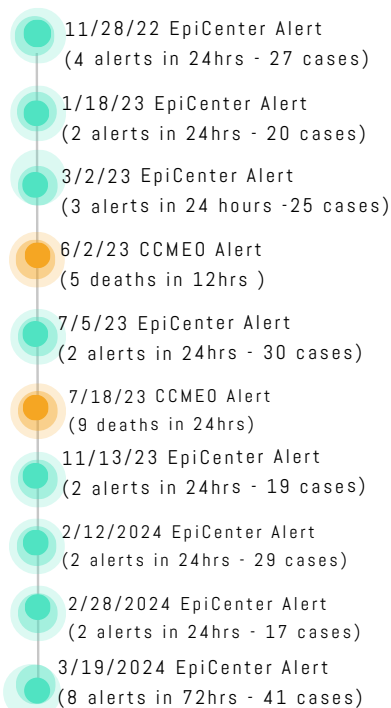


EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS



Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting

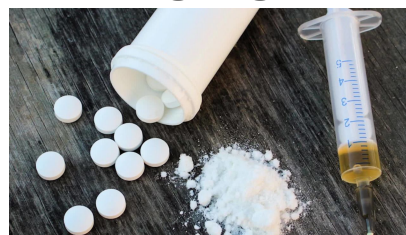
## Overdose Alert Periods (November 2022 - Present)



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



### Decrease in Overdose Deaths in Ohio in 2024

Drug overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18-45, with 70% of these deaths being caused by opioid use. Among all Ohio cities, Cleveland ranked second in drug-related overdose death rate. The rate in Cleveland was approximately three times the national average in 2022 (93.2 deaths per 100,000 population). However, the number of drug-related overdose deaths have declined since 2022, especially fentanyl-related deaths, with the trend appearing to continue in 2024. The exact reason for the decline in fentanyl-related overdose deaths is unclear, but there are suggestions for potential contributing factors. Researchers from Case Western Reserve University suspect that changes in the fentanyl supply chain, naloxone distribution, and access to treatment are contributing to the decline.

For more information, refer to the following data brief: [https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/UnderstandingOhiosDeclineInFentanylRelatedDeaths\\_01.08.2025.pdf](https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/UnderstandingOhiosDeclineInFentanylRelatedDeaths_01.08.2025.pdf)



## Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q3 2024 to Q4 2024 unless otherwise stated. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

### Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses decreased by 50.5% over the last quarter. <sup>1</sup> The number of persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose decreased by 7.6%. <sup>2</sup>

Opioid prescribing remained stable this quarter. <sup>3</sup> There was a 42.7% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 4 of 2024. <sup>4</sup> EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 18.3%. <sup>5</sup>

From October to December 2024, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (369) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by methamphetamine (157). Lab submissions of cocaine decreased by 74%, fentanyl decreased by 78%, methamphetamine decreased by 76%, xylazine decreased by 78%, and heroin decreased by 60% from last quarter.

### Statement from CCMEQ:

The CCMEQ projects a ~27% decrease in drug overdose deaths in 2024, pending rulings through the end of the year. Particularly, this decrease is seen in fentanyl-related overdose deaths, with almost a 50% decrease through Q3. We also see a similar decrease in fentanyl seizures in Cuyahoga County. The decrease in both fentanyl deaths and seizures is driving the decrease in all overdose deaths. This decrease is the first of its kind in about a decade which is welcomed news, however overdose deaths are still too high and there is still work to do, to prevent these deaths.

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>