Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio
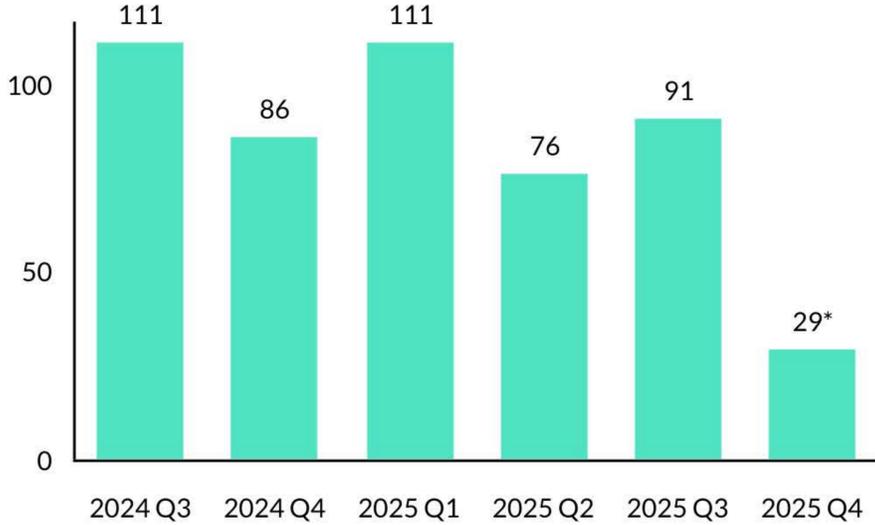
OD2A LOCAL Cuyahoga County

Local Data, Local Partners, Local Solutions

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.
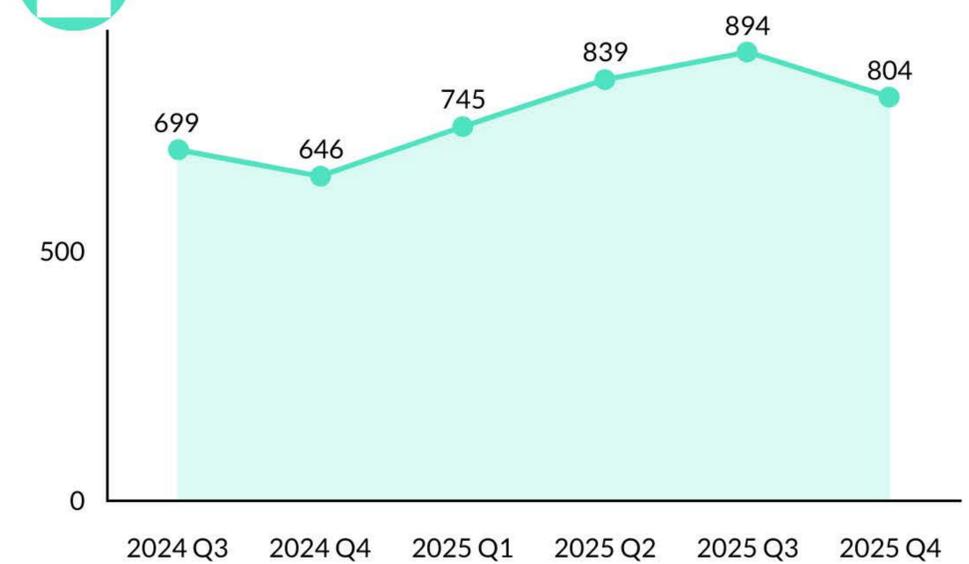
Overdose Deaths
Total Drug Related OD Deaths
↓ 68.1%

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Records

Quarter	Deaths
2024 Q3	111
2024 Q4	86
2025 Q1	111
2025 Q2	76
2025 Q3	91
2025 Q4	29*

*These data are preliminary and subject to change.

Emergency Room Visits
Suspected Drug ODs in ERs
↓ 10.1%

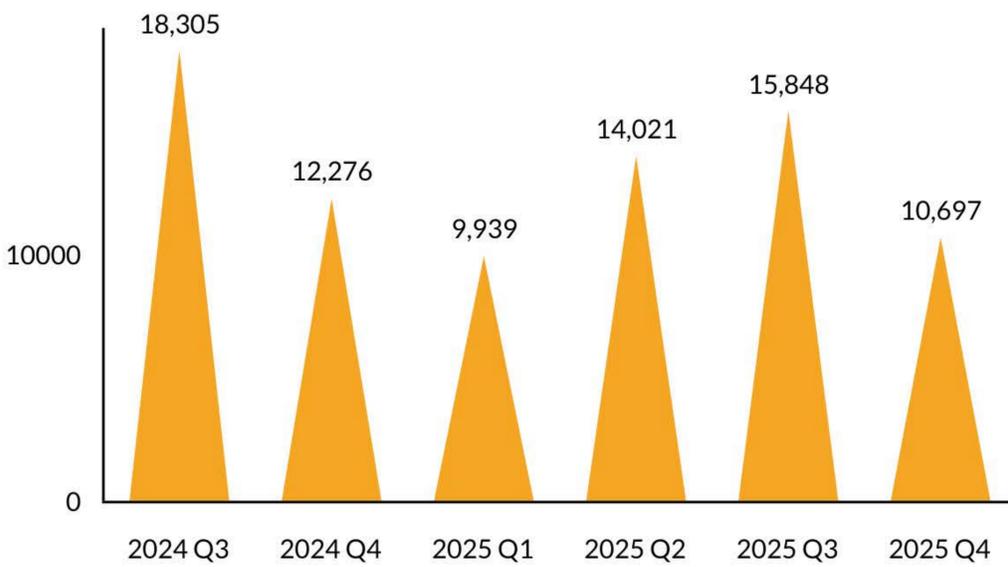| Quarter	Visits
2024 Q3	699
2024 Q4	646
2025 Q1	745
2025 Q2	839
2025 Q3	894
2025 Q4	804

Underreporting may exist due to facilities temporarily out of surveillance.

Project DAWN
Naloxone Kits Distributed
↓ 32.5%

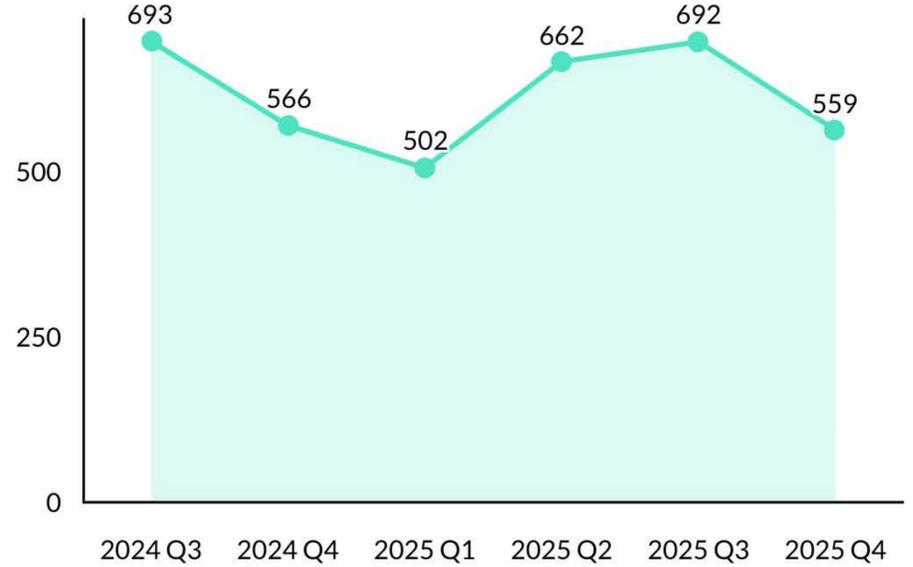| Quarter	Kits
2024 Q3	18,305
2024 Q4	12,276
2025 Q1	9,939
2025 Q2	14,021
2025 Q3	15,848
2025 Q4	10,697

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. Data is preliminary and subject to change.

EMS Naloxone
Number of Naloxone Doses Administered
↓ 19.2%

Quarter	Doses
2024 Q3	693
2024 Q4	566
2025 Q1	502
2025 Q2	662
2025 Q3	692
2025 Q4	559

EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS

Syringe Testing

Number of Major Drugs found upon testing (N=167) from October 2025-December 2025

Drug	Count
Fentanyl	105
Medetomidine	78
Cocaine	63
Heroin	56
Xylazine	47
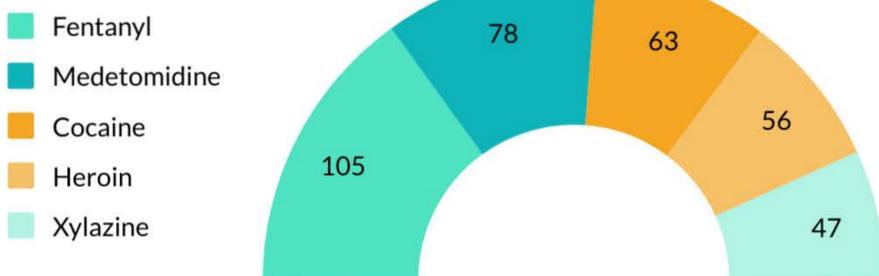
Results from pilot drug checking program. Syringes are collected from The Centers and The MetroHealth System's Syringe Service Programs (SSP). A sample may test positive for one or more substances. Figure shows top 5 drug types present in collected syringes, pipes, and cookers.

Drug Seizure & Lab Testing

Number of Lab Submissions by Drug Types from October 2025-December 2025

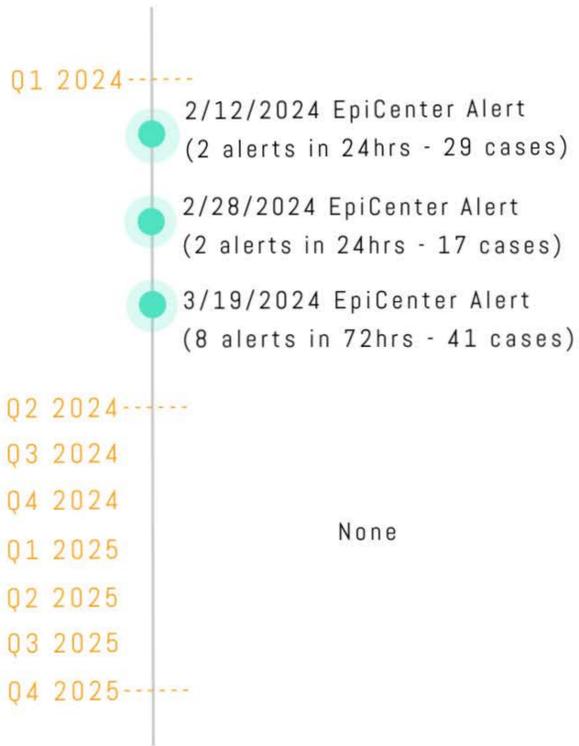| Drug	Submissions
Cocaine	1,286
Fentanyl	512
Meth	403
Heroin	223
Xylazine	220
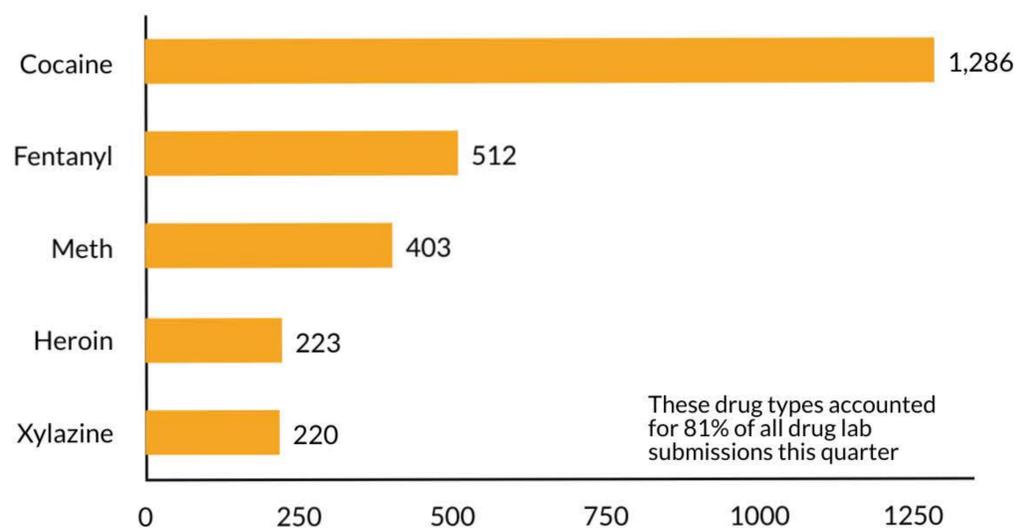
These drug types accounted for 81% of all drug lab submissions this quarter

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting. Figure shows top 5 drug types present in drug seizures and lab testing.

⚠️ Overdose Alert Periods
(January 2024- Present)

Q1 2024 ----
- 2/12/2024 EpiCenter Alert
  (2 alerts in 24hrs - 29 cases)
- 2/28/2024 EpiCenter Alert
  (2 alerts in 24hrs - 17 cases)
- 3/19/2024 EpiCenter Alert
  (8 alerts in 72hrs - 41 cases)

Q2 2024 ----
Q3 2024
Q4 2024   None
Q1 2025
Q2 2025
Q3 2025
Q4 2025 ----

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
OD2A: LOCAL Linkage to Care Surveillance Pilot Program

MAT/MOUD Care Across Entry Points (September 2024-August 2025)
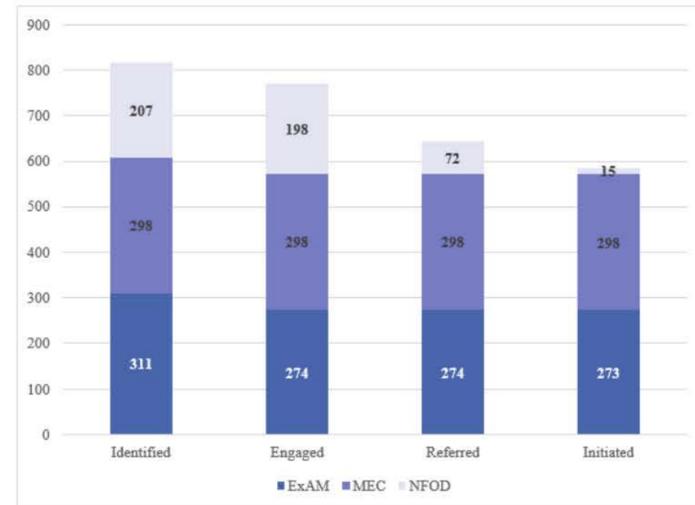
As part of a pilot surveillance program, OD2A Component C engages individuals with opioid or stimulant use disorder though three coordinated entry points supported by MetroHealth: the emergency department, for individuals experiencing nonfatal overdoses (NFOD), the criminal justice system through the Expanded Access to MOUD (ExAM) program for incarcerated individuals, and the Walk-in Motivation and Engagement Clinic (MEC), a clinical care setting. The cascade of care examined includes: identification, engagement, referral, and linkage to treatment.

The figure above summarizes findings from Year Two for each entry point with respect to MOUD treatment. A total of 816 individuals were identified. Of those identified, 770 were engaged in care, 644 were referred to MOUD, and 586 initiated MOUD treatment. Both the MEC and ExAM programs have a high linkage rate, 100% and 88% respectively. Successful linkage is likely attributable to the nature of the MEC, where individuals present themselves for treatment, and the warm handoff from ExAM program staff to the MEC for individuals upon their release from incarceration at the county jail.

📈 Important Findings / Trends
Increases or decreases are from Q3 2025 to Q4 2025 unless otherwise stated.
Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Quarter over Quarter:
Overall, fatal overdoses decreased by 68.1% over the last quarter.[1] The number of persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose decreased by 10.1%.[2]

Opioid prescribing data (not shown) decreased 0.1% this quarter.[3] There was a 32.5% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed from quarter 3 to quarter 4 of 2025.[4] EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 19.2%.[5]

From October to December 2025, 167 samples (159 syringes, 3 pipes, 5 cookers) were tested to identify what major drugs were present. Fentanyl (105) was the most prevalent, followed by medetomidine (78), cocaine (63), heroin (56), and xylazine (47).

From October to December 2025, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (1,286) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by fentanyl (512). Lab submissions of cocaine decreased by 1%, fentanyl decreased by 23%, methamphetamine decreased by 36%, heroin increased by 10%, and xylazine increased 7% from last quarter.

Statement from CCMEO:
"The CCMEO projects a ~14% decrease in drug overdose deaths in 2025 with an estimated total of 360 deaths, pending rulings through the end of the year. Particularly, this decrease is seen in fentanyl-related overdose deaths, with a 53% decrease through Q3. The decrease in both fentanyl deaths and overall drug seizures is driving the decrease in all overdose deaths. This is the lowest number of overdose deaths since prior to the introduction of fentanyl in 2016, however numbers still remain high and there is still work to do, to prevent these deaths. Of note, cocaine has re-emerged as the most prevalent drug identified in overdose deaths throughout 2025. This trend continues to be closely monitored as stimulant waves often follow periods of high opioid overdose."

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

This product is supported by Overdose Data to Action: LOCAL funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.