



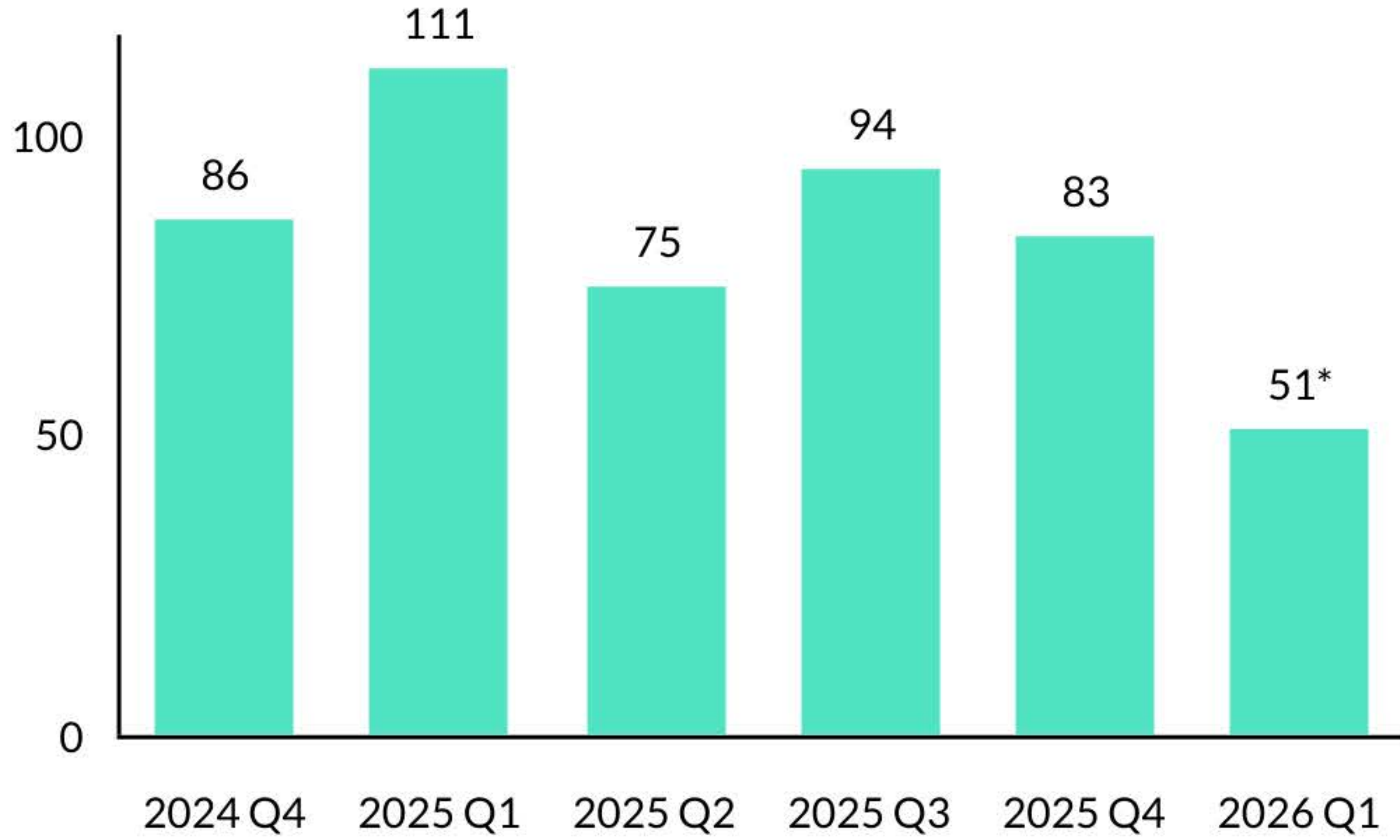
Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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.

Overdose Deaths ↓ 38.6%

Total Drug Related OD Deaths

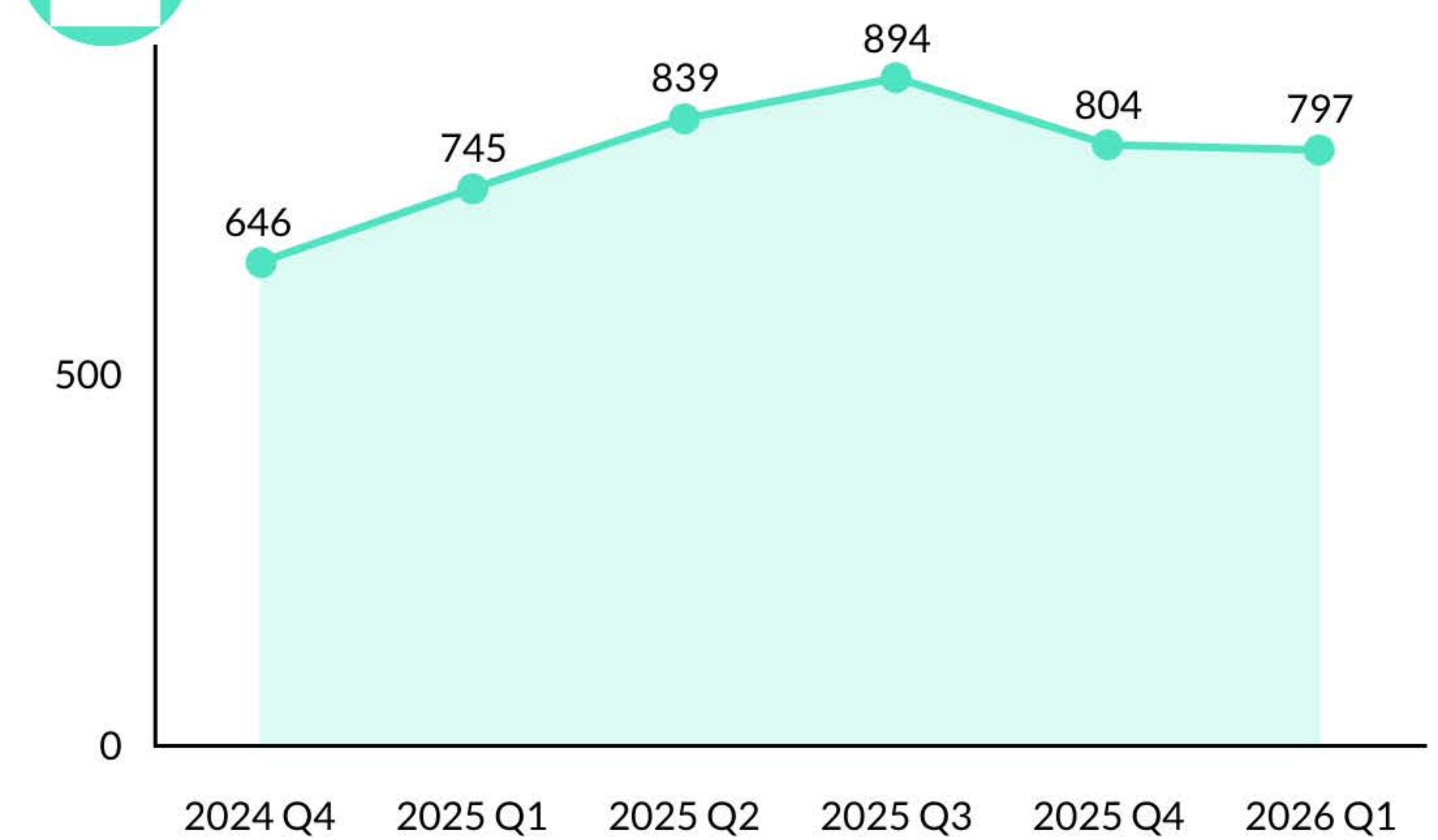
Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Records



*These data are preliminary and subject to change.

Emergency Room Visits ↓ 0.9%

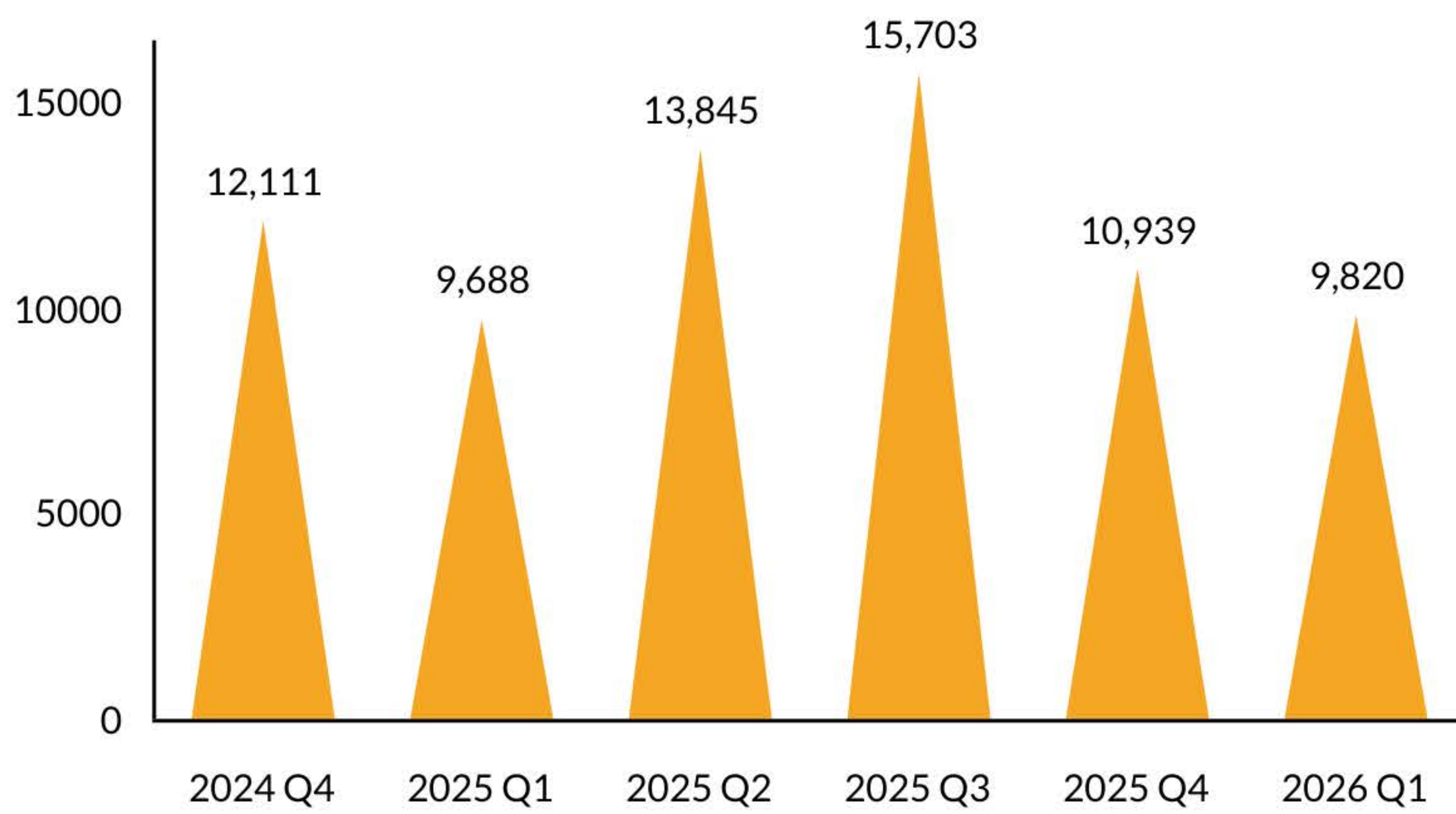
Suspected Drug ODs in ERs



Underreporting may exist due to facilities temporarily out of surveillance.

Project DAWN ↓ 10.2%

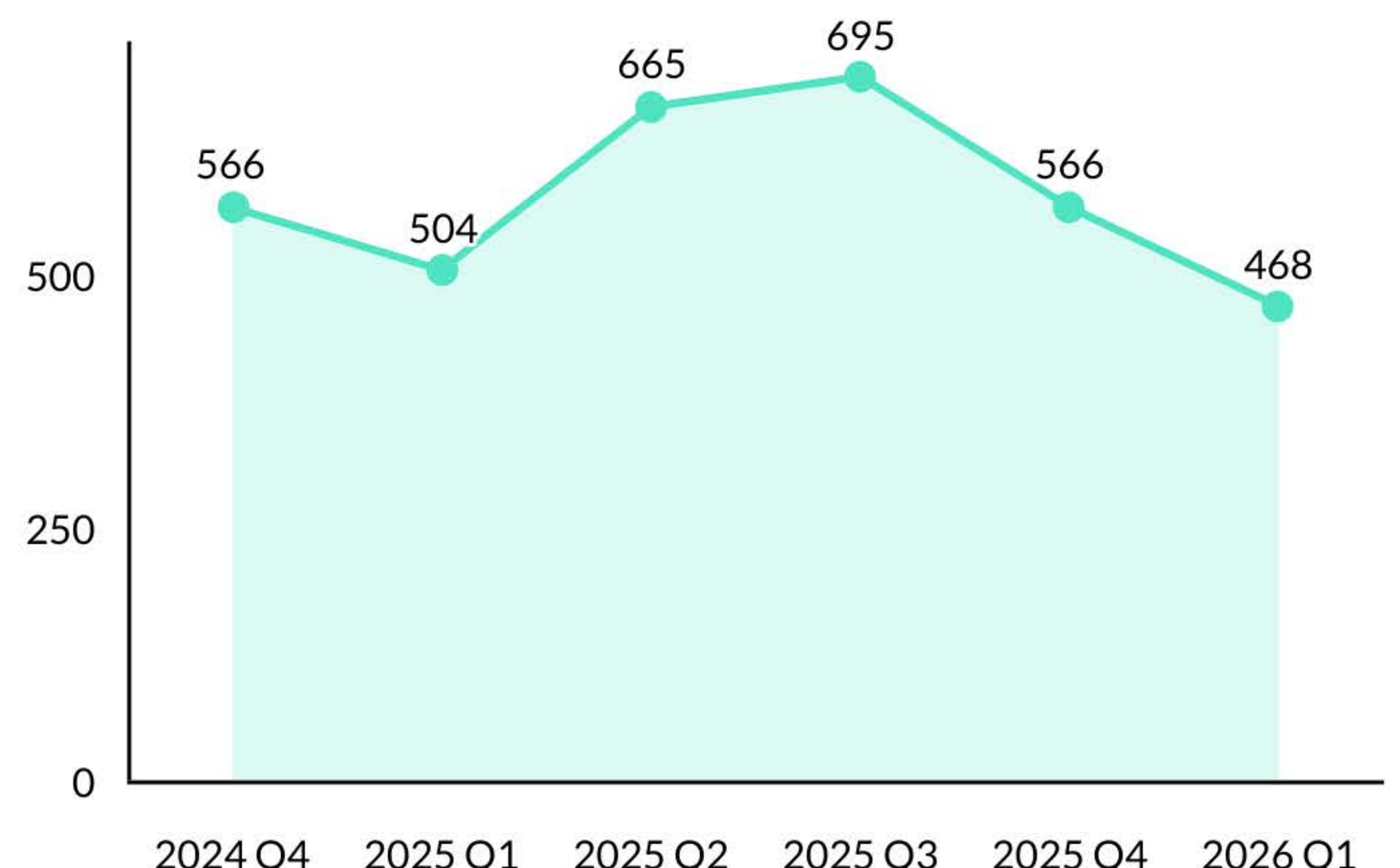
Naloxone Kits Distributed



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 are preliminary and subject to change.

EMS Naloxone ↓ 17.3%

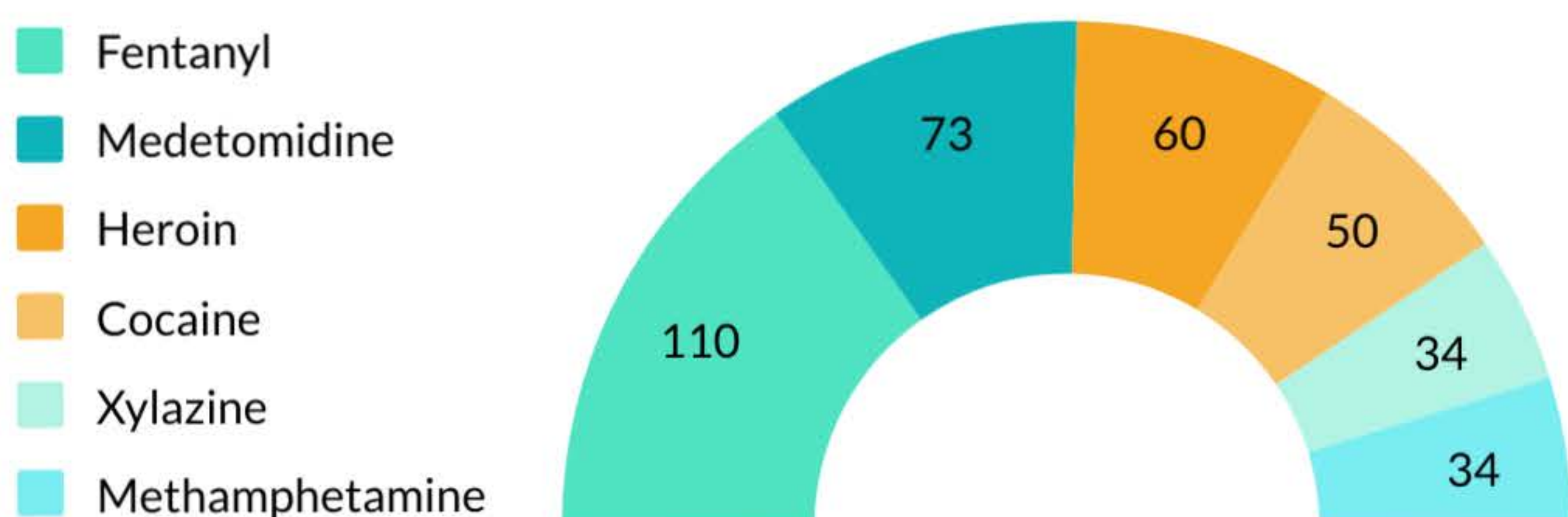
Number of Naloxone Doses Administered



EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS.

Drug Paraphernalia Testing

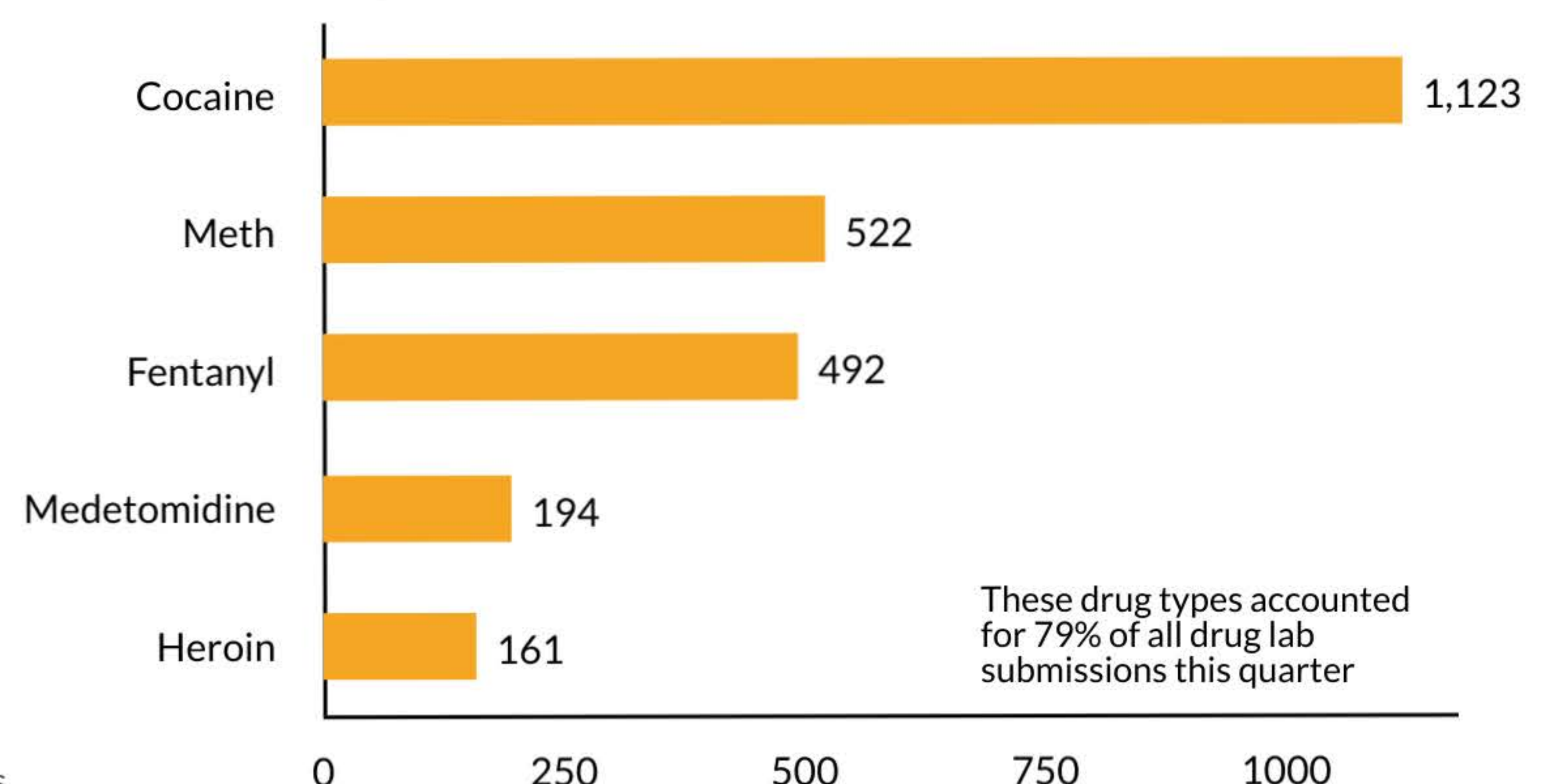
Number of Major Drugs found upon testing (N= 165)
from January 2026-March 2026



Results from pilot drug checking program. Drug paraphernalia are collected from The Centers and The MetroHealth System's Syringe Service Programs (SSP). A sample may test positive for more than one substance. The top 5 drug types present in collected syringes, pipes, and cookers are shown.

Drug Seizure & Lab Testing

Number of Lab Submissions by Drug Types from
January 2026-March 2026



These drug types accounted for 79% of all drug lab submissions this quarter

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting. Figure shows top 5 drug types present in lab tested seized drugs.



Overdose Alert Periods

EpiCenter Alerts:

3/14/2026 - Increase in Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose in Cuyahoga County

- 8 anomalies in 32 hours
- 21 unintentional drug overdose cases
- First alert since 3/19/2024 (8 anomalies in 72 hours - 41 cases)

CCMEO Alerts:

NONE

- Last alert occurred 7/18/2023 (9 deaths in 24 hours)

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 by date.



Highlight

Emerging Adulterants in Syringe Testing Data:

Cuyahoga County's pilot drug checking program is detecting several emerging substances locally. Medetomidine, a veterinary sedative associated with severe withdrawal, was detected in 73 samples (44.2%) tested in the first quarter of 2026. BTMPS, an industrial chemical with unspecified significance in humans, was identified in 29 samples (17.6%). Procaine, a local anesthetic, was found in 9 samples (5.5%). All these drugs are used as adulterants in the illicit fentanyl supply.

For more data insights based on drug paraphernalia testing, visit: <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/medical-examiner/resources/cuyahoga-county-drug-checking-program>

Evaluation Reports and Partner Infographics Released:

The OD2A evaluation team and partners have released new data reports! The most recent products are listed below:

- OD2A LOCAL Year 2 Evaluation Report
- OD2A LOCAL Year 2 Evaluation Report Executive Summary
- Various Partner Infographics

To review or download, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Overdose Data Dashboard webpage and scroll or jump to Data Reports: <https://ccbh.net/overdose-data-dashboard/>



Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q4 2025 to Q1 2026 unless otherwise stated. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses decreased by 38.6% over the last quarter.¹ The number of persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose decreased by 0.9%.²

Opioid prescribing data (not shown) are not yet available for this quarter.³ There was a 10.2% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed from quarter 4 of 2025 to quarter 1 of 2026.⁴ EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 17.3%.⁵

From January to March 2026, 165 samples (159 syringes, 3 pipes, 3 cookers) were tested to identify what major drugs were present. Fentanyl (110) was the most prevalent, followed by medetomidine (73), heroin (60), cocaine (50), xylazine (34), and methamphetamine (34).

From January to March 2026, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (1,123) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by methamphetamine (522). Lab submissions of cocaine decreased by 13%, methamphetamine increased by 30%, fentanyl decreased by 4%, medetomidine decreased by 10%, and heroin decreased by 28% from last quarter.

Statement from CCMEO:

"In 2025, Cuyahoga County suffered 363 overdose deaths, marking a 13% decrease from 2024 and the lowest total since the introduction of fentanyl in 2016. This is a welcomed decrease, however numbers still remain high. Notably, cocaine outpaced fentanyl as the most common drug contributing to cause of death in 2025, and this trend has continued into 2026."

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.

Data Sources and Notes:

1 Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Updates at <https://www.cuyahogacounty.gov/medical-examiner/resources/overdose-statistics>

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.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Oarrs/Stats>

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>