



2025 Overdose Fatality Review Report

Clark County, Ohio

July 2, 2026
Clark County Health Department
529 E Home Rd.
Springfield, Ohio 45503

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Overview

The data that is presented in this report was collected during the Clark County Overdose Fatality Review Committee (OFR). Coroner's actual figures may vary. The OFR is a team of multidisciplinary individuals that reviews each unintentional overdose death that occurs in Clark County to reduce gaps within our community. A review consists of examining each decedent's known history relating to drug use, significant health conditions/events, experiences of trauma, interactions with the criminal justice system, substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health treatment history, and other factors. The reviews provide a deeper understanding of the missed opportunities for prevention and intervention that may have prevented an unintentional overdose death.

The Clark County OFR meets quarterly to review overdose fatalities that were classified as unintentional and occurred in Clark County. Each meeting in 2025 was held in a hybrid setting over a secure Microsoft Teams link. A list of cases to be reviewed is provided to each committee member prior to the review meeting to allow time for each member to bring any applicable information their organizations might have regarding the decedent. The information is then discussed in the review meeting after the coroner has provided an overview of circumstances surrounding the death. Data that is gathered includes demographic information, overdose location, medical conditions, SUD/mental health treatment history, medication assisted treatment history, experiences of trauma, prior overdoses, if there are any minor children, Fire and EMS records, and interactions with the criminal justice system. Unidentified data trends and recommendations are then shared with other stakeholders, such as the Clark County Substance Abuse Coalition, to facilitate community wide strategy planning. Recommendations are put in place within this committee to further reduce overdose fatalities.

The committee is made up of the Clark County Coroner, representatives from the Clark County Combined Health District (CCCHD), Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, and Madison Counties (MHRB), Mental Health Services, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Springfield Police Department, Springfield Fire and Rescue Division, Springfield LOSS team, Ohio Board of Pharmacy, Project Woman, and local treatment providers, McKinley Hall, Mercy REACH, and Sunrise.

Overdose Fatalities

The total number of overdose fatalities reviewed by the OFR committee peaked in 2017 at 105 deaths. After years of decline the number of deaths increased again in 2021 to 79. From 2021-2024 overdose numbers continued to decrease to an all-time low in 2024. We saw a slight increase in overdose deaths to 30 in 2025.

Overdose fatality counts in Clark County have fallen since 2021 with a slight increase in 2025.

Count of overdose fatalities per year in Clark County, 2016-2025

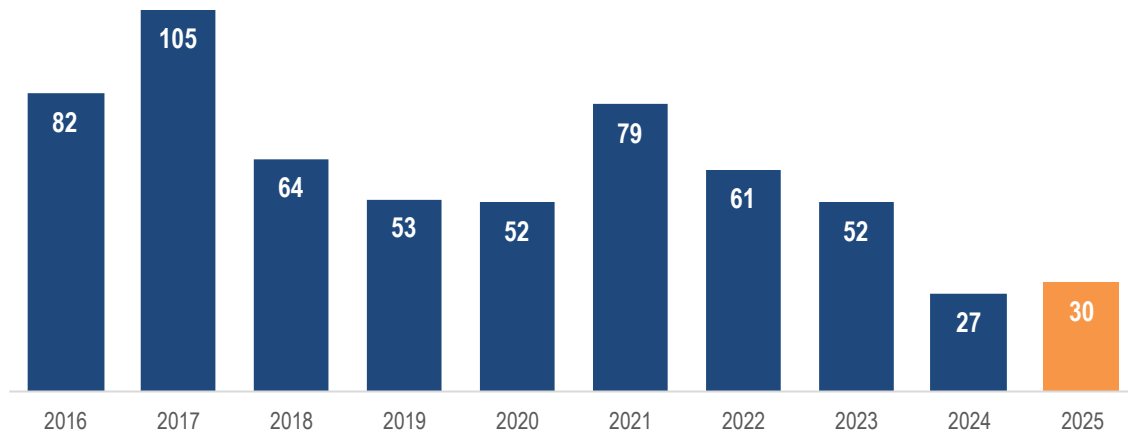


Figure 1: Count of overdose fatalities per year in Clark County, Ohio from 2016-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Age-adjusted death rates for overdose fatalities have been higher than the Ohio age-adjusted death rates from 2020-2023 but have been decreasing. In 2024 the age-adjusted death rates for overdose fatality fell below the rate for Ohio (Figure 2).

The age-adjusted overdose death rate in **Clark County** is decreasing and fell below the **Ohio** rate in 2024 for the first time in recent years

Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 persons in Clark County and Ohio 2020-2024

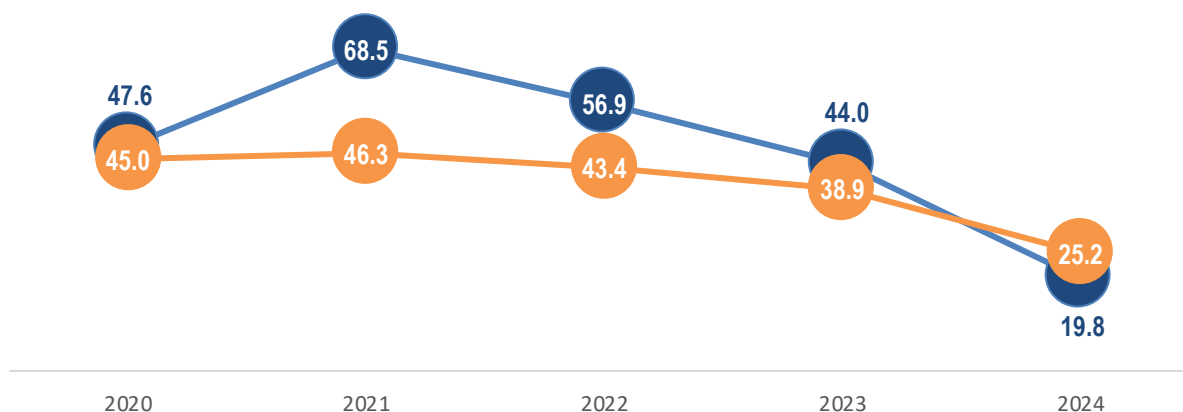


Figure 2: Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 persons in Ohio and Clark County each year between 2020 and 2024. Data for Clark County was retrieved from the ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Data for Ohio was retrieved from Ohio Department of Health's 2024 Ohio Unintentional Overdose Fatality Report.

Home Zip Code

The highest percentage of overdose fatalities resided in the 45503-zip code (northeast side of Springfield) followed by the 45506 and 45505 zip codes (southwest and southeast side of Springfield) (Figure 3). The 45503 and 45505 zip codes were the zip codes with the highest number of overdose fatalities between 2016 and 2025 with 137 each (Table 1).

The 45503 ZIP code had the highest percentage of overdose fatalities in 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by home ZIP code in Clark County in 2025

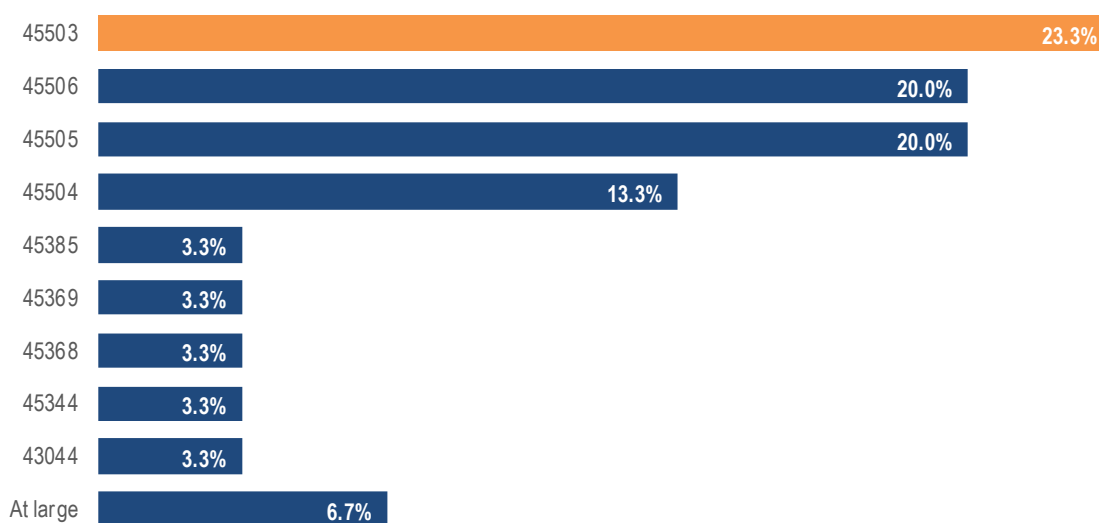


Figure 3: Percentage of overdose fatalities in Clark County, Ohio in 2025 by zip code of home residence. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Table 1: Top home zip codes of Clark County overdose fatalities between 2016 and 2025. Data collected from the Clark County Overdose Fatality review.

ZIP code	# of overdose fatalities
45503	137
45505	137
45506	99
45504	66
45344	31
45502	30
At large	22

Place of Death

A majority of overdose fatalities in 2025 took place at the decedent's home.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by place of death in Clark County in 2025

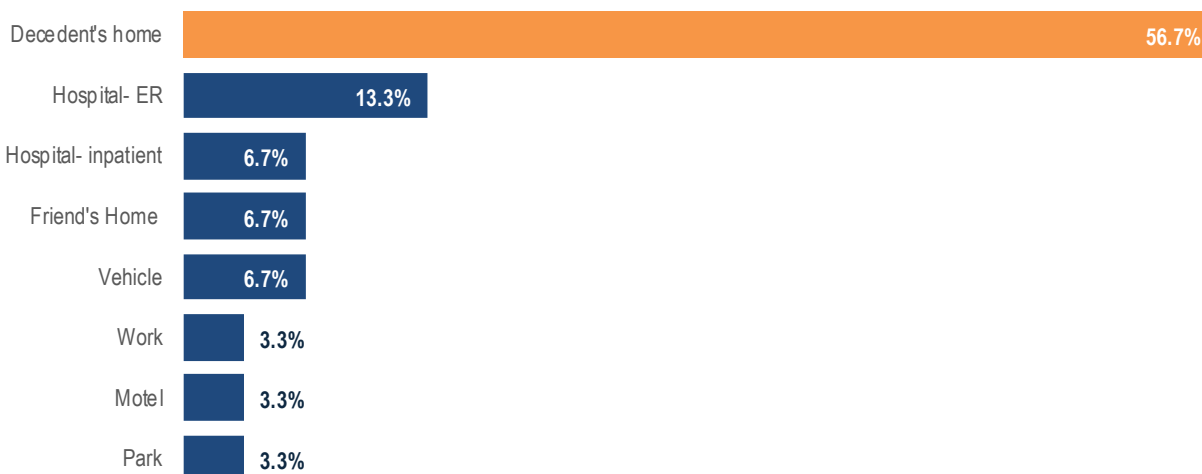


Figure 4: Percentage of overdose fatalities by place where death occurred in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Between 2016-2025 most overdose fatalities occurred at the decedent's home (62.8%); the remaining locations of death are detailed below.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by place of death in Clark County, 2016-2025

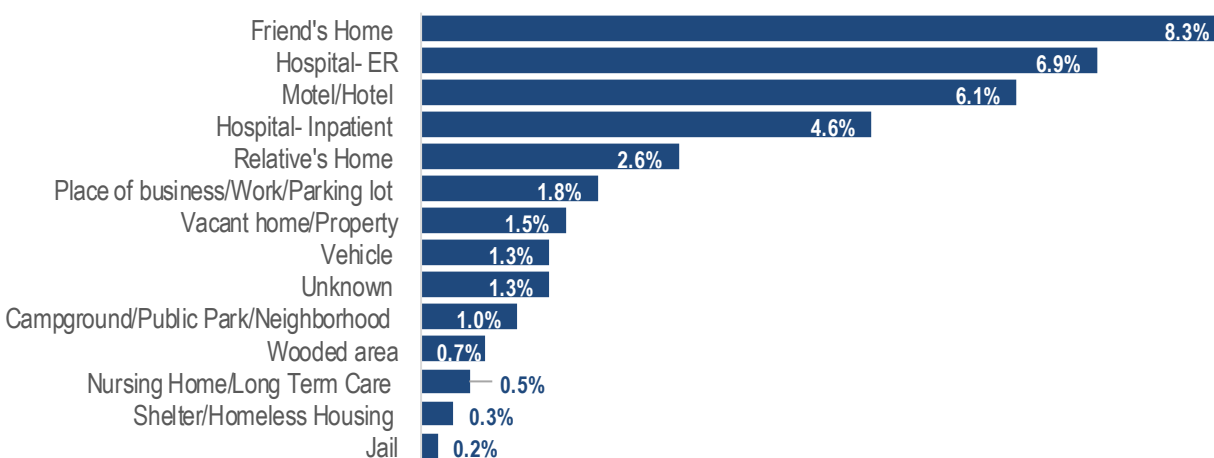


Figure 5: Percentage of overdose fatalities by place where death occurred in Clark County, Ohio from 2016-2025. The most common place of death was the decedent's home (62.8%), which is not included in the graph to highlight the breakdown of other locations. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Report.

Monthly Trends

From 2021-2025 the number of overdoses per month changes with the highest average number of overdose fatalities occurring in the months of July, January, and April. The lowest average number of overdose fatalities occurred in November, December, and March (Figure 6).

July had the highest average number of overdose fatalities during the past 5 years.

Average count of overdose fatalities by month in Clark County 2021-2025

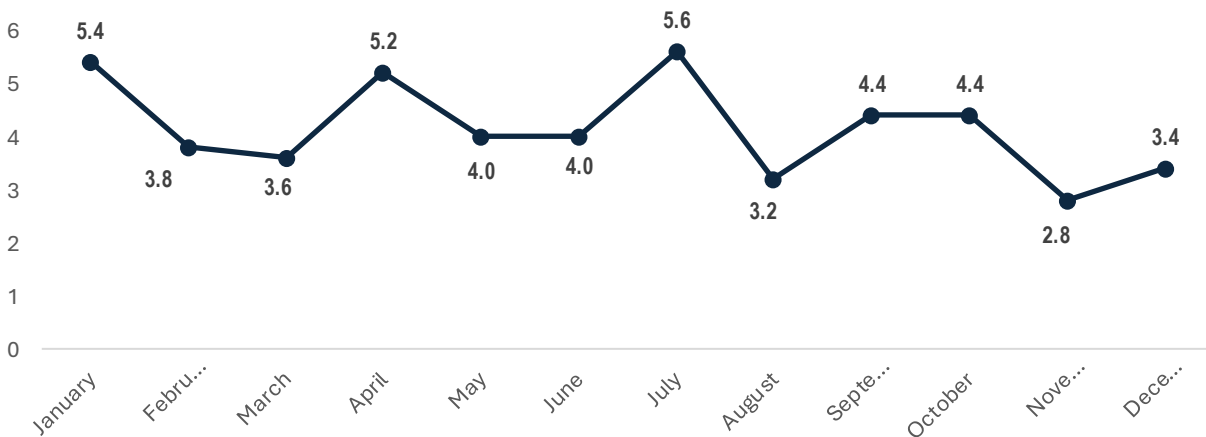


Figure 6: Average count of overdose fatalities each month over the past 5 years (2021-2025). Data collected from the Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Demographics

Sex

Males accounted for a higher percentage of overdose deaths each year than **females** since 2019.

Percentage of overdose deaths by sex in Clark County, 2019-2025

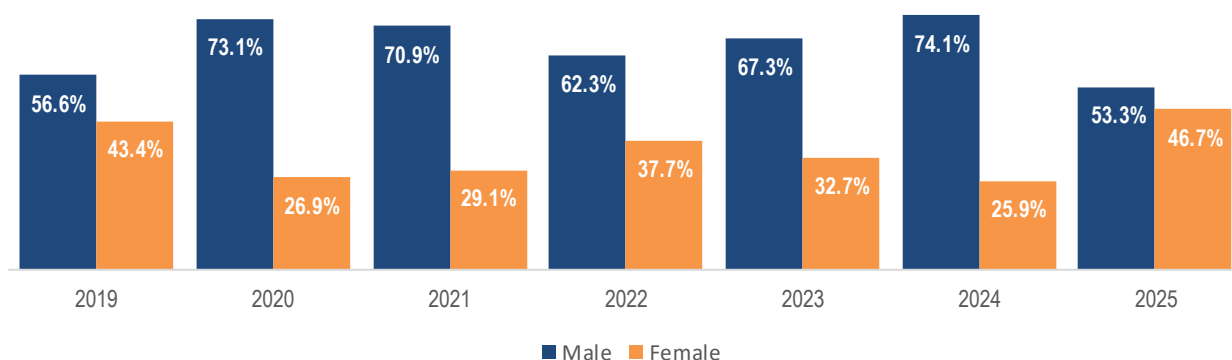


Figure 7: Percentage of overdose fatalities by sex each year from 2019-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Most overdose fatalities occurred among males in 2025.

Percentage of overdose deaths by sex in Clark County, 2025

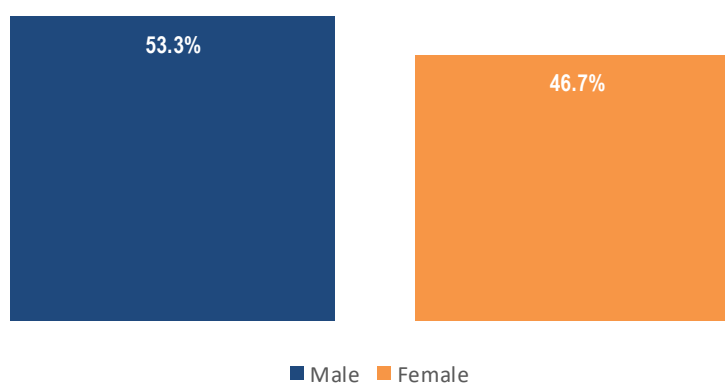


Figure 8: Percentage of overdose fatalities by sex in 2025 in Clark County, Ohio. Data collected from the Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Marital Status

The most common marital status for decedents was single/never married (43.3%) or divorced (36.7%) in 2025 (Figure 9). Of decedents from 2016-2025 many (48.9%) were single/never married (Figure 10).

Only 13% of decedents were married at the time of their overdose.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by marital status at the time of their death in Clark County in 2025

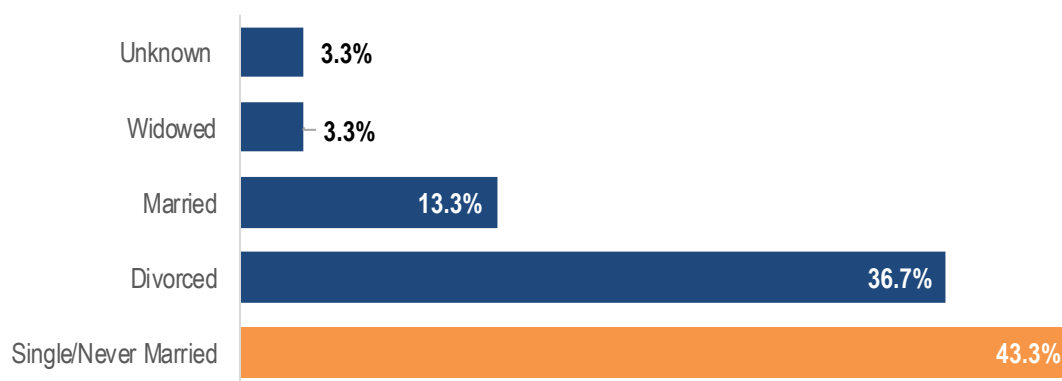


Figure 9: Percentage of overdose fatalities by marital status in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Only 18% of decedents were married at the time of their overdose since 2016.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by marital status at the time of their death in Clark County 2016-2025

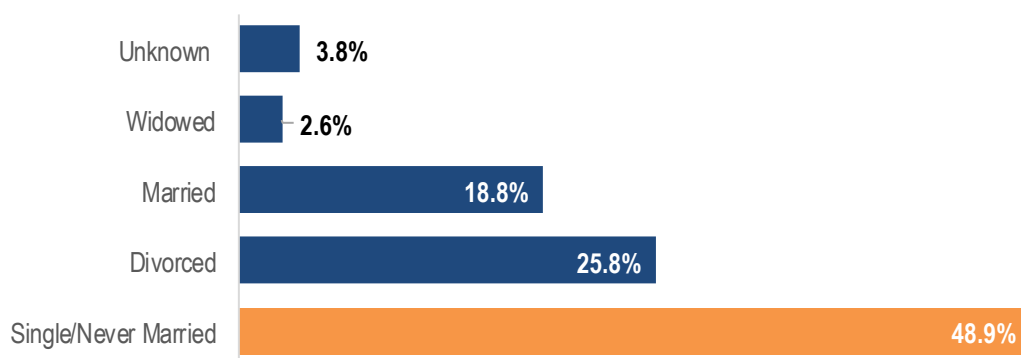


Figure 10: Percentage of overdose fatalities by marital status in Clark County, Ohio 2016-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Age

The most common age groups for overdose fatalities in 2025 were 35-44 and 45-54 representing 30% of overdose fatalities each (Figure 10). From 2016-2025 35-44-year-olds were the most common age groups for overdose fatalities (Figure 11).

60% of the overdose fatalities in 2025 were between 35-54 years old.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by age group in Clark County in 2025

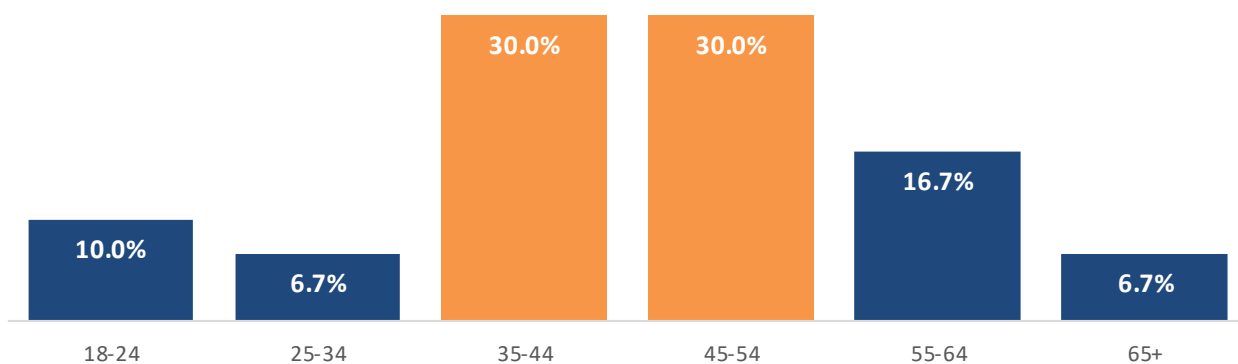


Figure 10: Percentage of overdose fatalities by age group in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

The 35-44 year old age group has the largest percentage of overdose fatalities in Clark County between 2016-2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by age group in Clark County 2016-2025

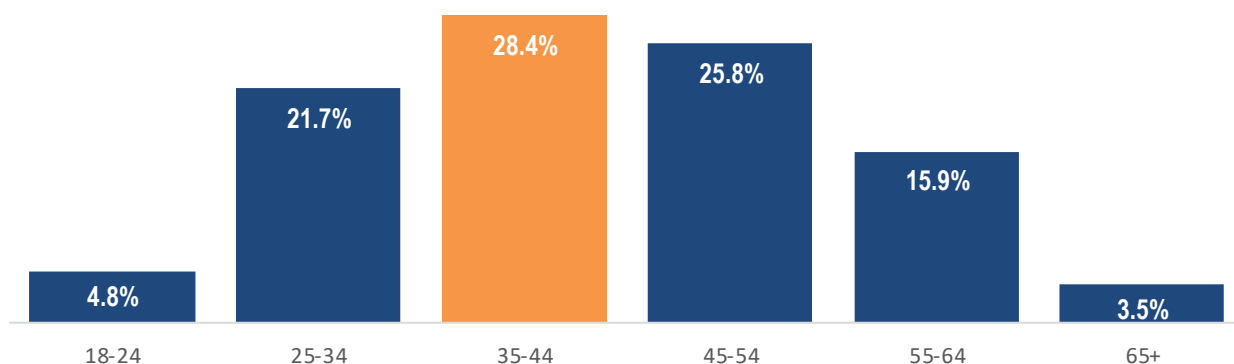


Figure 11: Percentage of overdose fatalities by age group in Clark County, Ohio 2016-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Race

In the past 5 years, most overdose fatalities have been among white individuals. In Clark County, The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that those who identify as black is about 9%. The overdoses that were black in 2025 were 23.3% (Figure 12). This shows that black residents are overrepresented in overdose fatalities. In 2025 all cases reviewed identified as non-Hispanic.

Over 75% of the overdose fatalities in 2025 were among **White** individuals.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by race in Clark County in 2025

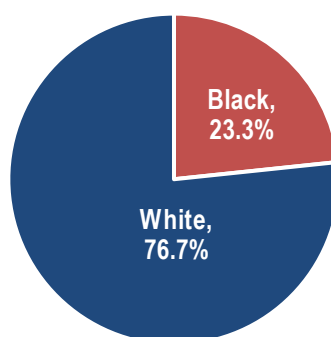


Figure 12: Percentage of overdose fatalities by race in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Over 75% of the overdose fatalities between 2021-2025 were among **White** individuals.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by race in Clark County 2021-2025

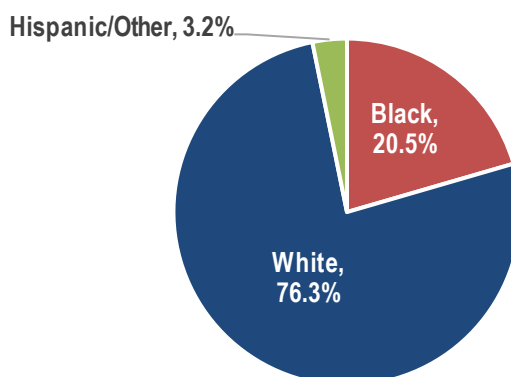


Figure 13: Percentage of overdose fatalities by race in Clark County, Ohio from 2021-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

In 2025 white females accounted for the largest share of overdose fatalities (Figure 14). However, from 2021-2025 white males accounted for the majority of fatal overdoses (Figure 15).

White females accounted for the largest share of overdose deaths in 2025.

Percentage of overdose deaths in Clark County in 2025 by sex and race

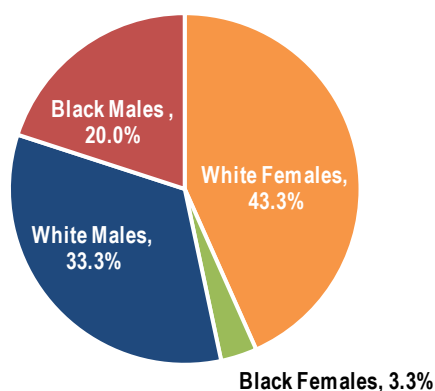


Figure 14: Percentage of overdose fatalities among race and gender in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

White males accounted for the largest share of overdose deaths from 2021-2025.

Percentage of overdose deaths by sex and race from 2021-2025 in Clark County

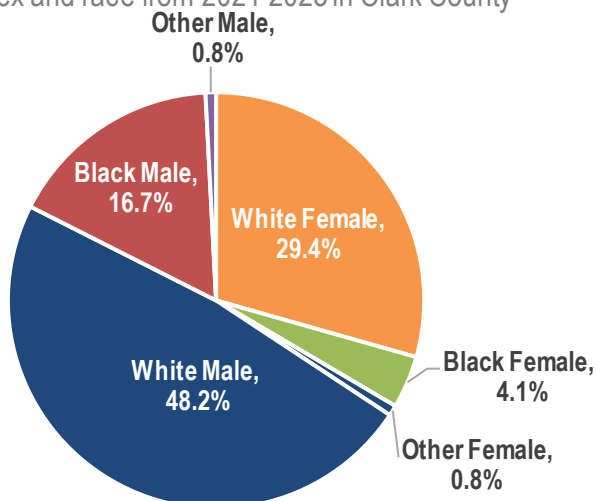


Figure 15: Percentage of overdose fatalities among race and gender in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Decedent Background/History

Life circumstances among overdose fatalities in 2025.

Percentage of Clark County overdose fatalities in 2025

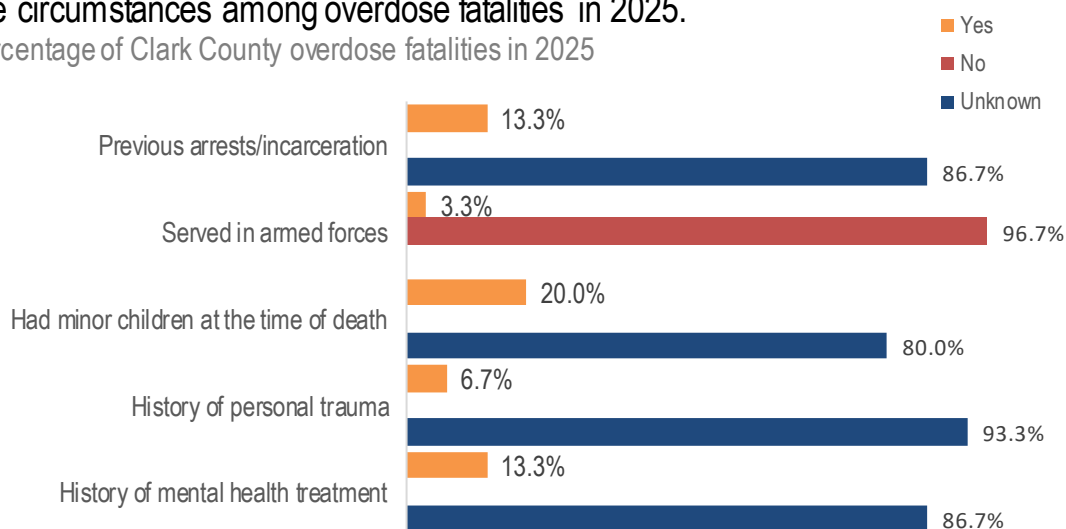


Figure 16: Percentage of overdose fatalities by answer (yes/no/unknown) for life circumstance questions of overdose fatalities in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Substance use among overdose fatalities in 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities in Clark County in 2025

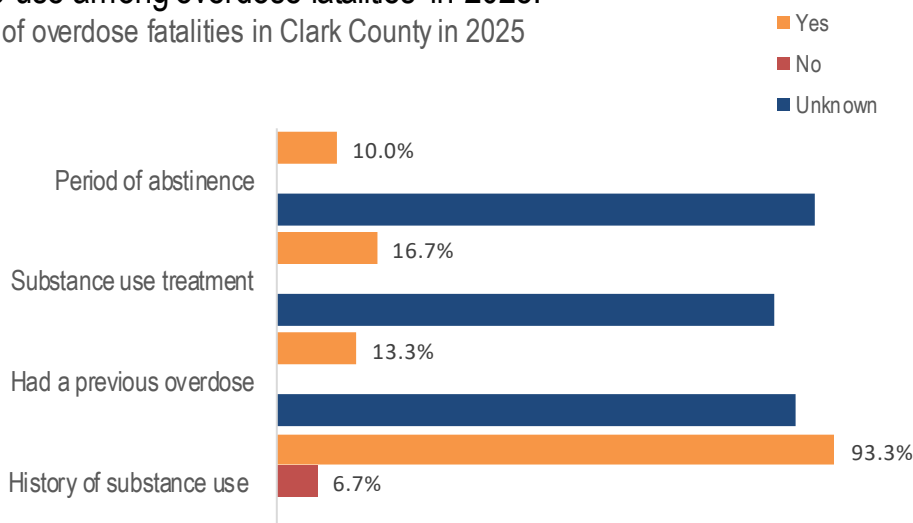


Figure 17: Percentage of overdose fatalities by answer (yes/no/unknown) for the questions about substance use history of overdose fatalities in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Education

Over 75% of decedents had a high school diploma or higher. The most common level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or GED (56.7%) (Figure 18). This data does not represent trade schools or apprenticeships; therefore, those education levels are not captured in this data.

Over 75% of decedents had a high school diploma or higher.

Percentage of overdose fatalities in Clark County by highest level of educational attainment in Clark County in 2025

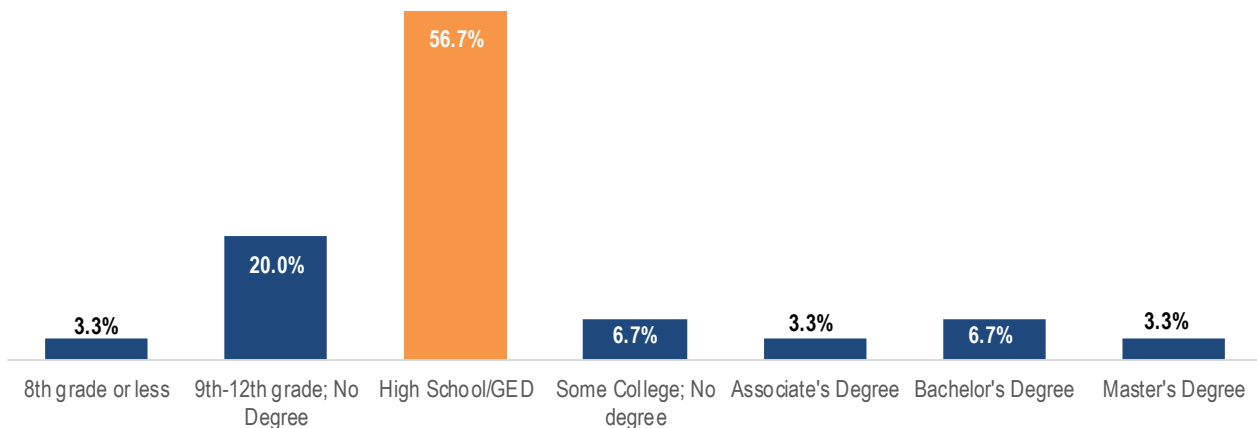


Figure 18: Percentage of overdose fatalities by highest level of education attainment in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Employment

Employment status of overdose fatalities in 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by employment status in Clark County, 2025

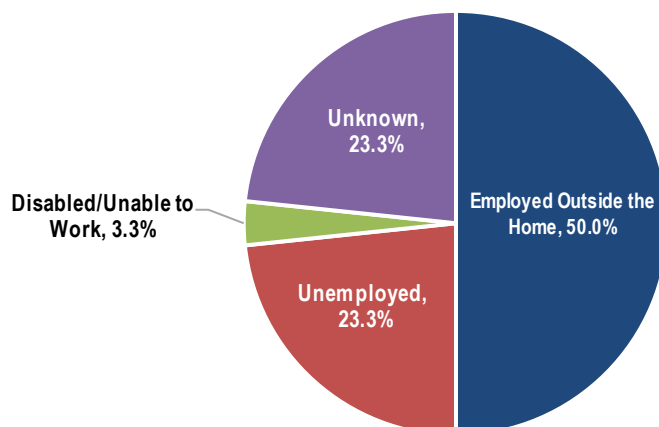


Figure 19: Percentage of overdose fatalities by employment status in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review and DataOhio Platform on 6/15/26.

Employment status of overdose fatalities 2016-2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by employment status in Clark County, 2025.

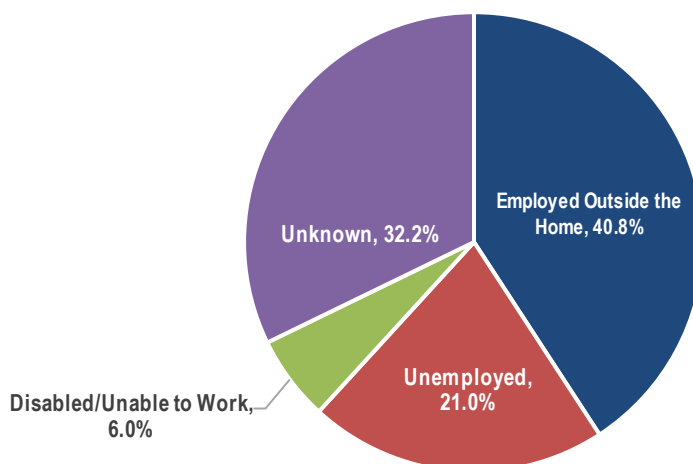


Figure 20: Percentage of overdose fatalities by employment status in Clark County, Ohio 2016-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review and DataOhio Platform on 6/15/26.

Health

Significant Medical Conditions

A significant medical condition mention means that there was a report of a physical illness for the individual at some point in their lives. Individuals may have multiple significant medical conditions by the time of death, so percentages may sum to more than 100%.

Half of Clark County overdose decedents had cardiovascular disease in 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities in Clark County in 2025 that had a known history of a significant medical condition

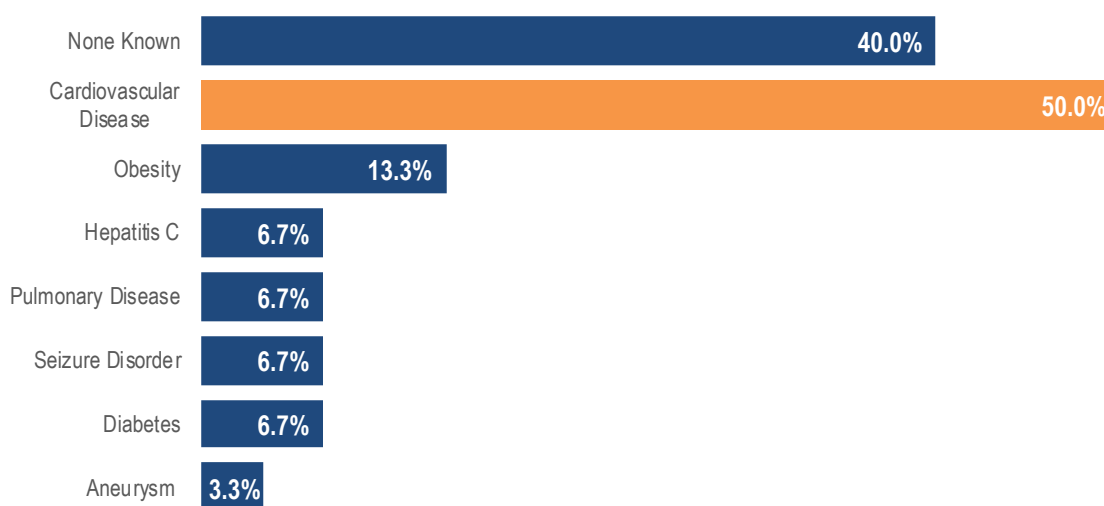


Figure 21: Percentage of overdose fatalities mentioned with each significant medical condition listed in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Individuals may have multiple significant medical conditions by the time of death, so percentages may sum to more than 100%. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Mental Health Diagnoses

A mental health diagnosis mention means that there was a report of a mental health diagnosis for the individual at some point in their lives. Individuals may have multiple mental health diagnoses by the time of the death, so percentages may sum to more than 100%.

Mental health diagnosis among overdose fatalities in Clark County 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities by mental health diagnosis in Clark County, 2025.

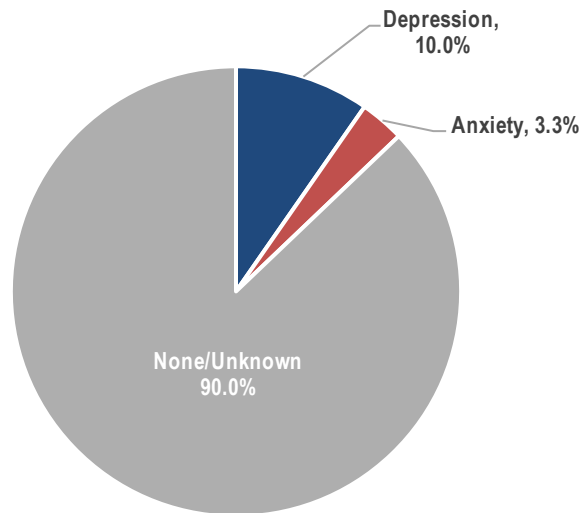


Figure 22: Percentage of overdose fatalities by mental health diagnosis in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Drugs Contributing to Overdose Deaths

A drug mention means that a substance was found in the individual's body at the time of hospital admission or after death as reported by the Clark County Coroner's toxicology screen. The substance was not necessarily the cause of deaths and individuals may have multiple substances in their system, so percentages may sum to more than 100%. The drug supply is always changing, and new substances are detected year after year. Xylazine was a new substance that was found in the drug supply starting in 2023 and was present in 26.7% of overdose fatalities in 2025. However, xylazine is not in the top 10 drug mentions from 2021-2025. A couple of other substances to note in the 2025 report are loperamide which is an over the counter anti-diarrheal and mitragynine which can also be known as Kratom.

Appendix I at the end of this report has additional details on drug mentions and drugs contributing to deaths from 2021-2025.

Drug Mentions 2025

Fentanyl was involved in 2/3 of the overdose fatalities in 2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities to which each drug contributed in Clark County in 2025

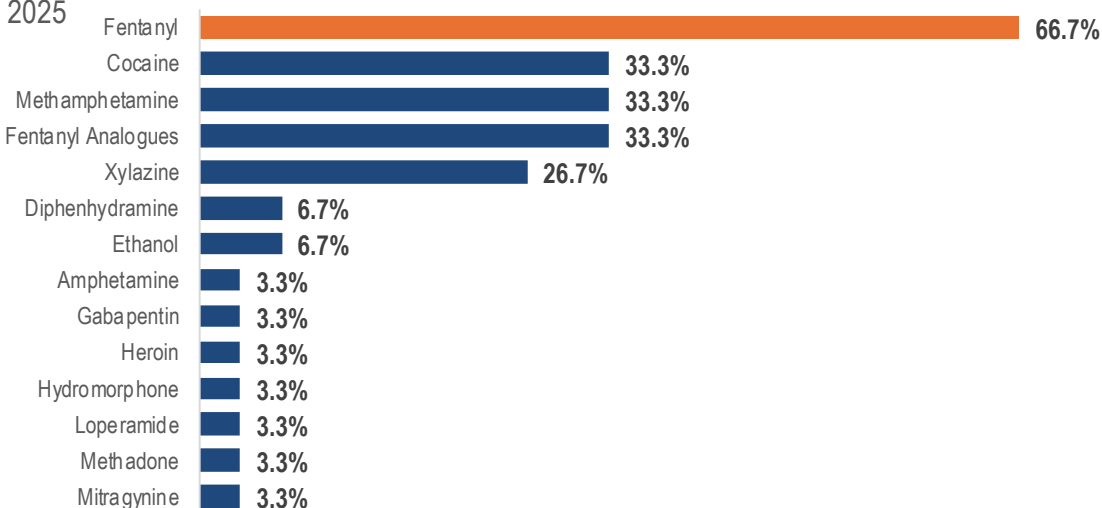


Figure 23: Percentages of overdose fatalities that each drug contributed to in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Individuals may have multiple substances in their system at the time of death, so percentages may sum to more than 100%. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review and DataOhio Platform on 6/15/26.

Table 2: Percentage of overdose fatalities including fentanyl analogues in Clark County, Ohio in 2025. Data collected from the Clark County Overdose Fatality Review and DataOhio Platform on 6/15/26.

Fentanyl Analogue	% of Deaths
Fluorofentanyl	16.7%
Carfentanil	6.7%
Methylfentanyl	6.7%
Acetylfentanyl	3.3%

Drug Mentions 2021-2025.

Fentanyl was found in over 80% of overdose fatalities in Clark County between 2021-2025.

Percentage of overdose fatalities that mention each drug type 2021-2025

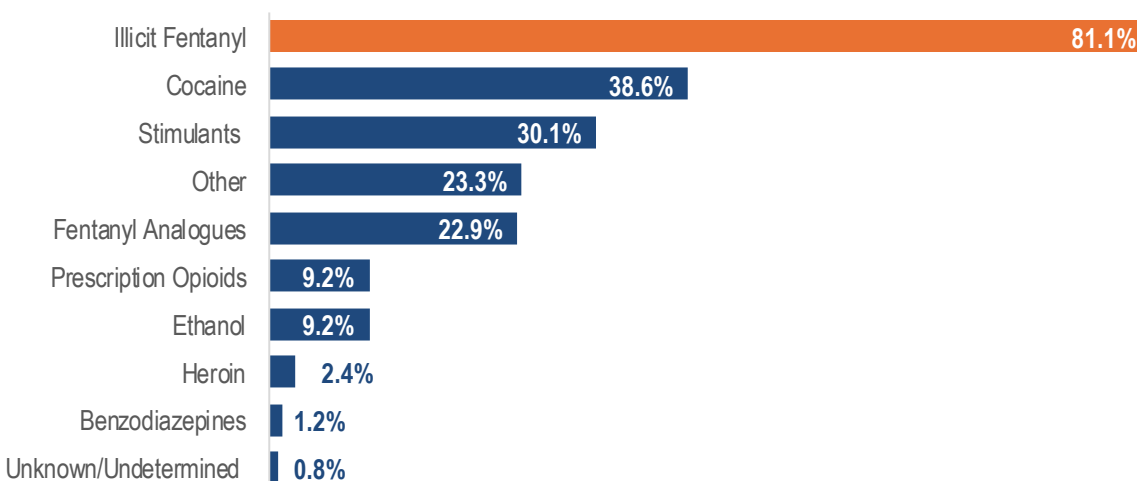


Figure 24: Percentage of overdose fatalities that each drug contributed to in Clark County, Ohio between 2021-2025. Individuals may have multiple substances in their system at the time of death, so percentages may sum to more than 100% Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review and DataOhio Platform on 6/15/26.

There has been a decrease in fatalities including Xylazine from 2024 to 2025.

Percentages of overdose fatalities that include Xylazine from 2023-2025.

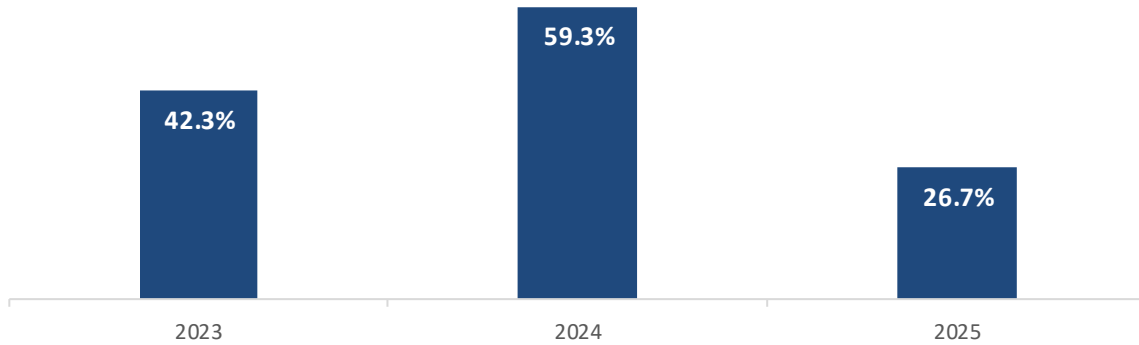


Figure 25: Percentage of overdose fatalities that include xylazine in Clark County, Ohio between 2023-2025. Data collected from Clark County Overdose Fatality Review.

Emergency Department Data – Suspected Drug Overdoses

Data was retrieved from the Ohio syndromic surveillance system, Epicenter, of suspected drug overdoses to incorporate non-fatal overdoses into this report. When interpreting data to identify trends, caution should be used since the number of participating facilities may change over time and facility data entry, classifiers, and codes may change over time. Epicenter overdose data does not differentiate between intentional and unintentional suspected drug overdoses or type of drug (prescription, illicit, OTC, etc.)

Steady decline in suspected drug overdose admissions among Clark County residents since 2021

Count of ER and urgent care admissions for suspected overdoses in Clark County residents from 2021-2025

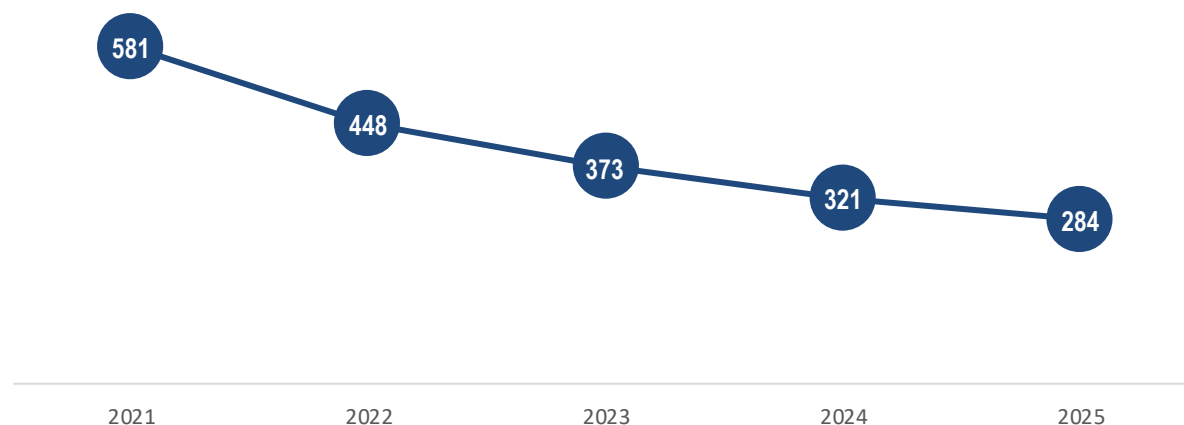


Figure 26: Count of suspected overdoses per year in Clark County, Ohio from Epicenter syndromic surveillance system of emergency department encounters for suspected drug overdose by home address from 2021-2025.

OFR Recommendations

Based on the identified trends, the Clark County OFR committee developed a set of recommendations to address the missed opportunities for prevention and intervention.

Within the OFR committee, partners came together to develop recommendations to better serve Clark County. One recommendation was to continue to increase the distribution of test strips for xylazine at the One2One Harm Reduction clinic. This recommendation has been expanded since last year. This year xylazine test strips are no longer classified as drug paraphernalia and are easier to obtain for individuals. These test strips are available to all clients who access our harm reduction site at no cost. These test strips allow individuals to have security in the product before they use it. Harm reduction clinic workers and peer support at the meetings were able to explain the need for xylazine test strips. Understanding from those who work with individuals who access services can help the OFR better understand and address the needs of this population.

Another recommendation that has been developed using the OFR committee is to expand access points to naloxone in the county. Through collaboration with our Project DAWN partners in Clark County we have continued to naloxone stands around the county. These naloxone stands include naloxone at no cost and can be accessed without having to interact with other people. All an individual has to do is go up to the box and open it and take the resources that they need. These boxes include things such as naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, CPR face coverings, and literature on how to use naloxone. Along with the naloxone stands we also prioritized placing a naloxone vending machine in the community. This was made possible by a partnership with the Salvation Army in Springfield. Much like the naloxone stands this allows individuals to access naloxone at no cost and helps reduce barriers to naloxone access.

The final recommendation the committee has developed is to increase awareness surrounding emerging trends happening in the community. It is known that the drug supply is always continuing to change and can have continued negative consequences for the community. As an OFR committee we brainstormed ideas on awareness campaign materials to address the changing trends in the drug supply to people who use drugs. These materials will include the importance of naloxone as well as drug testing strips. Increased messaging will allow individuals to have a better understanding and increased knowledge to take steps to keep themselves safe. This is also something that can be expanded at the harm reduction clinic. Not only distributing information to clients there but also gathering information from individuals to share trends can help the public. Going forward the OFR committee will continue to explore ways to implement this recommendation and continue to grow and reach the community members in need.

Appendix I: Drug Mention Tables, 2021-2025.

Table 3: Fentanyl analogue drug mentions in overdose deaths in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025.

Fentanyl analogue	# of Mentions	% of Deaths
Acetylfentanyl	10	4.0%
Benzylfentanyl	1	0.4%
Carfentanil	2	0.8%
Despropionylfentanyl	10	4.0%
Fluoro-butyl/Fluoro-isobutyl fentanyl	4	1.6%
Fluorofentanyl	36	14.5%
Methylfentanyl	2	0.8%
Valeryl/Isovaleryl fentanyl	2	0.8%

Table 4: Prescription opioid drug mentions in overdose deaths in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025.

Prescription Opioid	# of Mentions	% of Deaths
Buprenorphine	1	0.4%
Hydrocodone	2	0.8%
Hydromorphone	1	0.4%
Methadone	2	0.8%
Morphine	4	1.6%
Oxycodone	12	4.8%
Oxymorphone	3	1.2%
Tramadol	2	0.8%

Table 5: Benzodiazepine drug mentions in overdose deaths in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025.

Benzodiazepines	# of Mentions	% of Deaths
Alprazolam	1	0.4%
Clonazepam	2	0.8%

Table 6: Stimulant mentions in overdose deaths in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025.

Stimulants	# of Mentions	% of Deaths
Amphetamine	15	6.0%
Methamphetamine	72	28.9%

Table 7: Other drug mentions in overdose deaths in Clark County, Ohio 2021-2025.

Other	# of Mentions	% of Deaths
Amitriptyline	2	0.8%
Bupropion	1	0.4%
Citalopram	1	0.4%
Cocaethylene	2	0.8%
Dextromethorphan	1	0.4%
Difluoroethane	1	0.4%
Diphenhydramine	8	3.2%
Doxylamine	1	0.4%
Fluoxetine	1	0.4%
Gabapentin	4	1.6%
Isopropanol	1	0.4%
Lidocaine	1	0.4%
Loperamide	1	0.4%
Marijuana	1	0.4%
Mitragynine	3	1.2%
PCP	3	1.2%
Promethazine	1	0.4%
Sertaline	1	0.4%
Trazodone	2	0.8%
Xylazine	46	18.5%



This report was produced by:
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