

Ohio Counties at Elevated Risk: Comparing EMS Naloxone Administration Rates

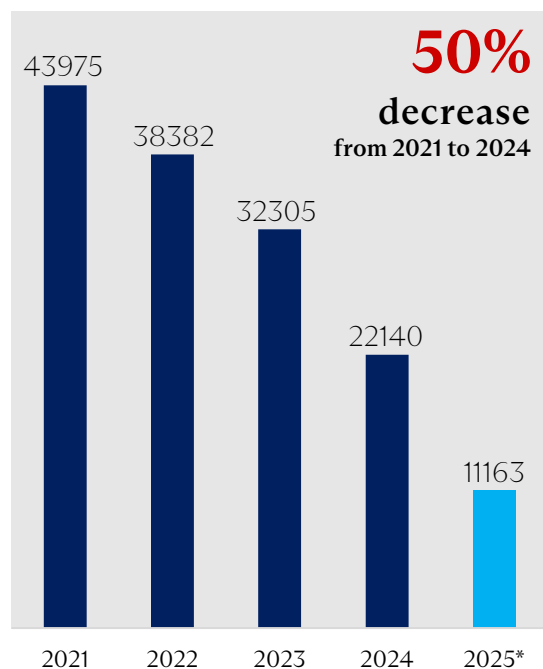


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Figure 1. Naloxone Doses Administered by Ohio EMS Providers¹



*2025 data in progress; updated 8/18/25

Overdose deaths in the state of Ohio have steeply declined in recent years, decreasing a projected 23% from 2023 to 2024 alone.² These numbers largely align with decreased fentanyl lab submissions across the country³, increased dilution of fentanyl with cutting agents such as Xylazine and Medetomidine, and expanded harm reduction efforts. However, some parts of the state have been more affected than others by the impacts of the epidemic.

Data available from EMS Providers throughout Ohio provide insight into the evolution of the epidemic. For example, naloxone dose administration has steadily decreased throughout the state since 2021 and 2025 data suggests that this decrease will likely continue (See Figure 1). It should be noted that EMS naloxone trends could be impacted by factors such as, among others, changes in the fentanyl supply noted above, people's hesitation to call emergency services, response by non-EMS emergency services, and people's increased access to take-home naloxone.

Lucas County leads the state in naloxone administration rates.

The six counties to the right suggest residents are at elevated risk of overdose based on naloxone administration by Ohio EMS. While all six counties have followed the generally decreasing trend found throughout the state, Lucas county has consistently led the state in the number of naloxone administrations by EMS.

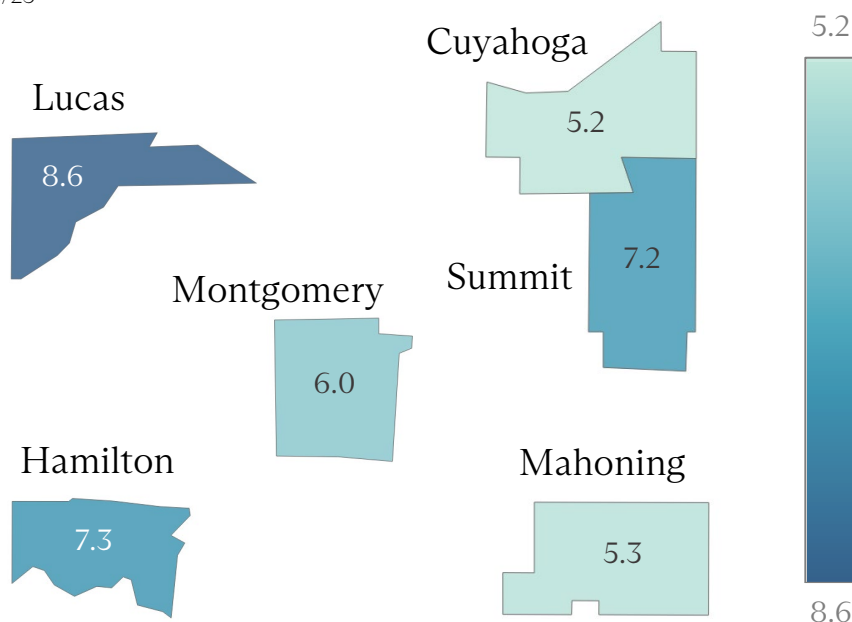


Figure 2. Rate of Naloxone Administration by Ohio EMS by County (per 10,000 people)⁴

1. Ohio Emergency Medical Services, "Naloxone Watch" 2025.
2. Begun Center, "2024 Ohio Drug Epidemic in Review," 2025.
3. DEA, "National Forensic Laboratory Information System," 2025.
4. Data Source: Ohio Emergency Medical Services, "Naloxone Watch," 2025.

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