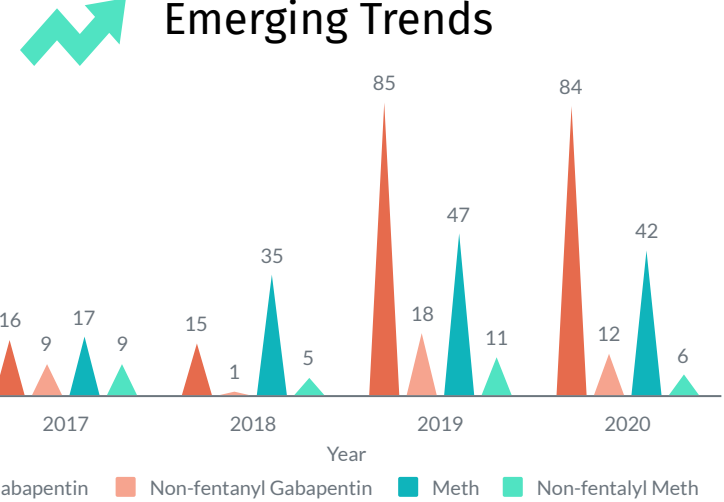
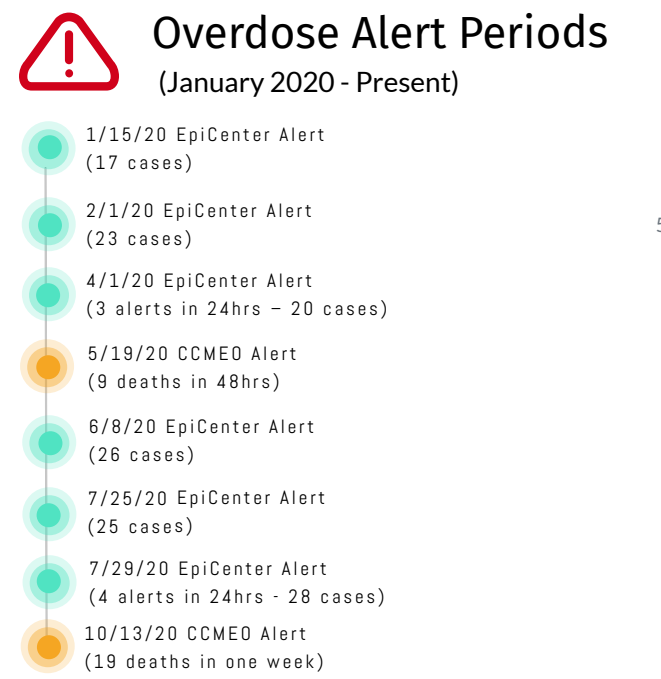
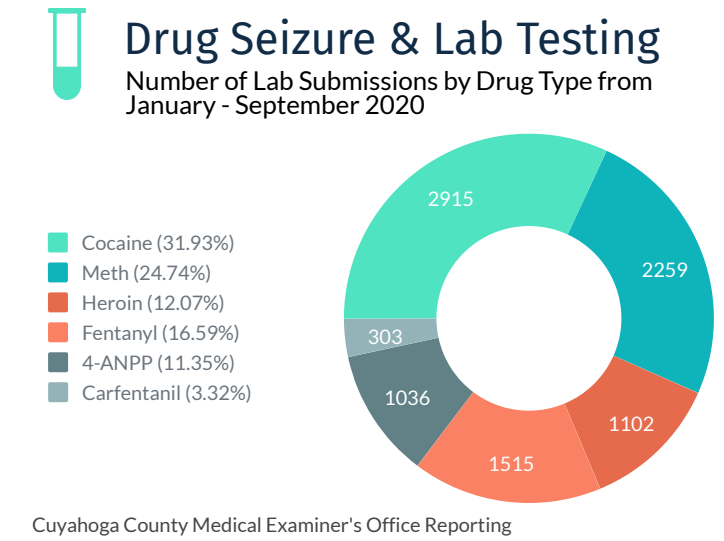
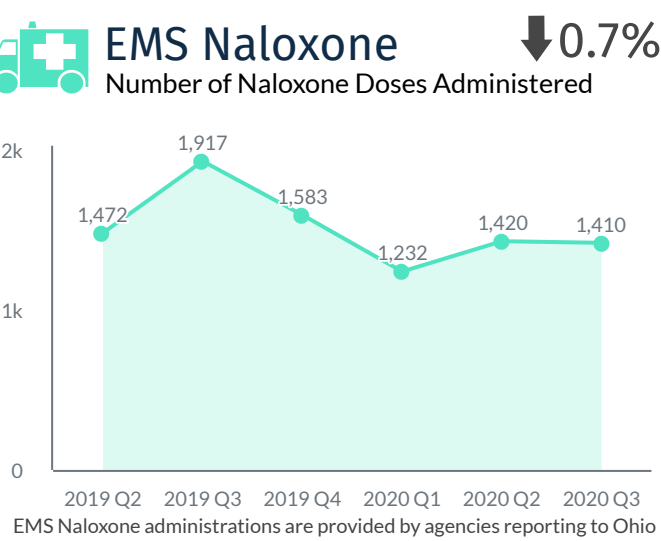
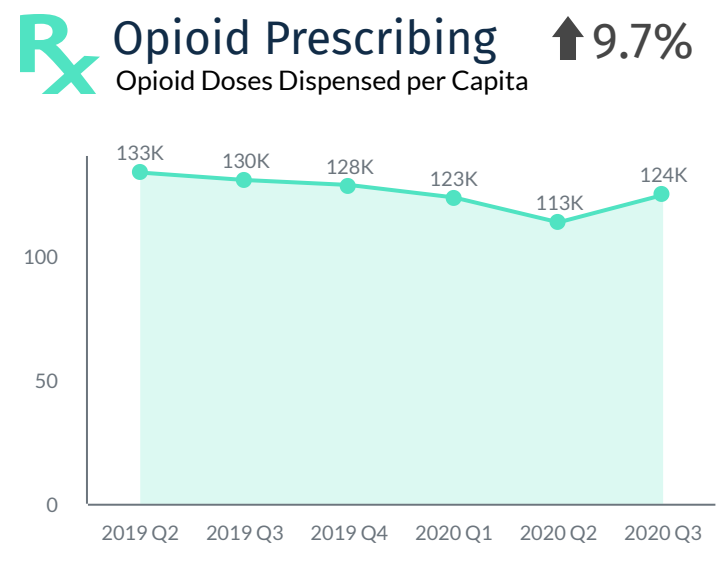
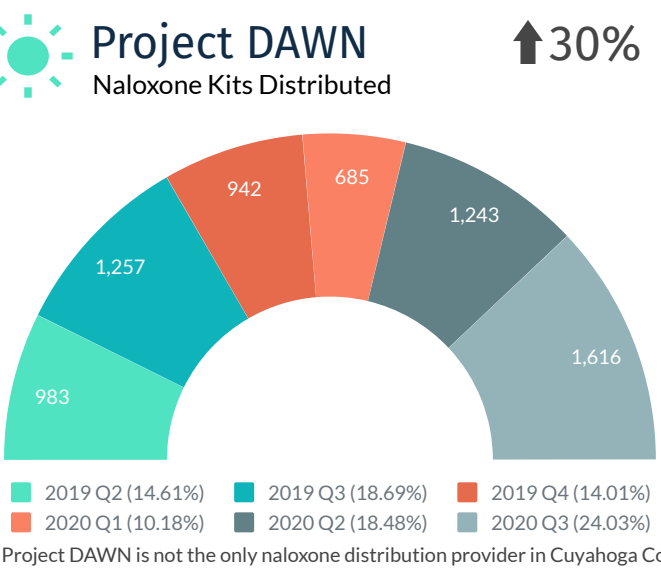
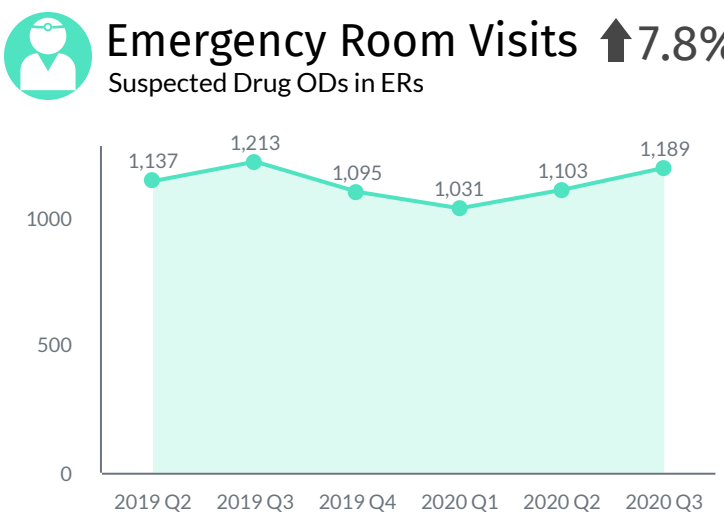
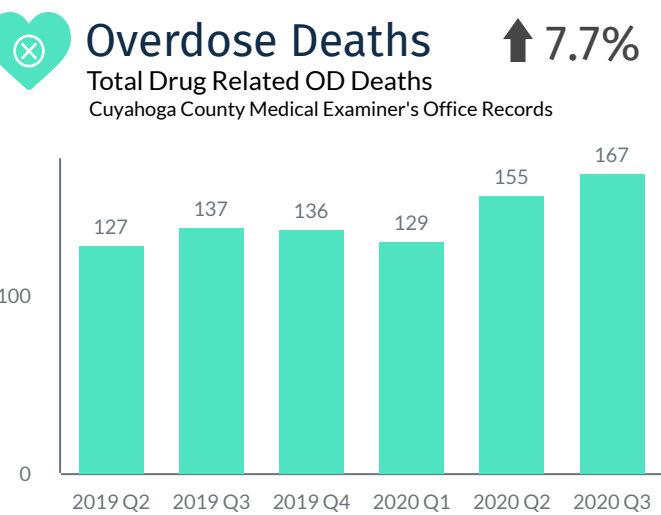


Overdose Data to Action
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Cuyahoga County Board of Health &
Begun Center, Case Western Reserve University

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.



Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020 unless otherwise stated.

Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdoses^{1,2} Overall overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal, increased approximately 8% over the last quarter. Annual totals are on track to be very close to 2019, with an estimated 2020 increase of 3.6% (n=603) in overdose deaths and an estimated decrease of 2.6% (n=4,458) for overdoses in emergency departments.

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone)³ Naloxone kit distribution continues to increase significantly. Q3's increase from Q2's was 30% (1,243 to 1,616).

Prescription Drug Monitoring⁴ The total number of opioid prescriptions in Cuyahoga County increased 9.7% (113,000 to 124,000).

Drug Lab Submissions¹ From January to September 2020, cocaine ranked highest in number of lab submissions (2,915), however for the third quarter of 2020, methamphetamine was the top reported drug with 1,115 submissions which was an increase of 80.7% from the previous quarter. The top four opioids reported by CCRFSL (heroin, fentanyl, 4-ANPP and carfentanil) account for a total of 3,956 submissions.

Gabapentin⁵ CCME0 recently identified an increase in gabapentin-related overdose deaths, highlighting the presence of gabapentin in multi-drug overdoses with fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs and without fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs. Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant medication that is monitored by the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Gabapentin prescribing in Cuyahoga County decreased 15.5% from 2017 to 2019 (438,750 to 370,550) and 2020 data reflects a slight, but consistent and continued decrease in prescriptions by quarter. Gabapentin has many off-label medical uses.

OSAM reports, Gabapentin is used in combination with other substances to either enhance one's high or to balance out the effects of stimulant drugs. Substances used in combination with Gabapentin mentioned included: alcohol, cocaine, heroin/fentanyl, marijuana and methamphetamine. Corroborating data indicated that Gabapentin is available for illicit use in the Cleveland region. Millennium Health reported that 17.5% of the 10,786 specimens it tested for gabapentin from this region during the past six months were positive for gabapentin.

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

Sources:
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2 Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose Among Ohio Residents Ages 11 Years and Older. EpiCenter. Ohio Department of Health. Available <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/Suspected-OD-Dashboard2>
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