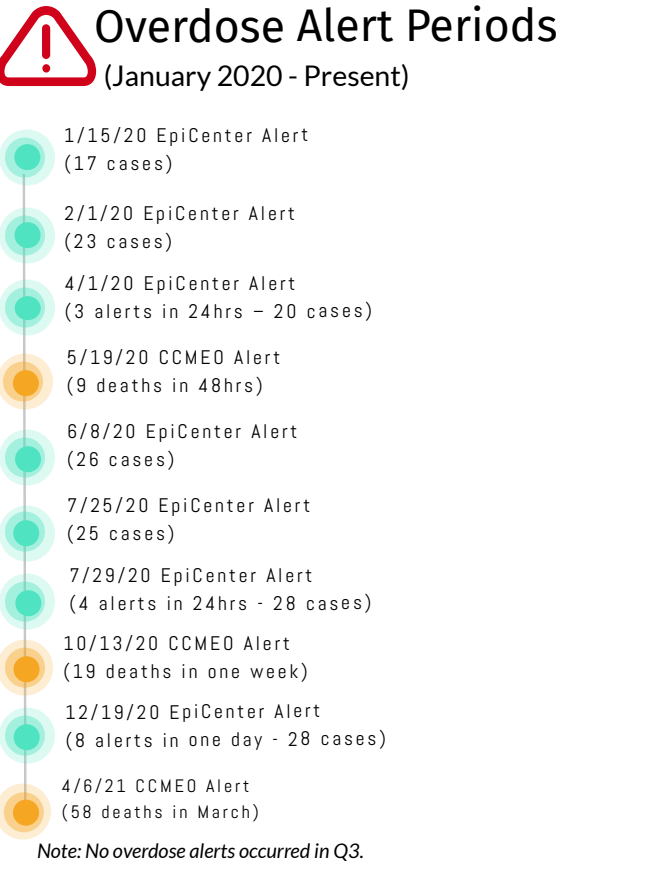
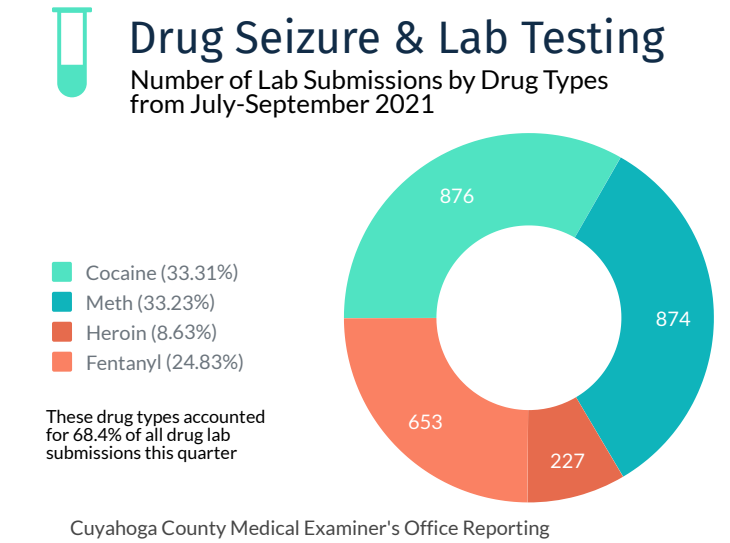
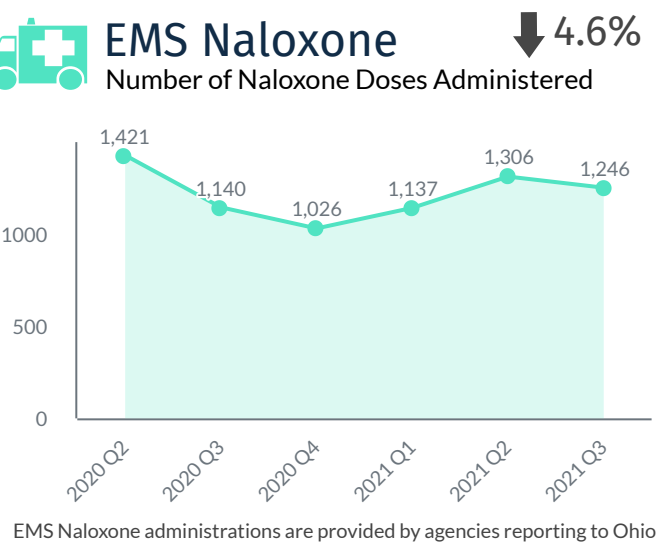
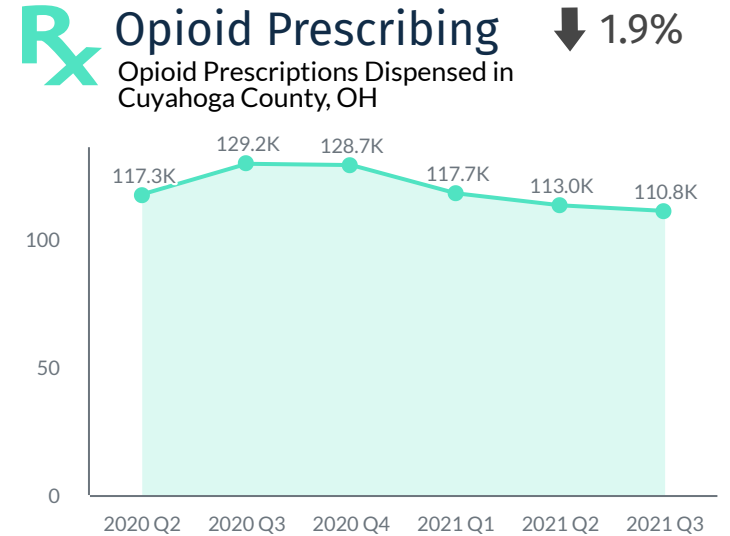
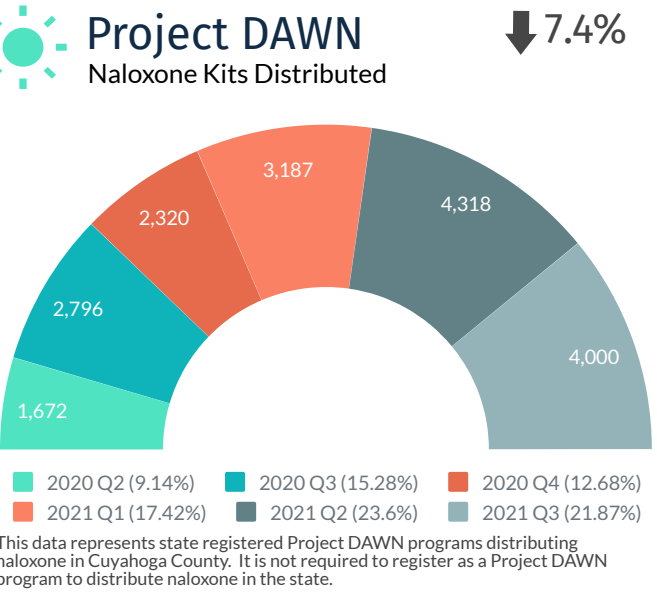
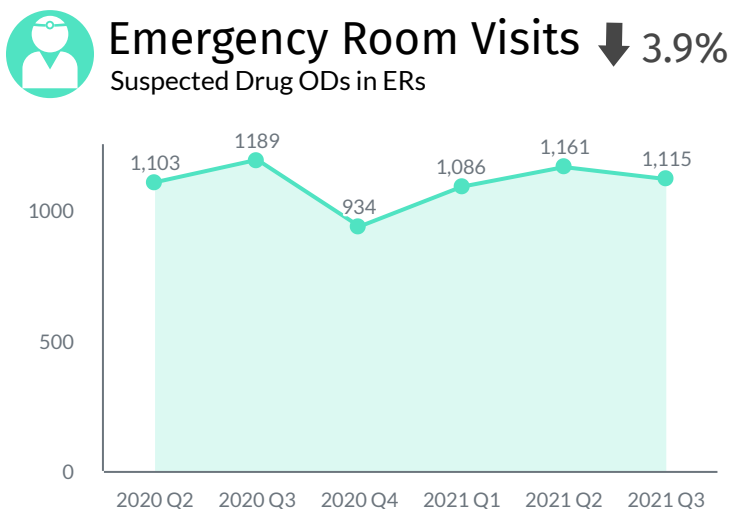
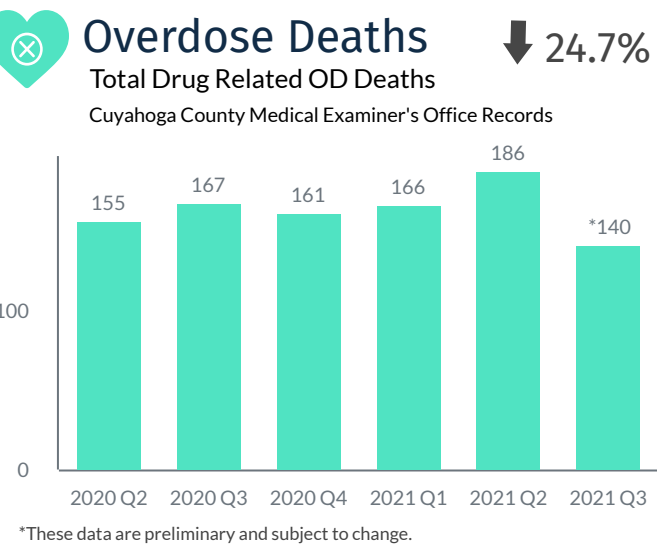


Overdose Data to Action
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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.



Agency Highlight

United States Drug Enforcement Administration

On September 27th, 2021, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a public safety alert concerning the alarming increase in the availability of potentially lethal fake prescription pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine. These counterfeit pills are easy to access, widely available, and often contain deadly doses of fentanyl; killing unsuspected Americans.

Some of the most common counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®). In the public health alert, the DEA stated that the only safe medications are ones prescribed by a trusted medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. Any pills that do not meet this standard are unsafe and potentially deadly.

For more information, visit [One Pill Can Kill \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov/one-pill-can-kill).

Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q2 2021 to Q3 2021 unless otherwise stated.
2021 data are preliminary and subject to change

Quarter over Quarter.
Overall, overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal, decreased over the last quarter. Fatal overdoses decreased by 24.7%. There were also 0 carfentanil related deaths in quarter 3.¹

There was a decrease of 3.9% for persons presenting to the emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.²

The majority of all other data indicators decreased from last quarter including opioid prescribing which slightly decreased by 1.9%.³ There was a 7.4% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 3 of 2021.⁴ EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 4.6%.⁵

From July to September 2021, cocaine ranked highest in number of lab submissions (876) closely followed by methamphetamine (874). While heroin and fentanyl decreased slightly from last quarter, methamphetamine lab submissions decreased by 13% and cocaine lab submissions decreased by 12.3% from last quarter. There were zero carfentanil drug seizures in quarter 3.¹

Statement from the CCMEQ:
Fluoro-fentanyl is an emerging fentanyl analog, not only in Cuyahoga County, but nationally. It is generally present with fentanyl in the cause of death drugs. In Cuyahoga County, there were no cases involving fluoro-fentanyl in 2018, 1 in 2019, 6 in 2020 and 57 to date in 2021. Early reports show that fluoro-fentanyl may cause a more euphoric feeling than fentanyl, potentially increasing its appeal among drug users. Fentanyl testing strips detect this analog of fentanyl, and we continue to support the use of this harm reduction strategy.