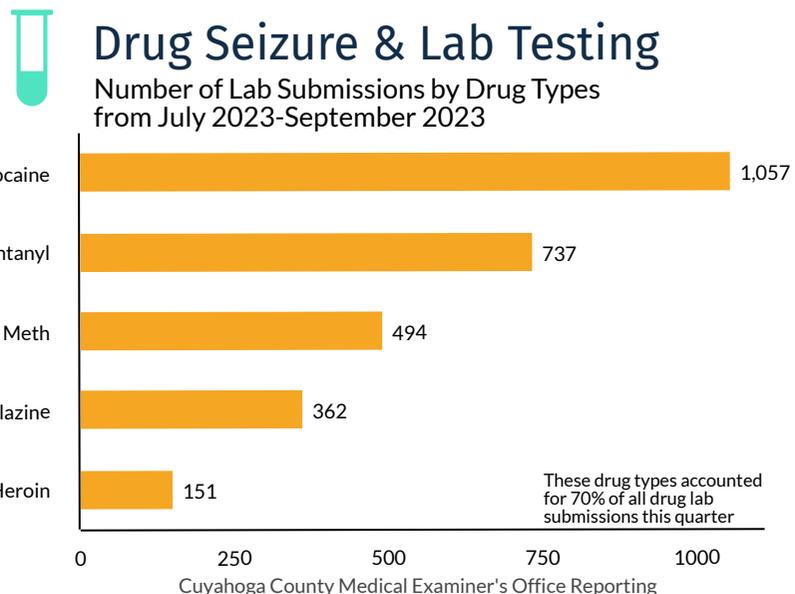
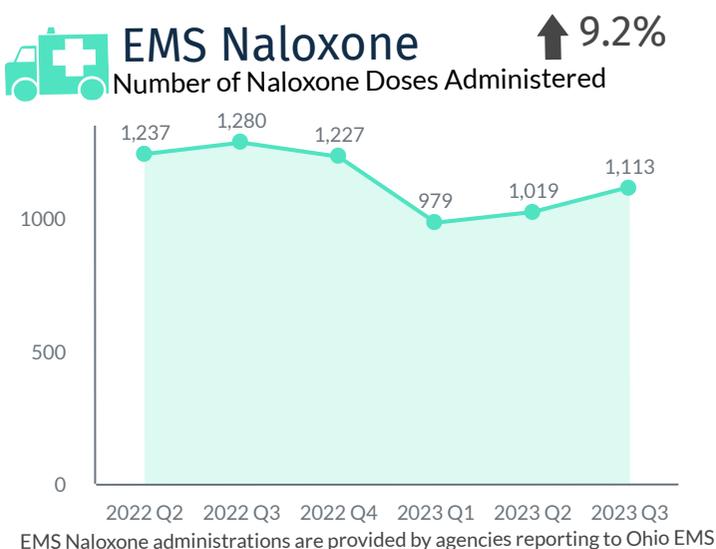
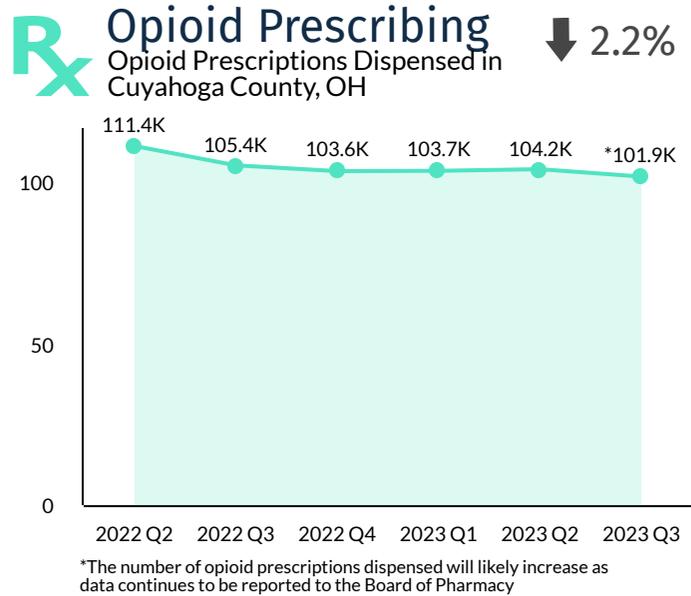
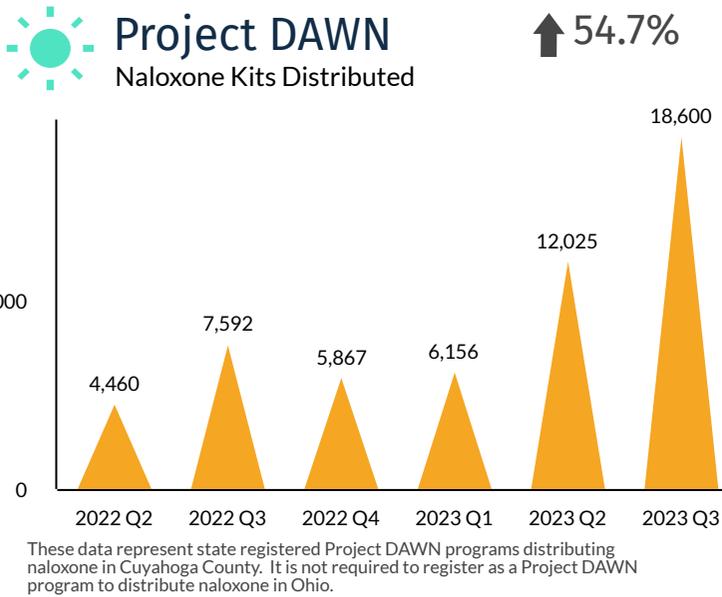
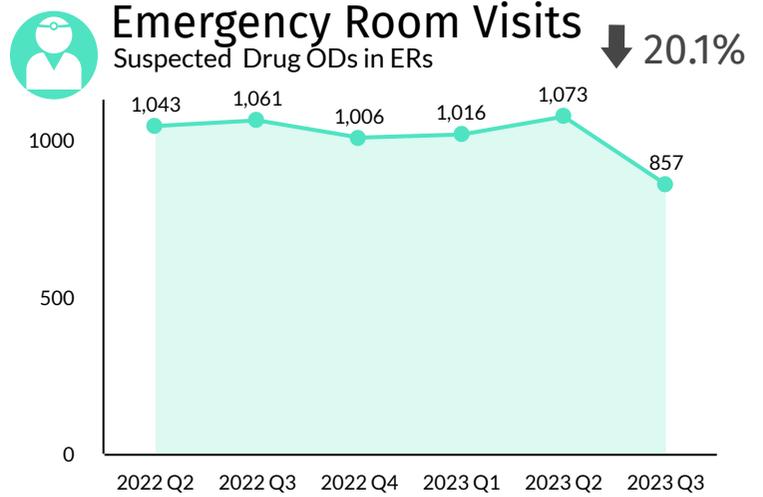
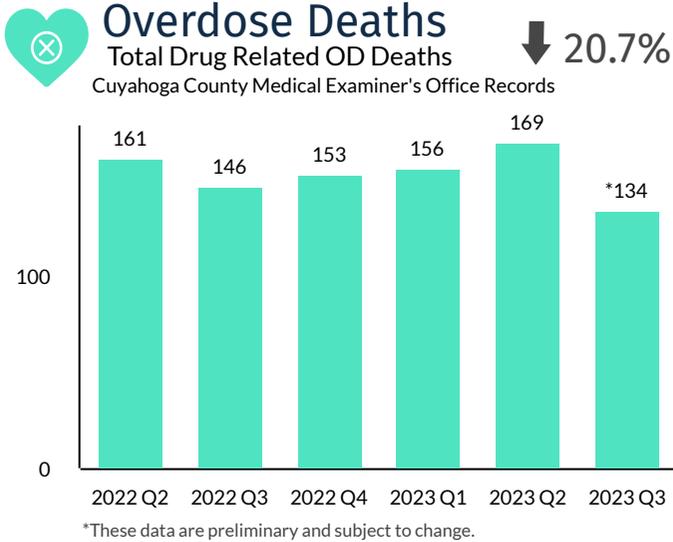


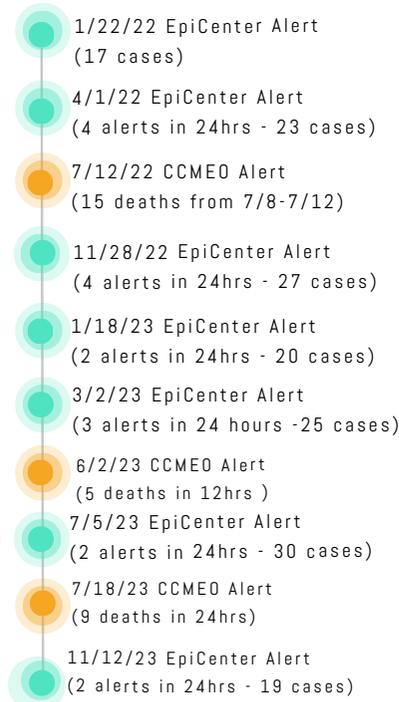
Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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.



Overdose Alert Periods (January 2022 - Present)



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 on a timeline.

Highlight



Warning Issued for Reemerging Synthetic Opioid in Ohio

On September 29th, 2023, the Ohio Attorney General's office issued a warning informing the public of the recent reemergence of a synthetic opioid in Ohio, known as carfentanil. Carfentanil is used by veterinarians to tranquilize elephants; it is about 100 times more potent than fentanyl and 10,000 times more potent than morphine. It often takes the form of a white, brown, tan, or beige powdery substance. The warning comes after multiple recent identifications of carfentanil in the state of Ohio. The Central Ohio Major Drug Interdiction Task Force conducted a drug seizure in September that took 3 kilograms of carfentanil off Franklin County streets before it could be distributed. The last time carfentanil was in the region, it highly affected Northeast Ohio. For more information, visit the Attorney General's warning at the link below:

[Attorney General's Synthetic Opioid Warning](#)

Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023 unless otherwise stated. 2023 data are preliminary and subject to change

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drug Seizures:

CBP data for Q3 of 2023 shows that seized fentanyl by weight dropped below 2022 seizure weights for the first time this year. However, the total amount of fentanyl seized in 2023 to date exceeds the total amount seized in 2022.¹

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses decreased by 20.7% over the last quarter. There were zero carfentanil related deaths in quarter 3 of 2023.² There was also a decrease of 20.1% for persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose.³

There was a slight decrease (2.2%) in opioid prescribing this quarter.⁴ There was a 54.7% increase in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 3 of 2023.⁵ Additional Project DAWN sites were established in Cuyahoga County this year and Overdose Awareness Day activities occurred in Q3, potentially contributing to the increase in naloxone distribution. EMS naloxone administrations also increased by 9.2%.⁶

From July to September 2023, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (1,057) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by fentanyl (737). Cocaine decreased by 23% and fentanyl decreased by 21% from last quarter, methamphetamine lab submissions decreased by 18%, and heroin lab submissions decreased by 30% from last quarter.² The CCRFSL is seeing an increase in xylazine drug seizures; we will now monitor xylazine lab submissions along with the other drug types listed above. Xylazine decreased by 22% from last quarter.

Statement from the CCME0:

"Based on estimates, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is projecting 726 overdose deaths will occur in Cuyahoga County in 2023."

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

Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drug Seizures. Drug Seizure Statistics. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>
- 2 Heroin and Fentanyl Related Deaths in Cuyahoga County. August 2023 Update. Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Available at https://cuyahogacms.blob.core.windows.net/home/docs/default-source/me-library/heroin-fentanyl-cocaine-deaths/2023/sep2023-heroinfentanyl.pdf?sfvrsn=2dcbdbb_3
- 3 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>
- 4 Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Available <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/County.aspx>
- 5 Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Section - Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Logs. Analyzed by Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- 6 Ohio EMS. Naloxone Administration Doses, by County. "Naloxone Watch" Available <https://www.ems.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0>