

# Monitoring Fentanyl-Related Deaths

## Trends in Ohio and Cuyahoga County

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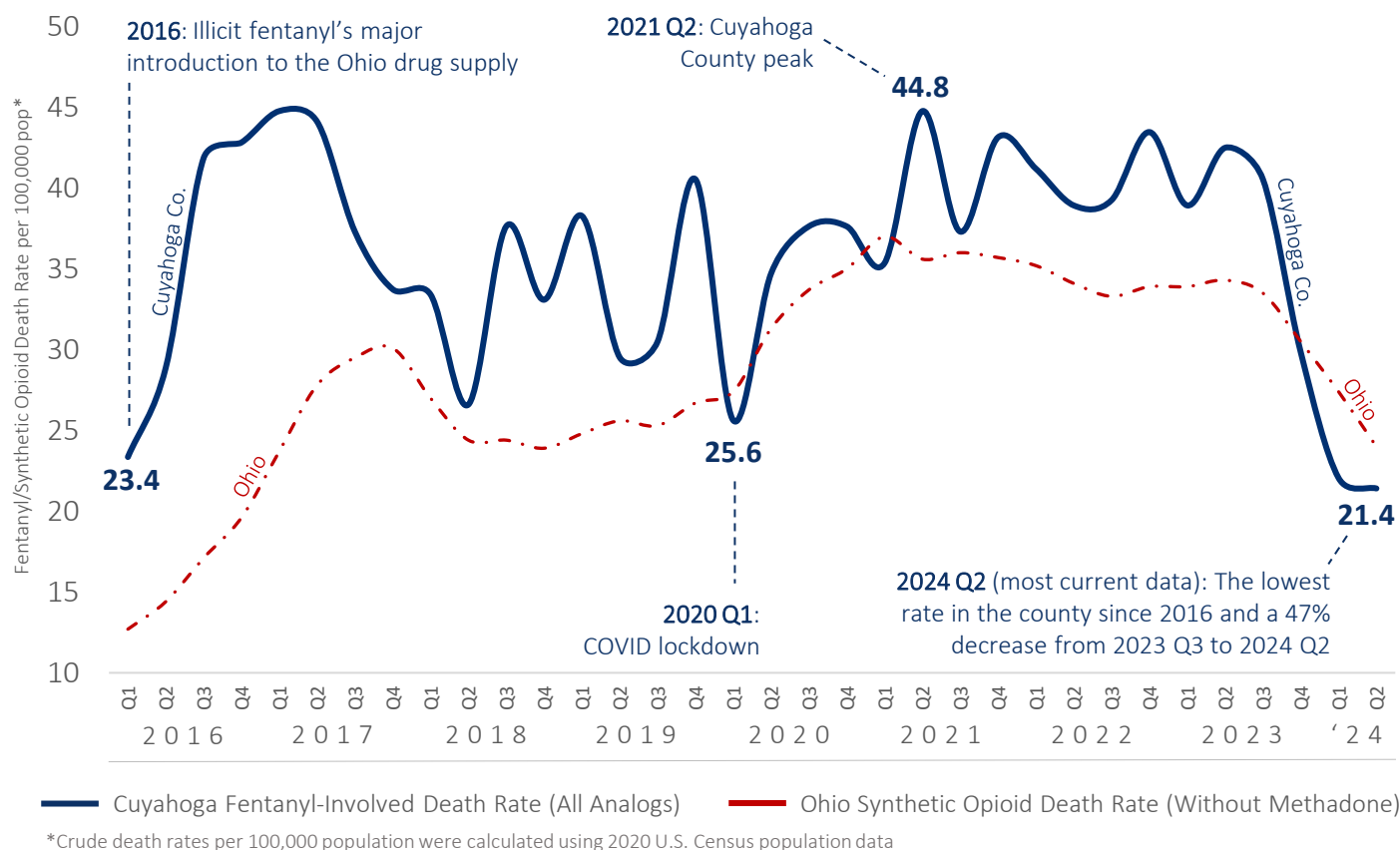
Ohio has seen a sharp decline in fentanyl-related deaths, continuing a downward trend that began in mid-2023. Provisional [CDC data](#) show that deaths from synthetic opioids—primarily illicitly manufactured fentanyl—have decreased significantly across the state. In Cuyahoga County, fentanyl-related mortality dropped **47%** in under a year, reaching its lowest level since 2016.

This decline coincides with a reduction in [fentanyl seizures](#) reported by U.S. Customs and Border Protection over the past three months, suggesting a potential supply disruption. [Other drug seizure data](#) also indicate a reduction in the fentanyl supply both locally and nationally. Additionally, national declines in fentanyl-related deaths mirror those seen in Ohio, indicating a sustained shift that began in mid-2023. Ongoing surveillance is crucial for tracking trends and ensuring that local harm reduction and public health responses are ready to respond if other dangerous drug threats surface. Figure 1 highlights key markers, including major peaks and the recent decline in fentanyl-related deaths.

### Key Takeaways

- **Synthetic opioid-related deaths (primarily illicit fentanyl) in Ohio have declined significantly since mid-2023**
- **Cuyahoga County experienced a 47% decrease in fentanyl-related deaths in under a year, reaching its lowest level since 2016. National trends mirror Ohio and Cuyahoga County's declines**

**Figure 1. Fentanyl and Synthetic Opioid Death Rates in Cuyahoga County and Ohio, 2016–mid 2024**



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Cuyahoga County mortality data were provided by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office; this analysis uses only drug-related deaths (intentional and unintentional for county residents. Ohio mortality data accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm> and utilizes death counts caused by "synthetic opioids, including drugs such as fentanyl and tramadol and excluding methadone."