



SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

# DRUG OVERDOSES IN SUMMIT COUNTY, 2024



QR code link to SCPH  
Drug Dashboards

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## POPULATION HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS DATA BRIEF, JANUARY 2025

The *Population Health Vital Statistics Data Brief* series was created to provide regular updates to the Community Health Assessment and to provide the community with additional important information about population health. For more information on the Community Health Assessment and to access other reports in the *Vital Statistics Data Brief* series, please visit [scph.org/assessments-reports](https://scph.org/assessments-reports)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## ER VISIT SUMMARY

From January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, emergency rooms serving Summit County residents that report to the state's EpiCenter system have treated an estimated 739 drug overdoses (OD), or about 2.0 overdoses per day.\*

- **Age Group:** Those age 35-49 make up the largest single group of overdose victims, 38% of the total.
- **Sex:** Most overdose victims are male (64%).
- **Race:** Whites make up nearly three-quarters of overdose victims (72%), followed by Blacks at 18%. Just over 4% did not have an identified race.
- **Residence:** Just over half of overdose victims come from Akron (55%), with the remaining 45% coming from the suburbs.



## DRUG OVERDOSES

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- **Multiple OD:** The vast majority of overdose victims visit the emergency room once (89%). The remaining 11% either come 2-3 times (10%), or 4-5 times (1%).
- **Time of day:** Half of all overdoses happen between 6 p.m. and midnight (49%). The low point for overdose activity is 6 a.m. (1%).

### NOTE:

*Drug overdose data is retrieved from the state's EpiCenter surveillance tool. "Overdose" cases include all emergency visits by a Summit County resident to any medical provider in which drugs were identified as the cause of traumatic injury. Traumatic injuries due to drugs caused by suicide attempts, allergic reactions to normal medications, or accidental overdoses of everyday drugs (such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) were removed where identified.*

Complete demographic details can be found on pages 4-5.

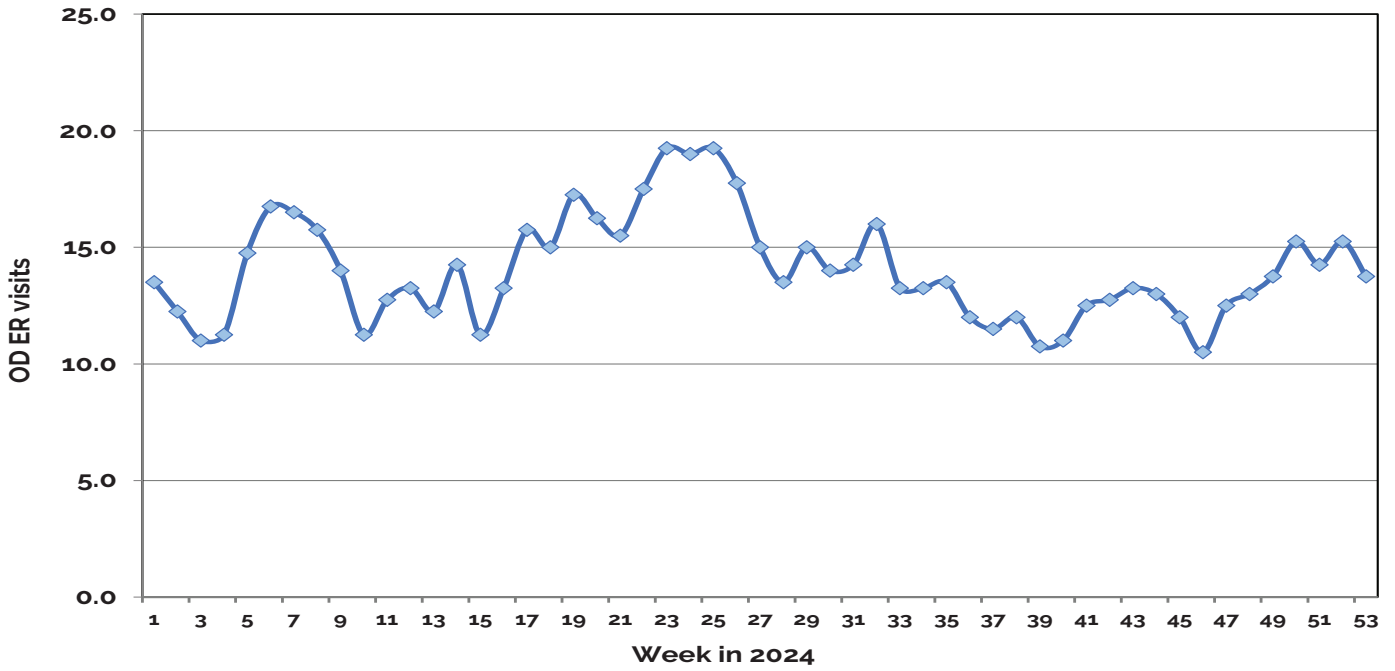


FIGURE 1: 4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE OVERDOSE-RELATED ER VISITS, 2024

Source: EpiCenter

## DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF REPORTED DRUG OVERDOSE ER VISITS, 2024

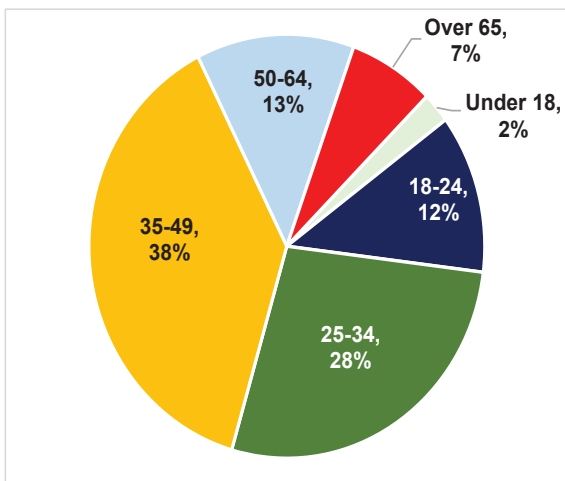


FIGURE 2: AGE OF ER VISITORS, 2024

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH

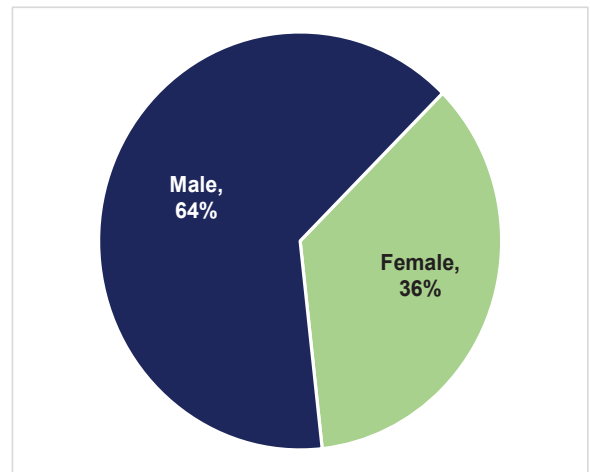
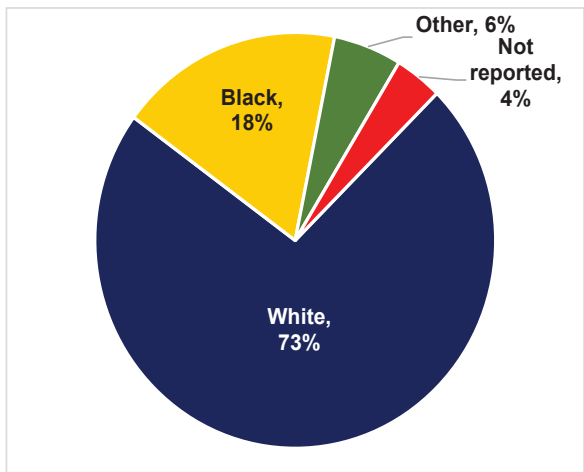


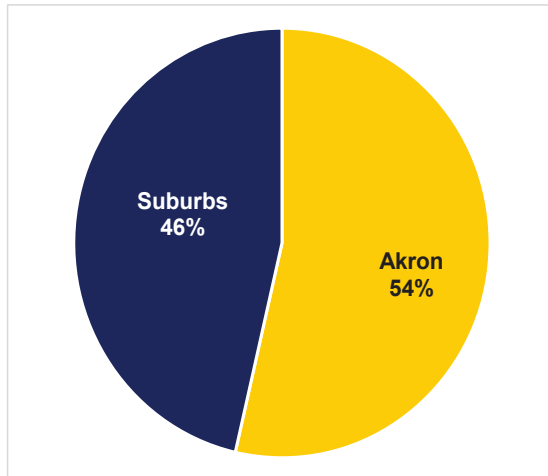
FIGURE 3: SEX OF ER VISITORS, 2024;

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



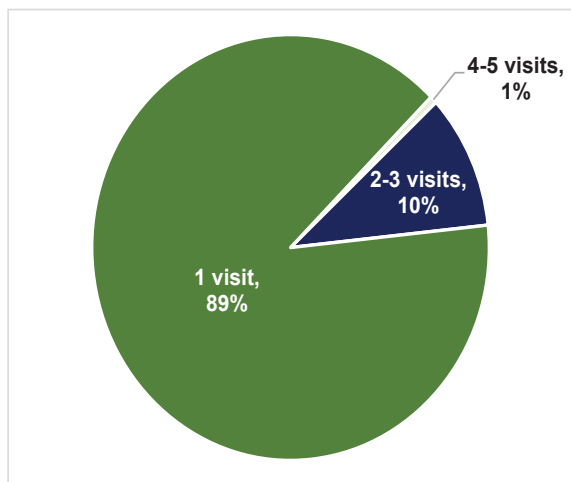
**FIGURE 4: RACE OF ER VISITORS, 2024**

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



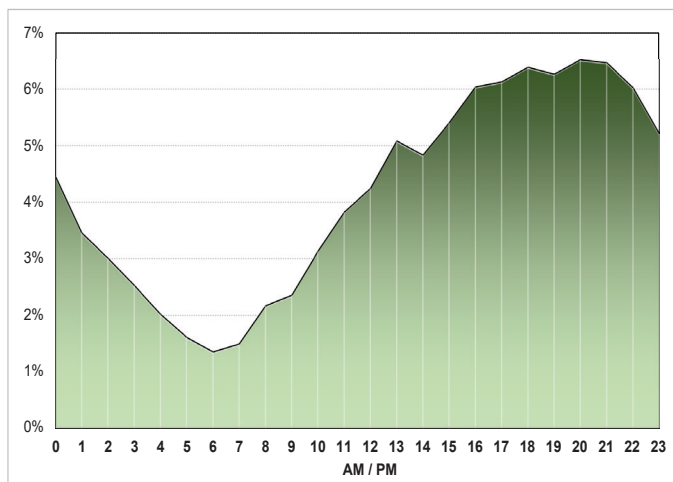
**FIGURE 5: LOCATION OF ER VISITORS, 2024;**

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



**FIGURE 6: NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE VISITS IN 2024, BY NUMBER OF VISITS**

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



**FIGURE 7: TIME OF DAY OF OD-RELATED ER VISITS, 2016-2024 (YTD)**

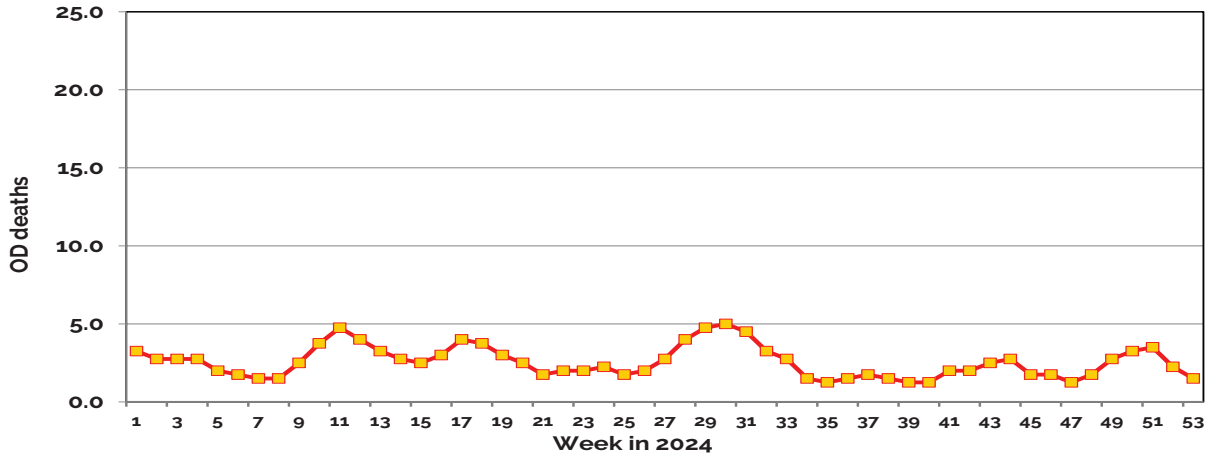
Source: EpiCenter / SCPH

## DEATHS CAUSED BY OVERDOSE, 2024

Figures for 2024 show 101 accidental overdose fatalities in Summit County as of November 2024.\* Drug overdose deaths averaged 197 per year during the five previous years. The figures below show the demographic distribution of these 110 victims:

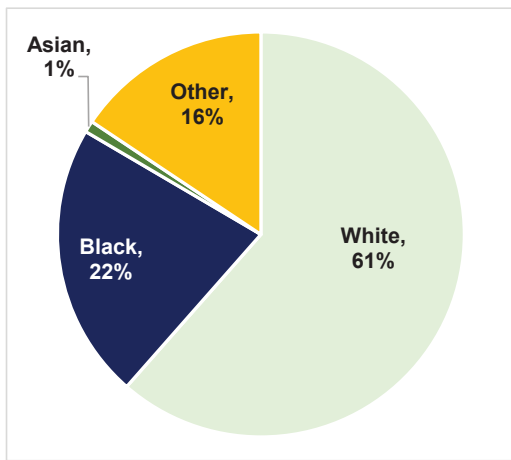
- **Race:** More than three-quarters of OD victims were White and 25% were Black.
- **Age:** Two-thirds of all OD victims were between the ages of 35 and 64 (67%).
- **Sex:** Two-thirds of all OD victims were male (64%).
- **Marital Status:** The vast majority of OD victims were either single, never married, or divorced / separated (90%). Only 10% were currently married.
- **Residence:** Nearly three-quarters of OD victims lived in the city of Akron, while the rest lived in the suburbs.

\* Death data from ODH death certificates can lag by several weeks or months. Preliminary OD deaths from the Summit County Medical Examiner shows a current total of 133 for 2024.



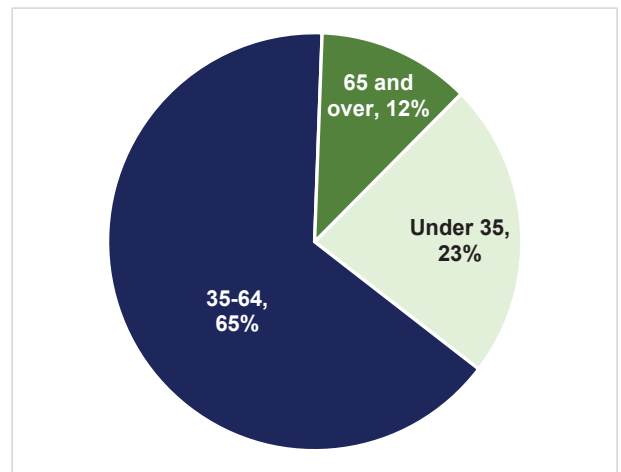
**FIGURE 8:** 4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE OVERDOSE DEATHS PER WEEK, 2024

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



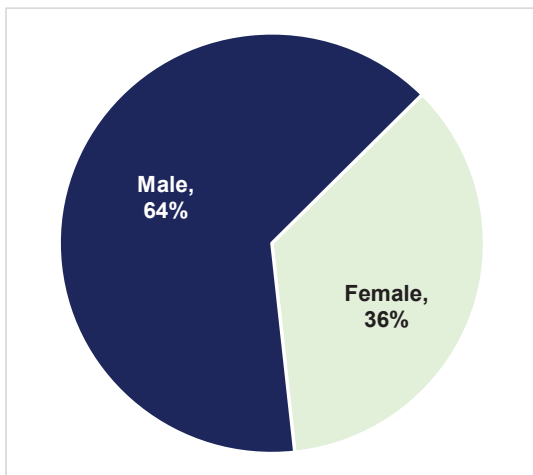
**FIGURE 9:** RACE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



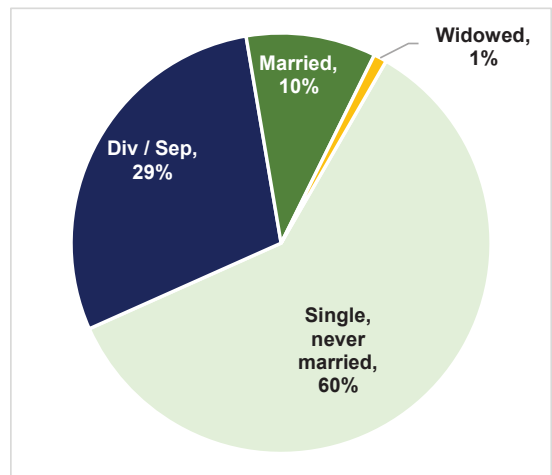
**FIGURE 11:** AGE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



**FIGURE 10:** SEX OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH

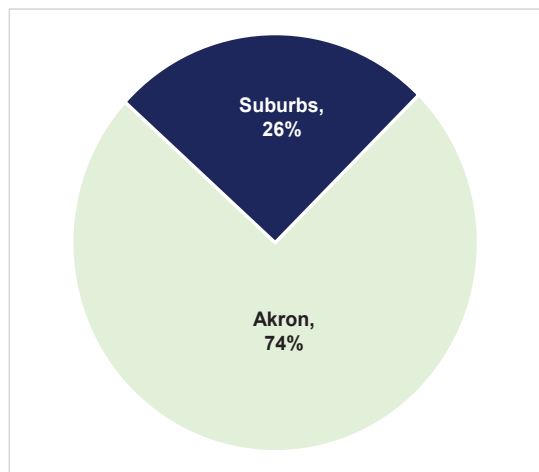


**FIGURE 12:** MARITAL STATUS OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH

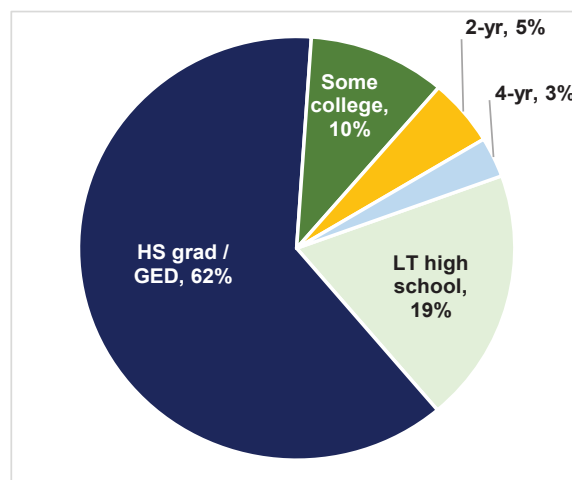
- **Educational Attainment:** Nearly 60% of overdose victims had a high school diploma or GED, while another 19% had less than a high school education.
- **Location of Death:** Nearly half of overdose victims died at home (48%), while another 19% died at a hospital or other facility.

- **Substances involved:** The vast majority of OD deaths involved fentanyl (77%). Nearly as many involved either methamphetamines, cocaine, or both. It should be noted that 86% of overdose victims were found to have taken more than one substance, so percentages will add up to more than 100%.



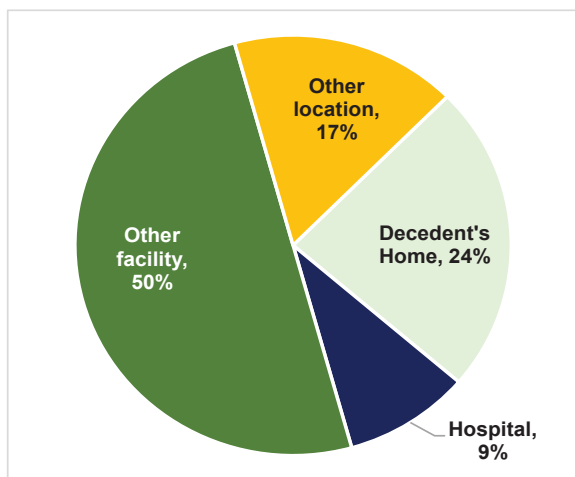
**FIGURE 13:** LOCATION OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



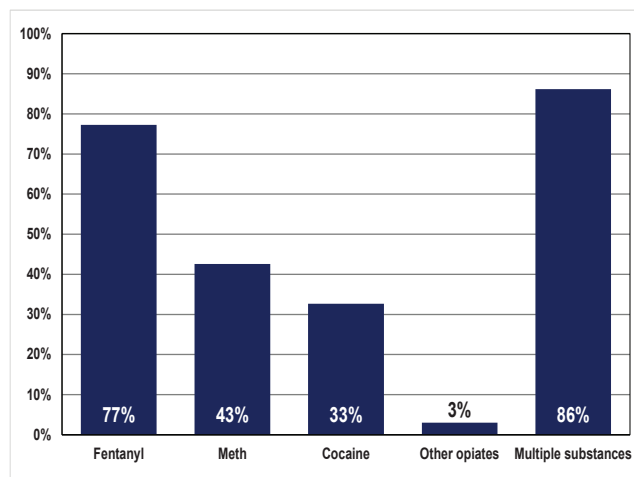
**FIGURE 15:** EDUCATION LEVEL OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



**FIGURE 14:** TYPE OF FACILITY OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

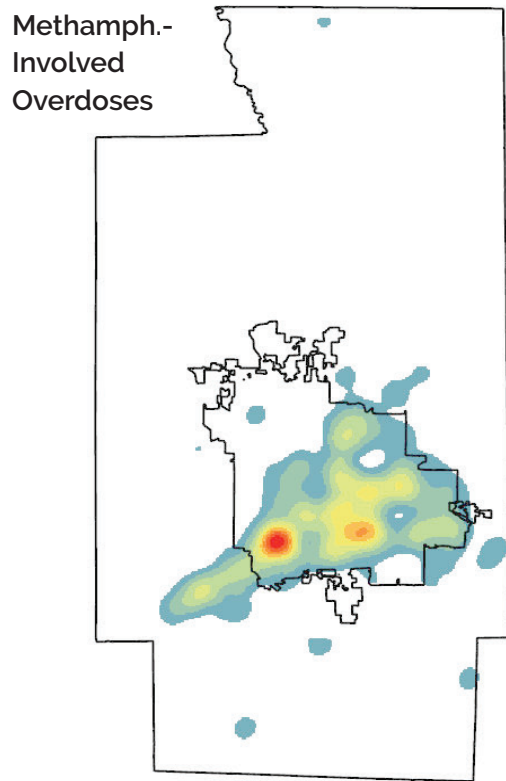
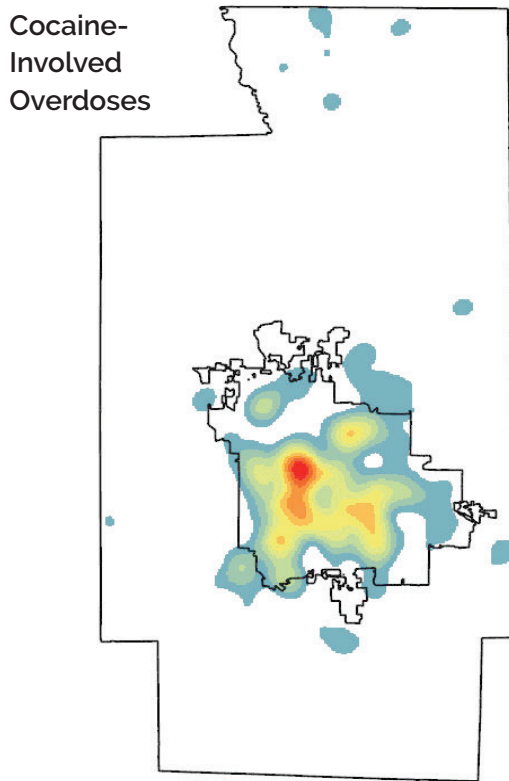
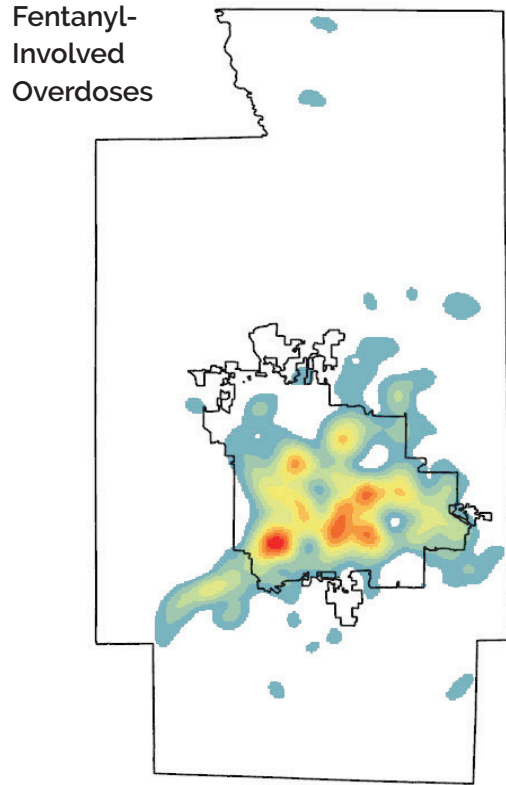
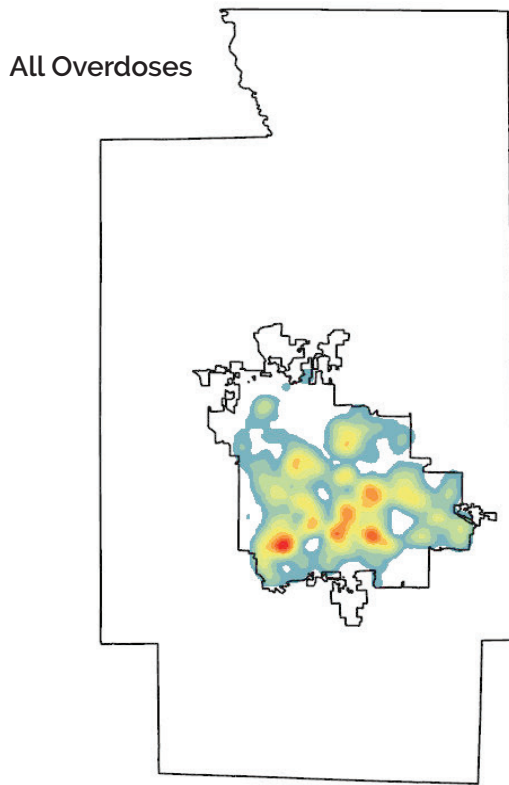
Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH



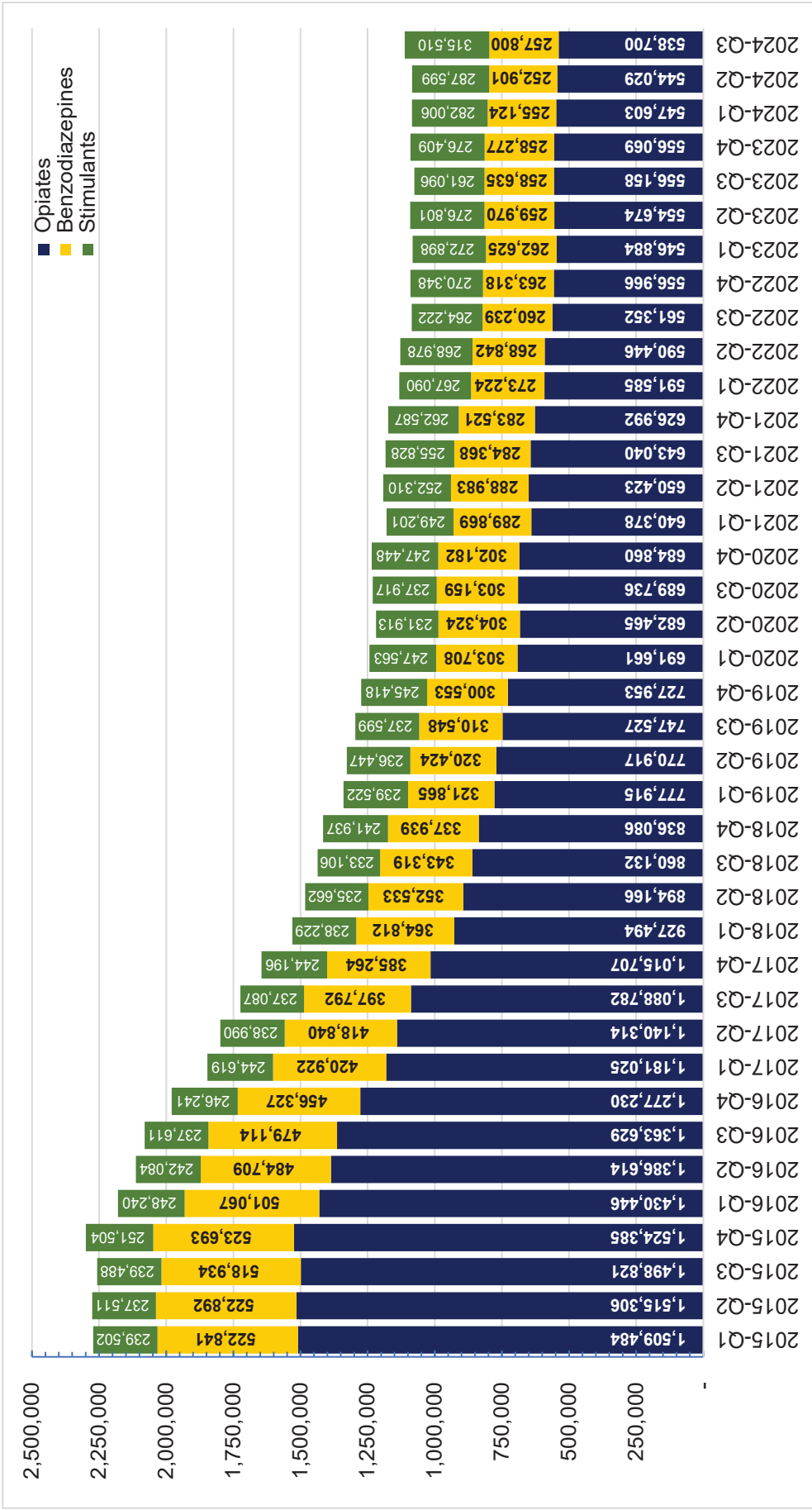
**FIGURE 16:** TOP SUBSTANCES FOUND IN OVERDOSE VICTIMS

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH

# MAP 1: DENSITY MAP OF OVERDOSE DEATHS BY MAJOR SUBSTANCE, 2016-2024







**FIGURE 18: NUMBER OF DOSES OF EACH TYPE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY QUARTER**  
 Source: Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)

Figure 18 presents the number of doses of the three largest categories of controlled prescription drugs tracked by Ohio's OARRS system per 100,000 population.\* "Doses" includes solid dose equivalents only (tablets, capsules and patches). In the 1st quarter of 2015, Summit County had more than 2 million doses of opiates, benzodiazepines, and stimulants dispensed per 100,000 population. About 1.5 million of those doses were opiates. By the 2nd quarter of 2024, that figure had dropped to just over 1 million doses per 100,000 population, 544,000 of which were opiates.

\* The OARRS prescription tracking system was established in 2006 and is housed at the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. According to the OARRS website: "OARRS collects information on all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances and one non-controlled substance (gabapentin) dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and personally furnished by Ohio prescribers...OARRS is a tool that can be used to address prescription drug diversion and abuse. It serves multiple functions, including: patient care tool; drug epidemic early warning system; and drug diversion and insurance fraud investigative tool." It is important to note that these figures include doses actually dispensed for all purposes, whether legitimately used or abused.

# SUMMARY OF DRUG TRENDS IN THE AKRON-CANTON REGION, JULY - DECEMBER 2023

The table below presents data from “Drug Abuse Trends in the Akron-Canton Region, July - December 2023” published by the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network (OSAM). The data in this report highlights emerging trends over the same time period in the previous year and provides some insight on how those trends impact today’s overdose picture.

The report relies primarily on input by focus groups made up of drug users, community professionals, service providers, and law enforcement. A summary of the findings for the Akron-Canton region can be found in the table below:

Drug	Current availability	Availability change	BCI case incidence change	Most available form	MH Urinalysis test results	GPRA intake - % positive
Powdered cocaine	High	No change	Increase		2.8%	3.5%
Crack cocaine	Moderate / High	No change	Increase		2.8%	3.9%
Heroin (unadulterated)	Low	No consensus	Decrease	Brown powdered	0.2%	3.2%
Fentanyl	High	No consensus	Decrease		2.7%	7.3%
Prescription opioids	Moderate	No change	Decrease	OxyContin / Percocet	8.2% (Oxy) / 14.1% (other)	4.2%
Buprenorphine	High	No change	No change		NA	NA
Sedative-Hypnotics	Moderate	No change	Xanax (Decrease) / Klonopin (no change)	Xanax / Klonopin	9.6% (Benzo)	2.8%
Marijuana	High	No change	No change		20.0%	19.6%
Methamphetamine	High	No change	Decrease		4.8%	16.1%
<b>Other drugs seen in the Akron-Canton region:</b> Gabapentin, LSD, peyote, PCP, psilocybin mushrooms, ketamine, kratom, MDMA, OTC medications, Rx stimulants, promethazine, synthetic marijuana, xylazine.						
<b>Definitions:</b> MH Urinalysis - Percent of tests for each substance conducted by Millennium Health on urine samples that were positive for the named substance						
<b>GPRA Intake</b> - Percent of people entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs that reported using the named substance during the past 30 days before intake						

**FIGURE 19:** SUMMARY OF DRUG TRENDS IN THE AKRON-CANTON REGION, JULY - DECEMBER 2023

Source: Ohio Department of Health Death Certificate Database, SCPH

**NOTE:** The full *Drug Trends Monitoring Report* can be downloaded here: <https://mha.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-and-reports/osam/drug-trend-reports>