Ohio Department of Health

2023

Ohio Unintentional Drug Overdose Report

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Ohio Department of Health

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Ohio

- In 2023, there were 4,452 unintentional drug overdose deaths. This was a 9% decrease in the number of deaths from 2022 and the second consecutive year for decreases in Ohio unintentional drug overdose deaths. From 2021 to 2022, there was a 5% decrease in the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths.

Figure 1. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Year, Ohio, 2014-2023*
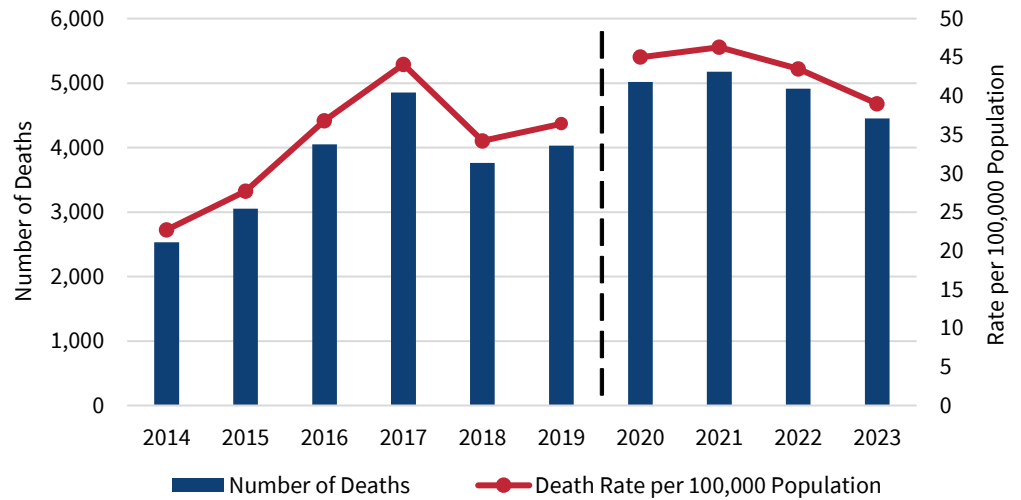
- In 2023, Ohio's age-adjusted rate of 39 deaths per 100,000 population also marked a decrease from the age-adjusted rate of 43.5 deaths per 100,000 population seen in 2022. Age-adjusted rate of deaths per population is a conventional statistical adjustment done in accordance with CDC standards to account for the difference in expected death rates among different age ranges.

Figure 2. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Quarter, Ohio, 2021-2023

- In 2023, while the first two quarters remained relatively steady, there was a 24% decrease in the number of deaths from the second quarter (1,215 deaths) to the fourth quarter (927 deaths).
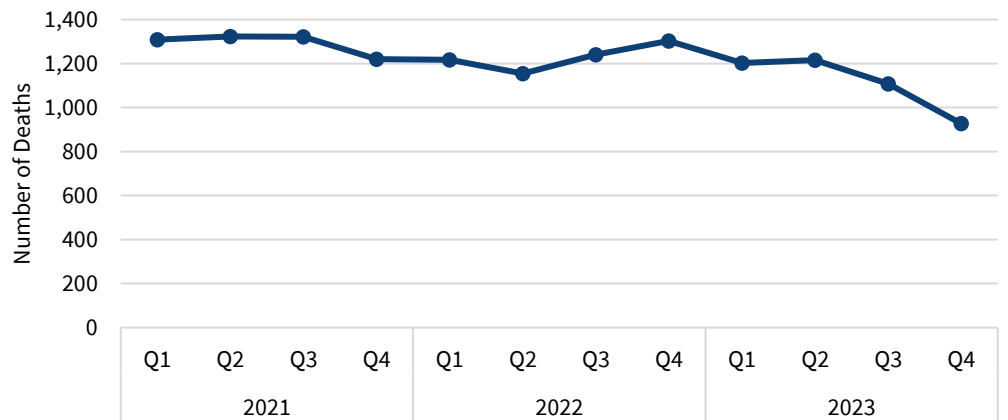
FAST FACTS

- From 2022 to 2023, there was a 9% decrease in the number of Ohio unintentional drug overdose deaths, compared with a national decrease of 2%.* In 2023, 4,452 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses.

- In 2023, illicit fentanyl or fentanyl analogs were involved in 78% of unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio, often in combination with other drugs.

- From 2022 to 2023, unintentional drug overdose deaths involving opioid drug categories decreased, with natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone) having the largest decrease (-20%).

- From 2022 to 2023, unintentional drug overdose deaths involving the non-opioid drug categories of cocaine and benzodiazepines increased 7% and 4%, respectively.

- Psychostimulant-related deaths (e.g., methamphetamine) decreased 6% from 2022 to 2023. This was the first decrease in Ohio psychostimulant-related deaths for the years presented.

*Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Provisional Multiple Cause of Death Data on CDC WONDER https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html (Accessed Oct. 23, 2024)

*At the time of this report, population files from the federal government reflecting new national standards and methodologies were available for 2020 through 2023 only. Because of this change, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) advises caution in comparing these rates to those from years prior to 2020, as indicated by the segmented line in the graphic.
Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section (VIESS). Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision [ICD-10], codes X40-X44).

Drug Involvement

- From 2022 to 2023, there were increases in the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths involving the non-opioid drug categories of cocaine and benzodiazepines. The number of drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased 7%, and deaths involving benzodiazepines increased 4%.
- In contrast, overall opioid-related unintentional drug overdose deaths decreased 11% from 2022 to 2023. Fentanyl-related deaths decreased 12%, while deaths involving natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone) and heroin decreased 20% and 17%, respectively.
- Psychostimulant-related deaths (e.g., methamphetamine) decreased 6% from 2022 to 2023. This was the first decrease in Ohio psychostimulant-related deaths for the years presented.

Figure 3. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2014-2023
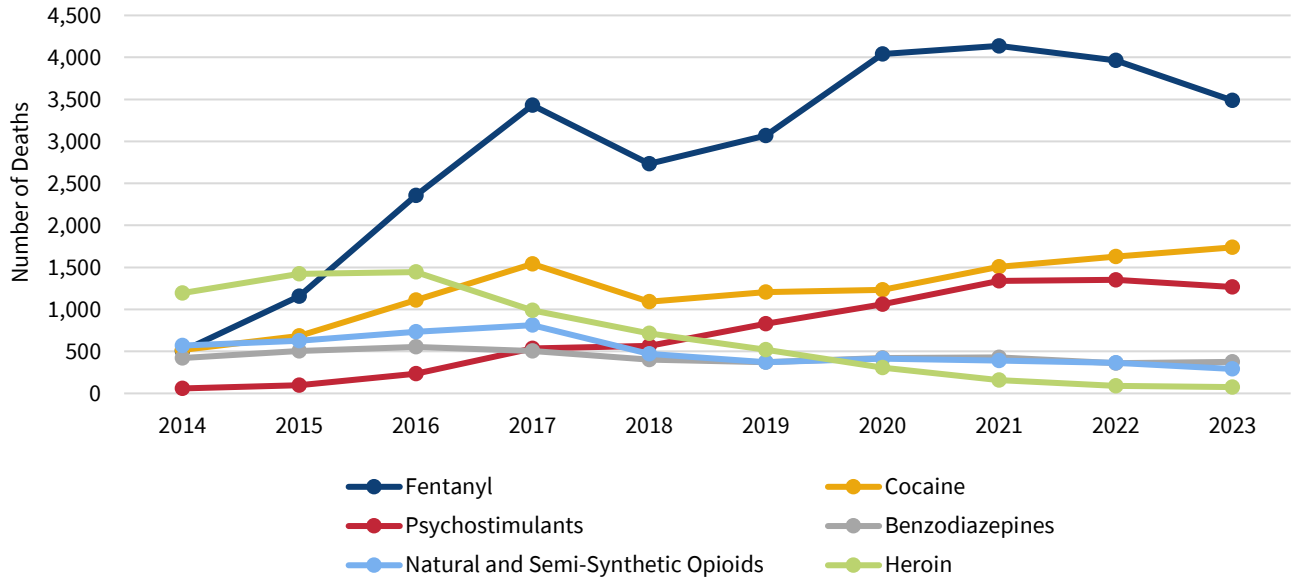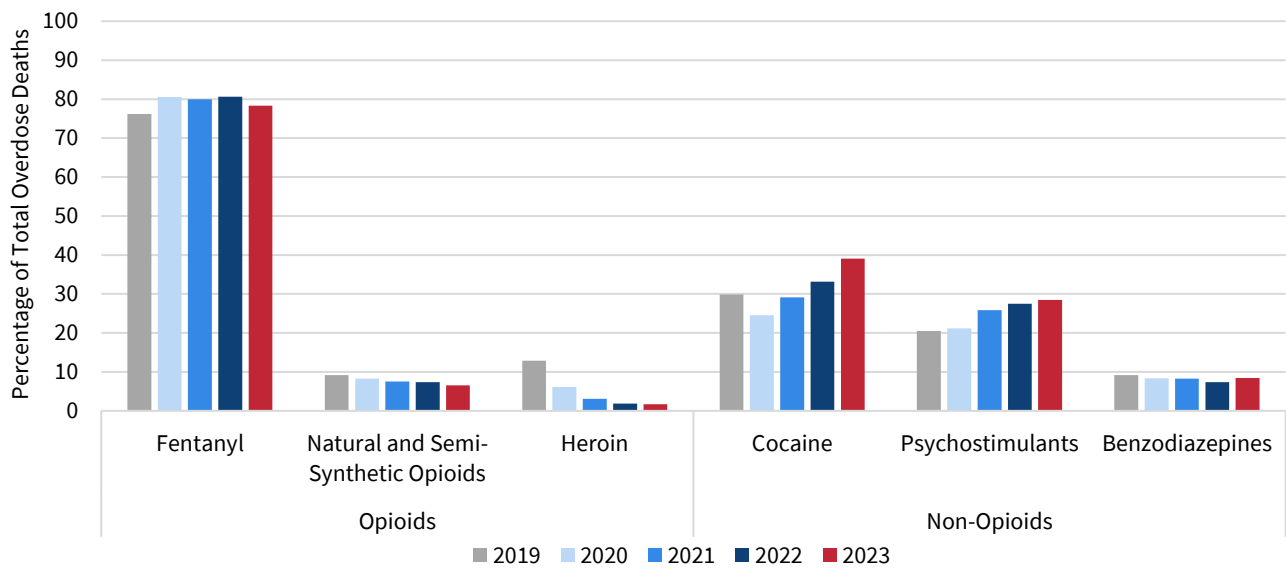

Figure 4. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2019-2023

- Fentanyl was involved in the majority of unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2023 (78%), a decrease from the previous three years, which ranged from 80-81%.
- Cocaine had the largest increase in the percentage of related overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023. Unintentional drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased from 33% in 2022 to 39% in 2023.

Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to ICD-10 code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

Drug Involvement

- Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were involved in 3,486 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2023, which represented 78% of total unintentional drug overdose deaths and 95% of total opioid-related overdose deaths. The fentanyl analog carfentanil contributed to less than 1% of deaths involving fentanyl.

Figure 5. Number and Percentage of Fentanyl-Related Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths, Ohio, 2019-2023
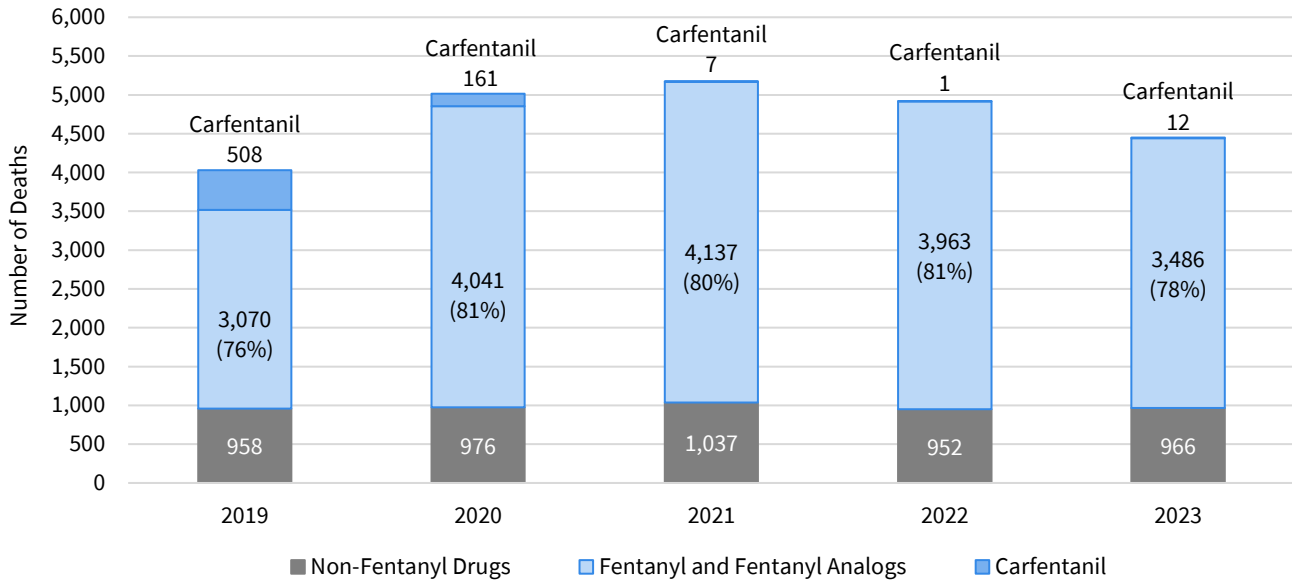
Figure 6. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drug Combinations, Ohio, 2019-2023
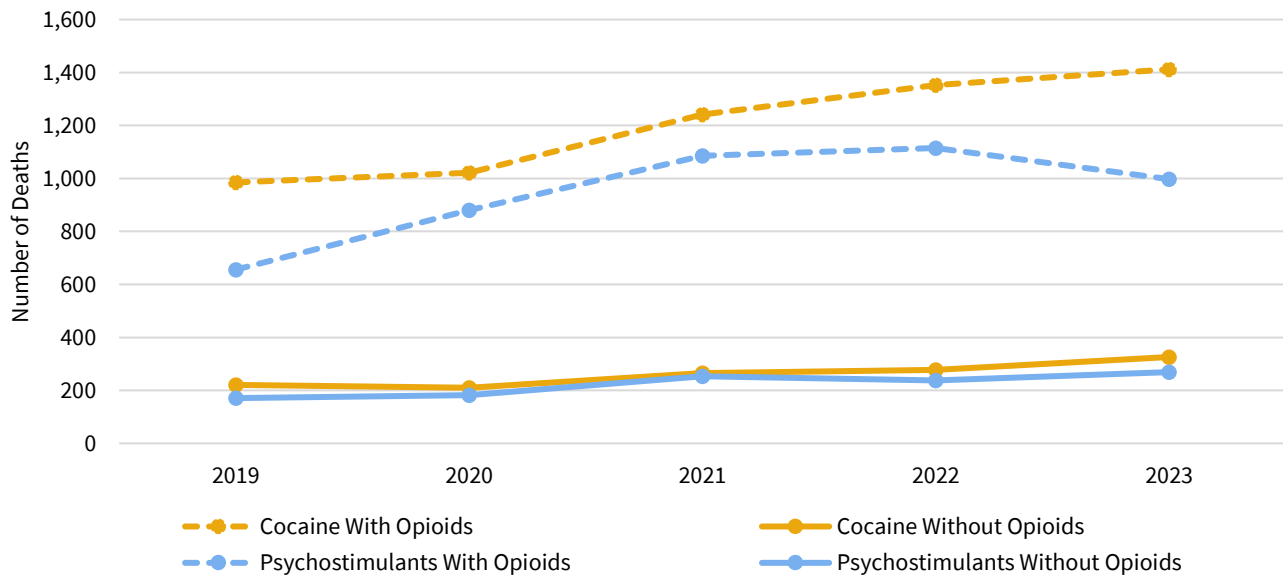
- From 2022 to 2023:
  - The total number of unintentional drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased 7%. The number of cocaine-related deaths that also involved an opioid increased 4%, while those that did not involve an opioid increased 18%.
  - The total number of unintentional drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants decreased 6%. The number of psychostimulant-related deaths that also involved an opioid decreased 10%, while those that did not involve an opioid increased 14%.

Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

Drug Involvement

Table 1. Number and Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2014-2023

Drug Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percentage of 2023 Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths
Opioids											
Any Opioid	2,020	2,590	3,495	4,162	3,150	3,372	4,308	4,369	4,138	3,664	**82%**
Fentanyl[1]	503	1,155	2,357	3,431	2,733	3,070	4,041	4,137	3,963	3,486	**78%**
Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids[2]	570	628	733	812	471	370	415	390	362	291	**7%**
Heroin	1,196	1,424	1,444	987	714	520	308	159	90	75	**2%**
Methadone	103	108	94	98	65	68	79	96	110	110	**2%**
Non-Opioids											
Cocaine	517	685	1,109	1,540	1,092	1,206	1,231	1,506	1,629	1,738	**39%**
Psychostimulants[3]	59	96	233	537	564	827	1,062	1,338	1,352	1,267	**28%**
Benzodiazepines	420	504	553	506	403	371	420	428	360	375	**8%**
Hallucinogens	49	61	100	108	60	108	119	102	119	83	**2%**
Barbiturates	6	19	14	18	12	10	15	12	18	11	**<1%**
Alcohol[4]	383	380	539	580	442	579	658	702	690	585	**13%**
Other/Unspecified Drugs Only[5]	274	194	182	180	171	169	213	213	184	132	**3%**
Multiple Drug Involvement[6]	1,321	1,747	2,451	2,957	2,266	2,484	2,922	3,174	3,132	3,059	**69%**
Total Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths	**2,531**	**3,050**	**4,050**	**4,854**	**3,764**	**4,028**	**5,017**	**5,174**	**4,915**	**4,452**	

Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

1. Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil).
2. Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to ICD-10 code T40.2.
3. Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6).
4. Alcohol was present along with other drugs. Alcohol is considered a non-drug poisoning in ICD-10 coded mortality data (ICD-10 codes T51.1-T51.9) and is not included in total unintentional drug overdose deaths.
5. Other/unspecified drugs includes those instances where only ICD-10 code T50.9 (other/unspecified) is listed as the drug contributing to death.
6. Multiple drug involvement is calculated from the number of multiple cause of death codes used to identify specific drug types (T36.0-T50.8, T51.1-T51.9).

Drug Involvement: Fentanyl Combinations

- Illicit fentanyl or fentanyl analogs were involved in 78% of 2023 unintentional drug overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs.
- The percentage of fentanyl involvement with other substances varies by drug category.
  - Of all deaths related to:
    - Cocaine, 79% also involved fentanyl.
    - Psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine), 77% also involved fentanyl.
    - Benzodiazepines, 73% also involved fentanyl.
    - Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone), 61% also involved fentanyl.
    - Heroin, 93% also involved fentanyl.

Figure 7. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl by Drug Category, Ohio, 2019-2023
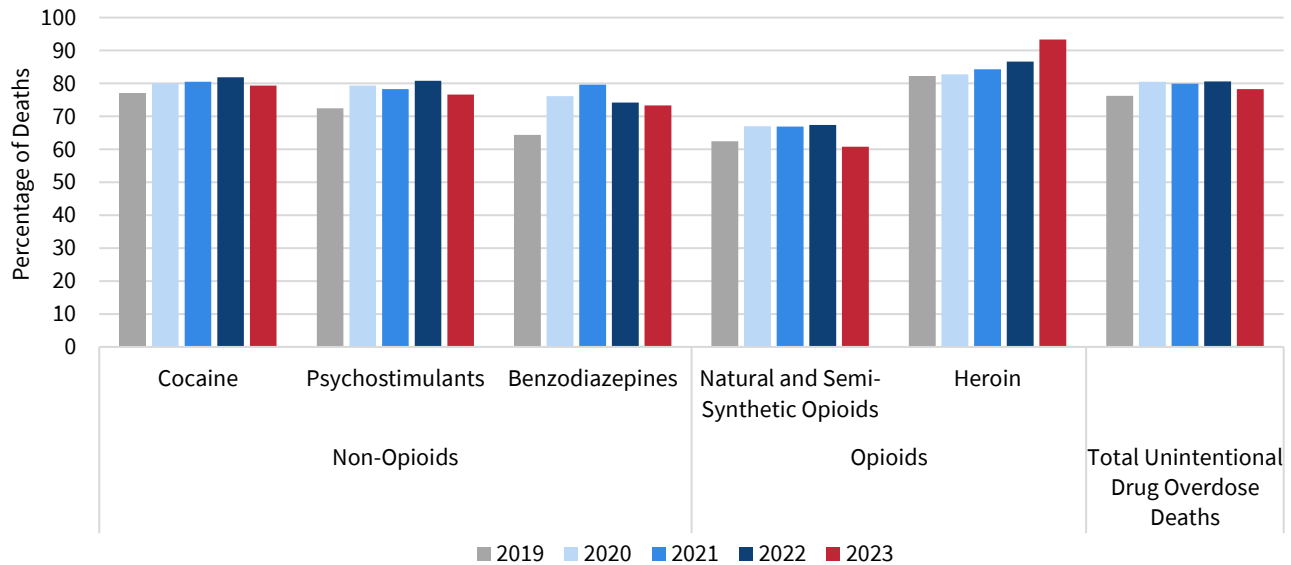

Table 2. Number and Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drug Combinations, Ohio, 2014-2023

Drug Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percentage of 2023 Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths
Fentanyl	503	1,155	2,357	3,431	2,733	3,070	4,041	4,137	3,963	3,486	**78%**
Fentanyl + Cocaine	101	239	619	1,072	808	930	985	1,213	1,334	1,379	**31%**
Fentanyl + Psychostimulants	12	34	117	368	379	599	843	1,047	1,092	971	**22%**
Fentanyl + Benzodiazepines	81	159	273	318	255	239	320	341	267	275	**6%**
Fentanyl + Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids	79	170	367	477	260	231	278	261	244	177	**4%**
Fentanyl + Heroin	170	490	750	720	569	428	255	134	78	70	**2%**
Total Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths	**2,531**	**3,050**	**4,050**	**4,854**	**3,764**	**4,028**	**5,017**	**5,174**	**4,915**	**4,452**	

Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

Demographics: Sex and Race/Ethnicity

- Males have consistently higher rates of fatal drug overdose compared with females. From 2022 to 2023, the unintentional drug overdose death rate for females decreased 14% compared with a decrease of 8% for males.

Figure 8. Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex, Ohio, 2020-2023
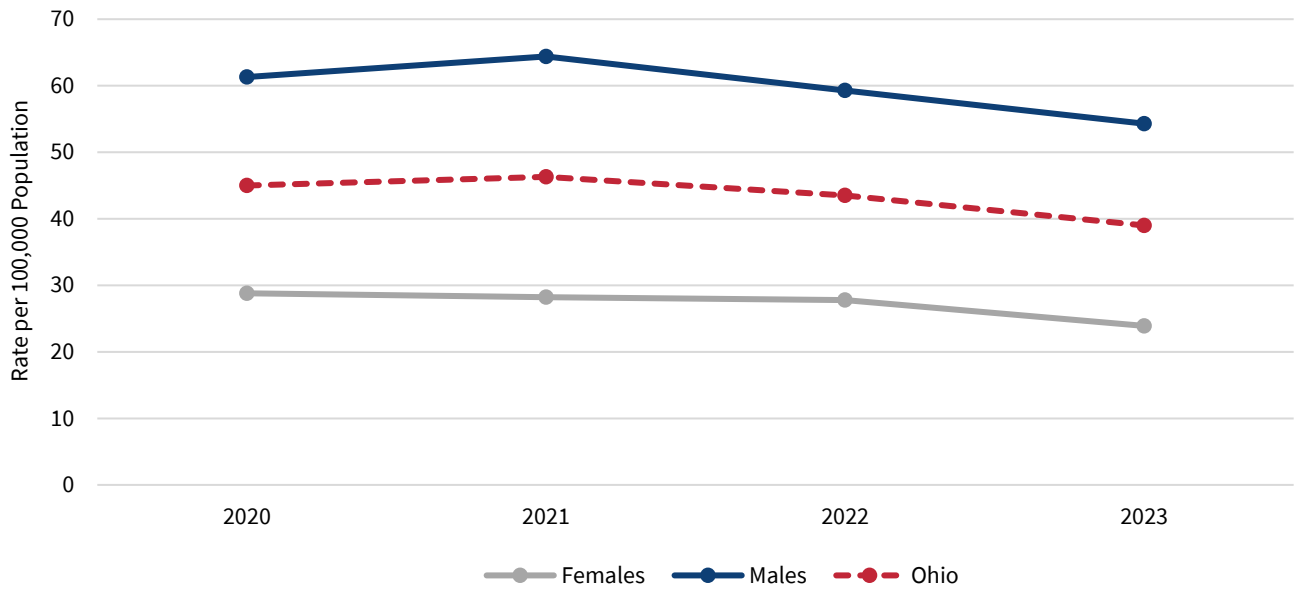
Figure 9. Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2020-2023
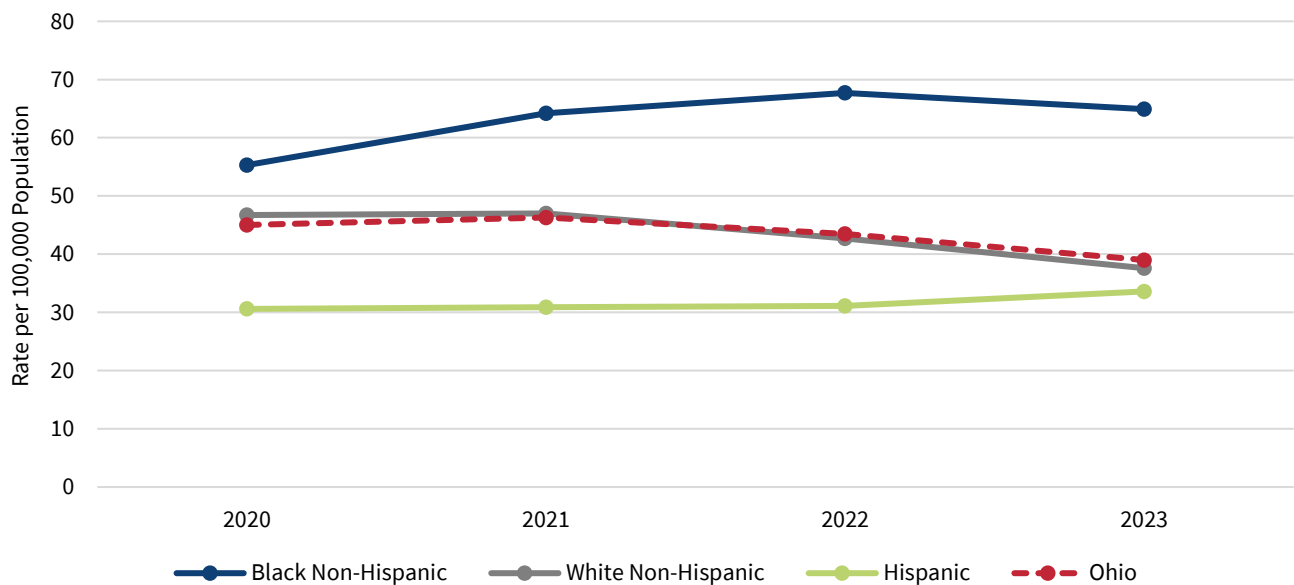
- In 2023, the Black non-Hispanic population continued to have the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths.
- From 2022 to 2023, the death rate among the Black non-Hispanic population decreased 4% to 64.9 deaths per 100,000 population compared with a 12% decrease among the White non-Hispanic population (37.6 deaths per 100,000 population).
- While the Hispanic population continued to have the lowest rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths among the groups presented, the rate increased 8% from 2022 to 2023 to 33.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

Demographics: Sex and Race/Ethnicity

- In 2023, Black non-Hispanic males continued to have the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths compared with other sex and race/ethnicity groups. At 100.3 deaths per 100,000 population, the overdose death rate for Black non-Hispanic males was nearly twice that of White non-Hispanic males (50.8 deaths per 100,000 population). From 2022 to 2023, the overdose death rate for Black non-Hispanic males decreased 2% compared with a 10% decrease for White non-Hispanic males.
- In 2023, Black non-Hispanic females continued to have higher rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths compared with White non-Hispanic females. From 2022 to 2023, the overdose death rate for Black non-Hispanic females decreased 9% to 33.1 deaths per 100,000 population, while the rate for White non-Hispanic females decreased 16% to 24.2 deaths per 100,000 population.
- While Hispanic females and males had lower rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths compared with other sex and race/ethnicity groups, rates for both groups increased from 2022 to 2023 (13% and 6%, respectively).

Figure 10. Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2020-2023

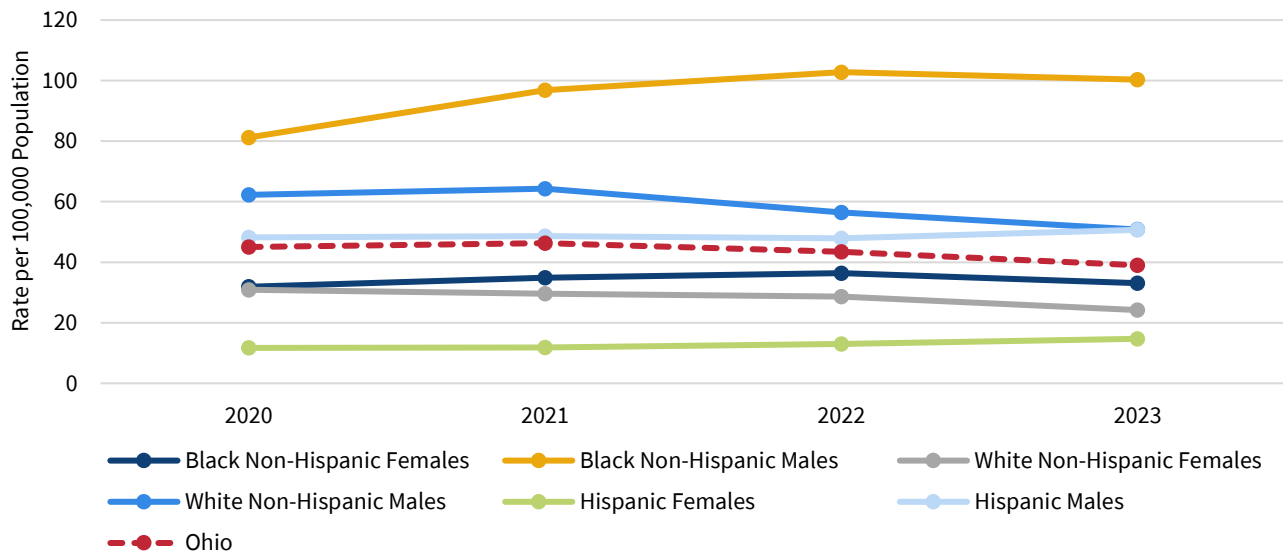**Figure 11. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Among the Black Non-Hispanic Population by Quarter, Ohio, 2022-2023**
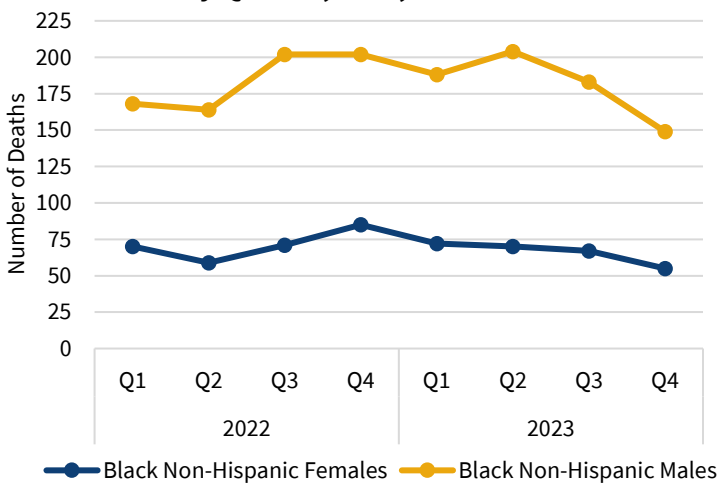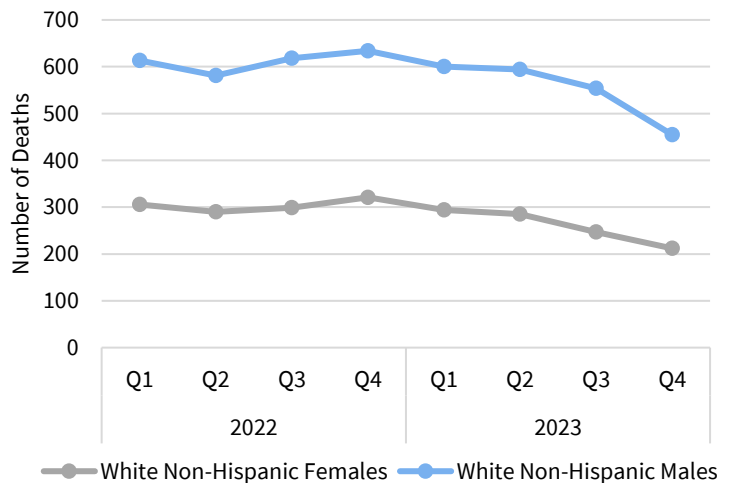

Figure 12. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Among the White Non-Hispanic Population by Quarter, Ohio, 2022-2023

- From the first quarter to the final quarter of 2023, the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths decreased for both Black and White non-Hispanic females and males.

Demographics: Sex and Race/Ethnicity

- Among Black non-Hispanic females and males, the 55-64 age group had the highest overdose death rate followed by the 45-54 age group for females and the 35-44 age group for males.
- Among White non-Hispanic females and males, the 35-44 age group had the highest overdose death rate followed by the 45-54 age group.

Figure 13. Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2023
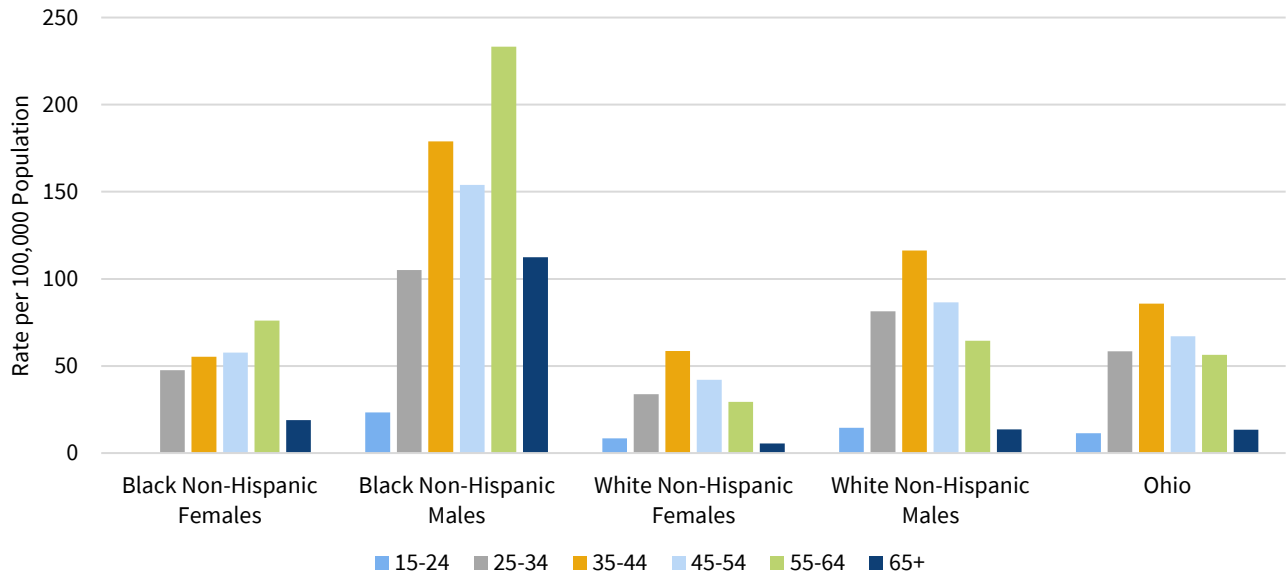
Figure 14. Rate[1] of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Among Females by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2020-2023*
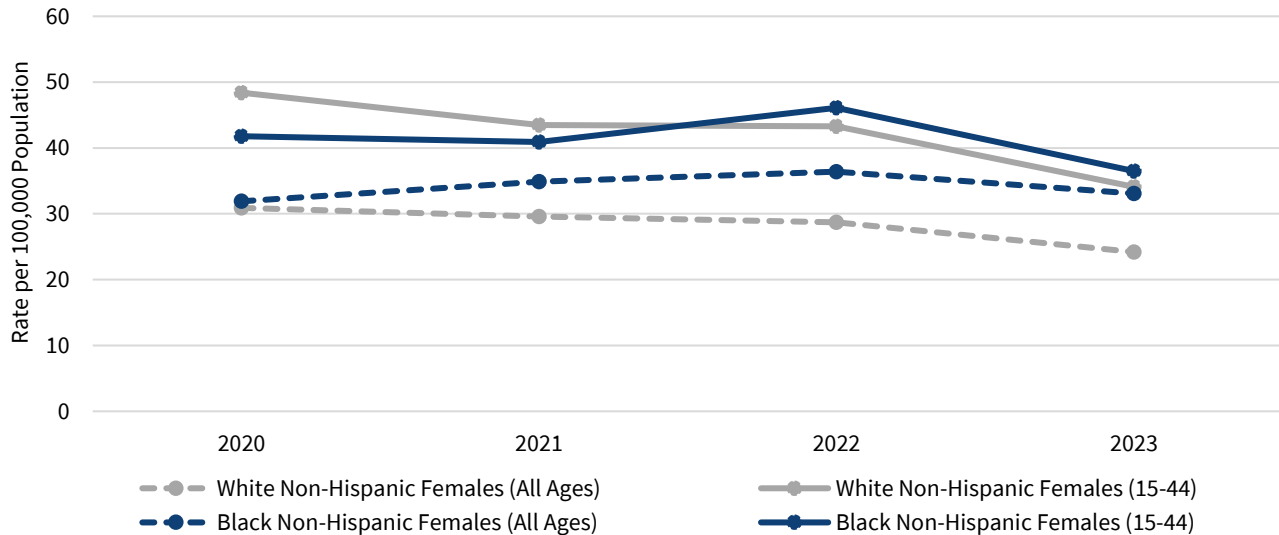
- From 2022 to 2023, the overdose death rate for females of all ages decreased 14%, and the overdose death rate for females of reproductive age (15-44) decreased 21%.
- For females of all ages, the overdose death rates among Black non-Hispanic females decreased 9%, while the rate among White non-Hispanic females decreased 16%.
- For females of reproductive age (15-44), the overdose death rate among both Black non-Hispanic females and White non-Hispanic females decreased 21%.

*Substance use disorder among females of reproductive age is of particular concern because fetal exposure to opioids and other substances during pregnancy can result in infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a set of symptoms associated with abrupt withdrawal.

This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers.

1. Death rates presented for females of reproductive age (ages 15-44) are age-specific; death rates presented for total females are age-adjusted.

Drug Involvement by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

- In 2023, illicit fentanyl was involved in the majority of unintentional drug overdose deaths among all the sex and race/ethnicity groups presented, ranging from 74% to 88% of deaths.
- The highest percentage of deaths involving cocaine was among Black non-Hispanic females and males.
- The highest percentage of deaths involving psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine) was among White non-Hispanic females and males.

Figure 15. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2023
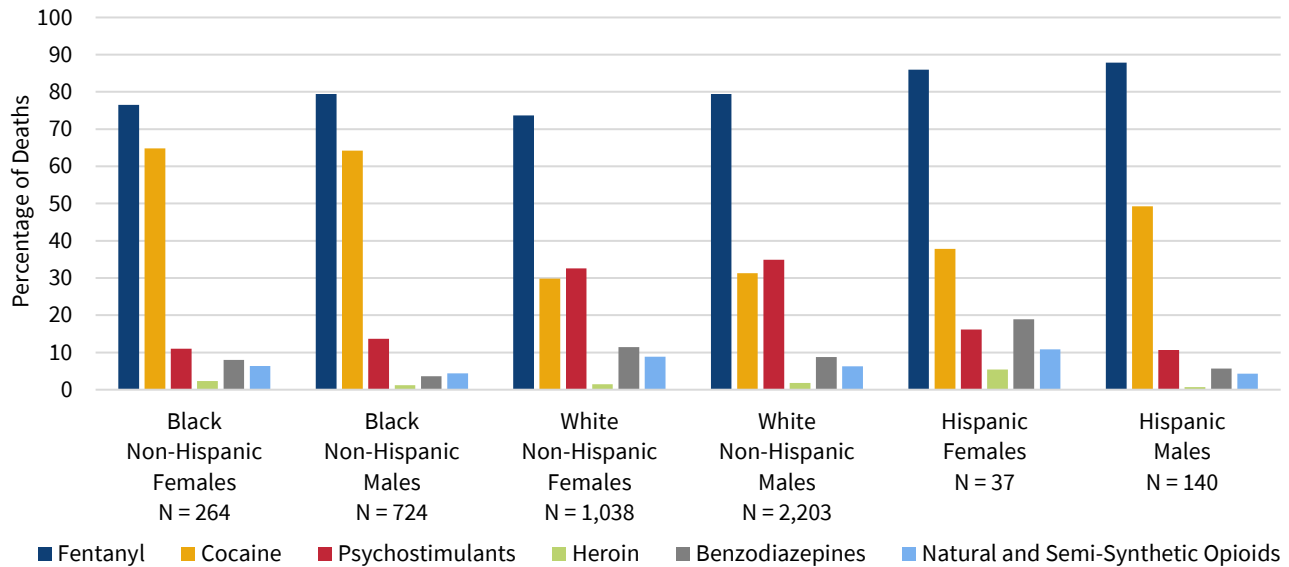
Figure 16. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl Combinations by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2023
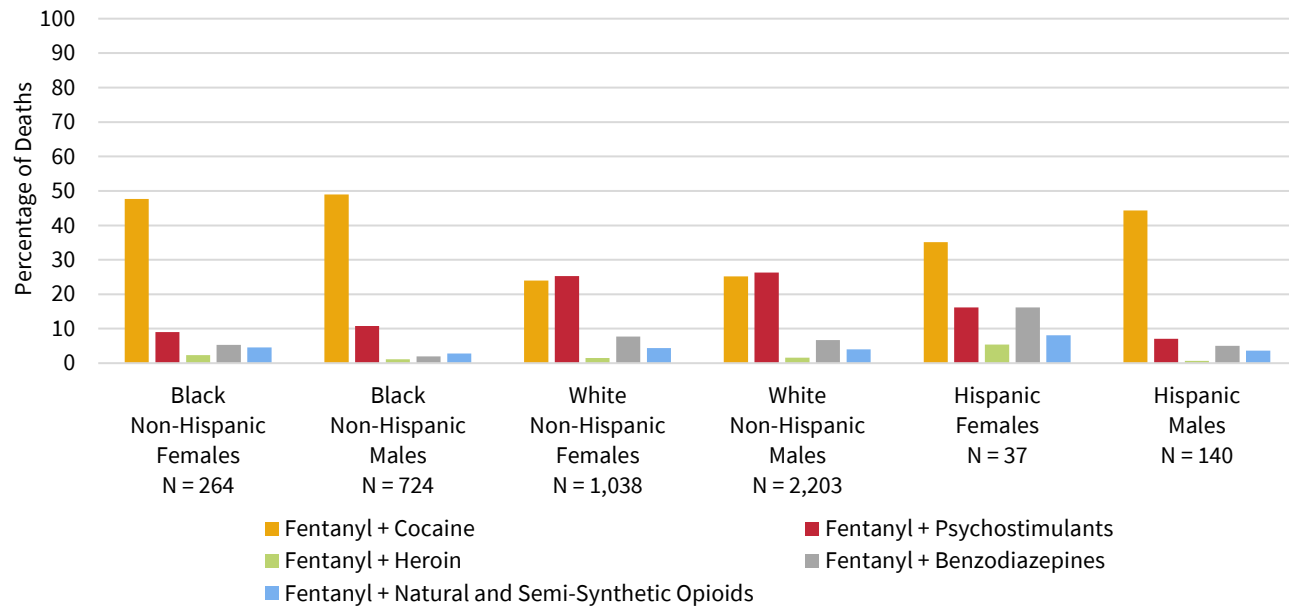
- In deaths involving a combination of fentanyl and other drug categories, the combination of fentanyl and cocaine was involved in the highest percentage of deaths among Black non-Hispanic females and males and Hispanic females and males.
- The percentage of deaths involving a combination of fentanyl and psychostimulants was highest among White non-Hispanic females and males.

This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers. Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to ICD-10 code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

Drug Involvement by Sex and Race/Ethnicity:
Fentanyl, Cocaine, and Psychostimulant Trends

Figure 17. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl, Cocaine, and Psychostimulants by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2019-2023

— Black Non-Hispanic Females   — Black Non-Hispanic Males   — White Non-Hispanic Females   — White Non-Hispanic Males

Fentanyl:

- From 2022 to 2023, all sex and race/ethnicity groups experienced decreases in the number of fentanyl-related deaths.
- Fentanyl-related deaths among Black non-Hispanic females and males decreased 15% and 5%, respectively. Among White non-Hispanic females and males, fentanyl-related deaths decreased 18% and 12%, respectively.

Figure 17a. Fentanyl
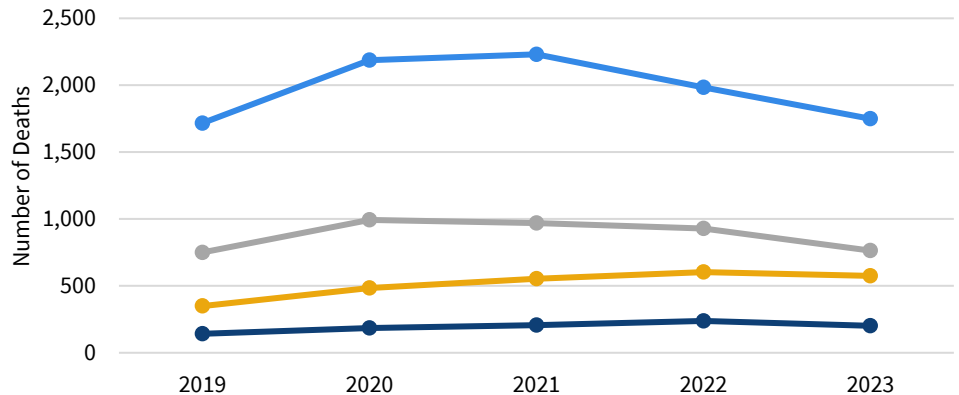
Cocaine:

- From 2022 to 2023, both Black non-Hispanic and White non-Hispanic males experienced increases in the number of cocaine-related deaths (8% and 12%, respectively).
- From 2022 to 2023, the number of cocaine-related deaths among Black non-Hispanic females remained the same, while deaths among White non-Hispanic females decreased 2%.

Figure 17b. Cocaine
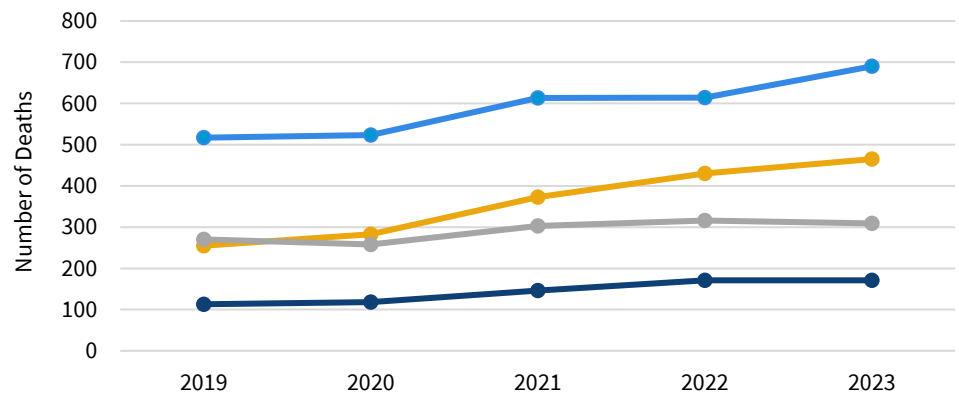
Psychostimulants:

- In 2023, while the largest number of psychostimulant-related deaths was among White non-Hispanic females and males, the largest increase from 2022 to 2023 was among Black non-Hispanic males (6%).
- From 2022 to 2023, psychostimulant-related deaths among White non-Hispanic females and males decreased 14% and 6%, respectively.
- The number of psychostimulant-related deaths among Black non-Hispanic females remained the same during this period.

Figure 17c. Psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine)
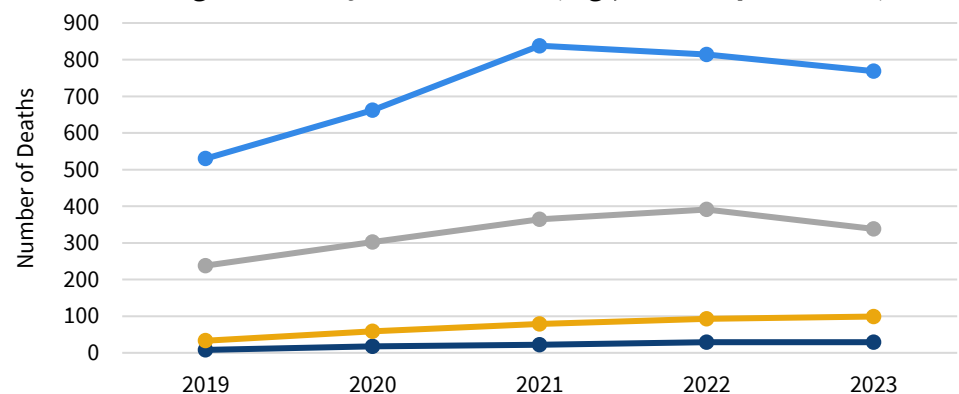
This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers. Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

2022-2023 Drug Involvement Summary: Sex and Race/Ethnicity

Table 3. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2022-2023

	Opioids						Non-Opioids					
	Fentanyl		Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids		Heroin		Cocaine		Psychostimulants		Benzodiazepines	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Race/Ethnicity and Sex												
Black Non-Hispanic Females	238	202	14	17	3	6	171	171	29	29	10	21
Black Non-Hispanic Males	603	575	40	32	14	9	430	465	93	99	27	26
White Non-Hispanic Females	930	765	99	92	21	16	316	309	391	338	123	118
White Non-Hispanic Males	1,984	1,750	195	138	49	39	614	690	814	769	182	193
Hispanic Females	28	32	3	4	0	2	15	14	5	6	4	7
Hispanic Males	118	123	5	6	1	1	63	69	10	15	10	8
Ohio Total[*]	**3,963**	**3,486**	**362**	**291**	**90**	**75**	**1,629**	**1,738**	**1,352**	**1,257**	**360**	**375**

## Table 4. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl Combinations by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2022-2023

	Fentanyl + Other Opioids				Fentanyl + Non-Opioids					
	Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids		Heroin		Cocaine		Psychostimulants		Benzodiazepines	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Race/Ethnicity and Sex										
Black Non-Hispanic Females	10	12	3	6	136	126	28	25	7	14
Black Non-Hispanic Males	31	20	13	8	342	355	72	78	22	18
White Non-Hispanic Females	57	46	17	16	261	249	311	263	88	80
White Non-Hispanic Males	134	89	42	35	507	556	659	580	133	148
Hispanic Females	2	3	0	2	14	13	4	6	4	6
Hispanic Males	5	5	1	1	55	62	9	10	10	7
Ohio Total[*]	**244**	**177**	**78**	**70**	**1,334**	**1,379**	**1,092**	**971**	**267**	**275**

This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers. Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to ICD-10 code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.
*Total includes all unintentional drug overdose deaths among Ohio residents.

Demographics: Age

- In 2023, the 35-44 age group had the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths (85.8 deaths per 100,000 population).
- From 2022 to 2023, unintentional drug overdose death rates increased among Ohioans ages 55 and older. Death rates among the 55-64 age group and the 65+ age group increased 3% and 4%, respectively.
- Death rates among Ohioans under the age of 55 decreased during the same period, with the largest decrease among the 15-24 age group (-31%).

Figure 18. Rate[1] of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age, Ohio, 2020-2023
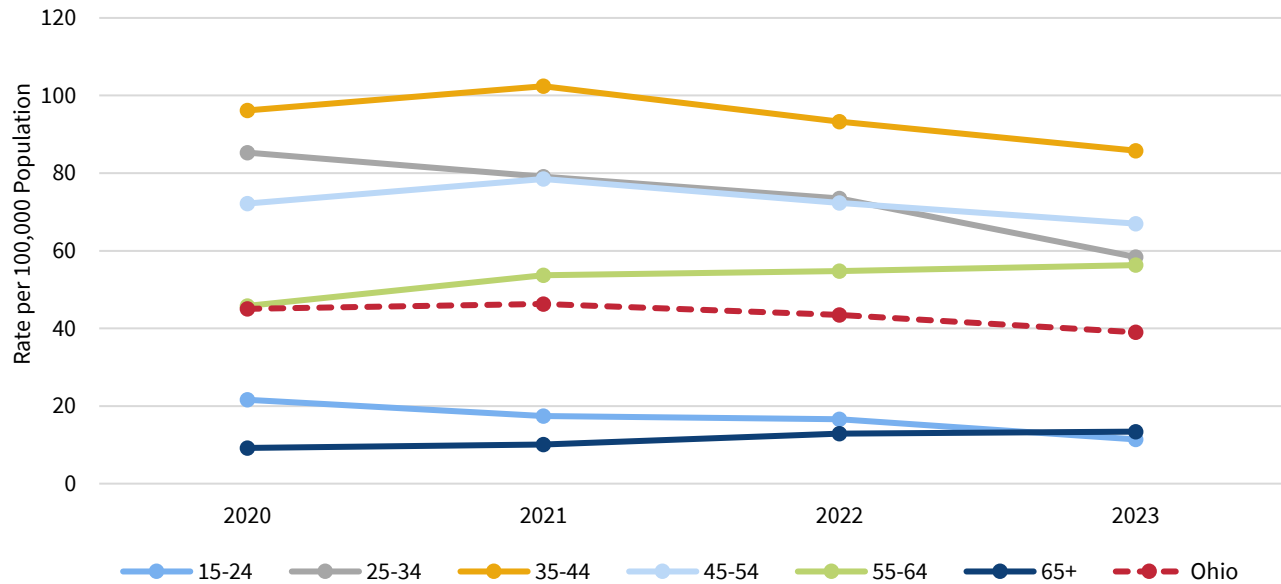
Figure 19. Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age and Sex, Ohio, 2023
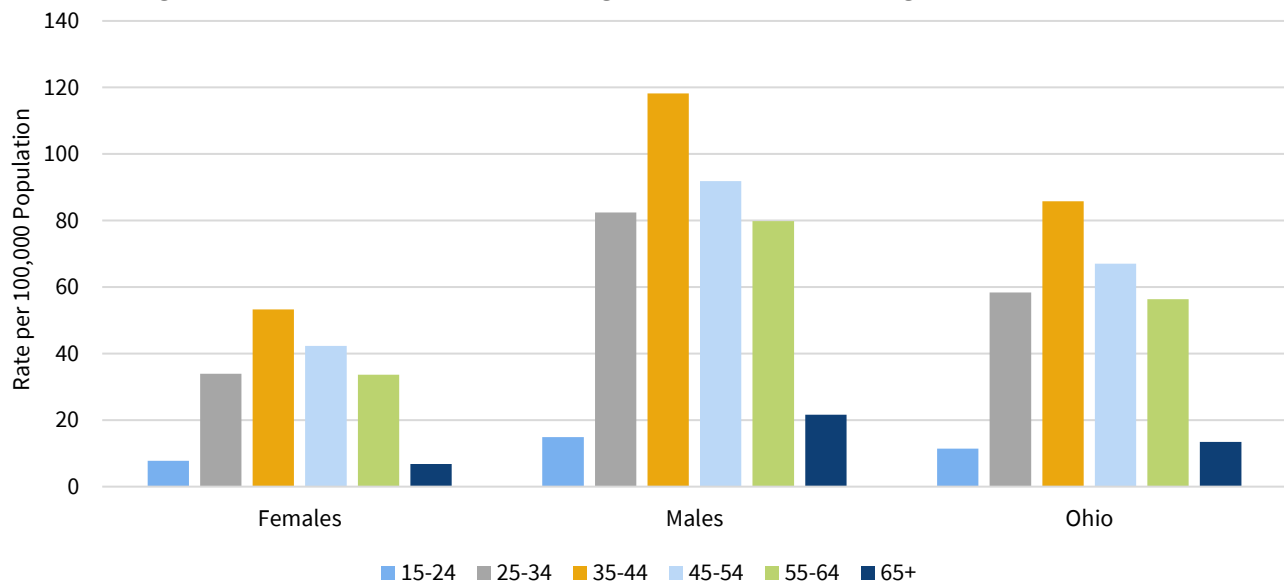
- Compared with Ohio overall, females and males followed similar patterns in rates of unintentional drug overdose by age group in 2023. Among both females and males, the 35-44 age group had the highest unintentional drug overdose death rate in 2023 (53.3 and 118.2 deaths per 100,000 population, respectively).

Other age groups are not presented due to small numbers.
1. Rates presented for age groups are age-specific. Overall Ohio rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations.

Drug Involvement by Age

- In 2023, illicit fentanyl was involved in the majority of unintentional drug overdose deaths among all age groups; however, the percentage of deaths involving fentanyl tended to decrease as age increased. Fentanyl involvement was highest among the 15-24 and 25-34 age groups (both 87%) and lowest among those aged 65 and older (53%).
- In contrast to fentanyl, cocaine involvement tended to increase with age. In 2023, the highest percentage of deaths involving cocaine was among those aged 55-64 (50%).

Figure 20. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Age, Ohio, 2023
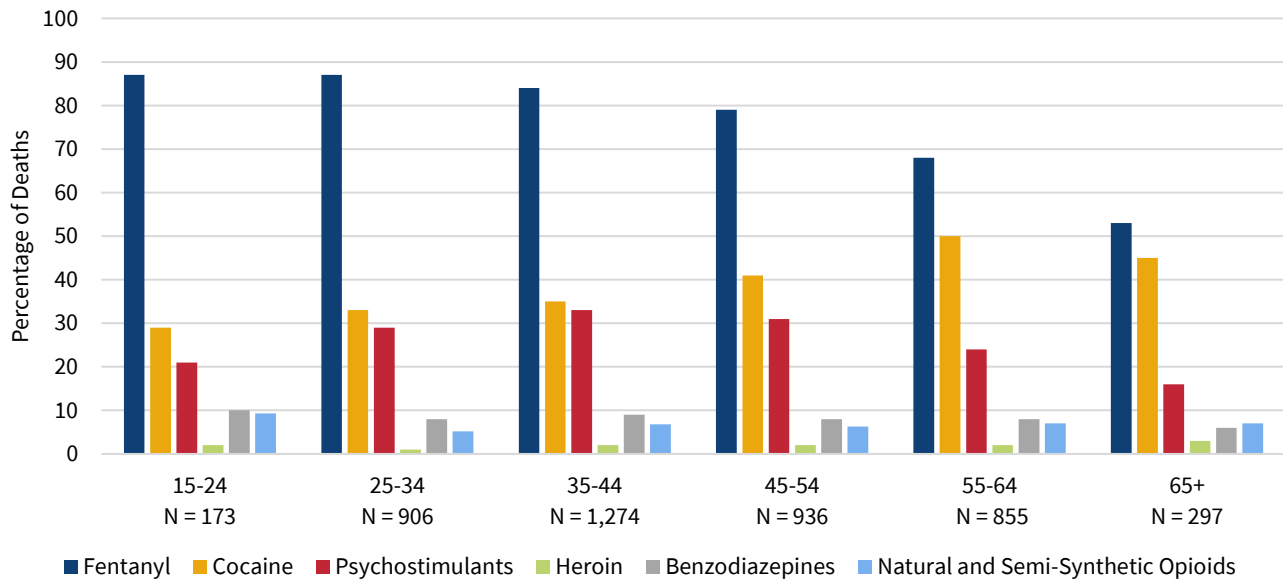
Figure 21. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl Combinations by Age, Ohio, 2023
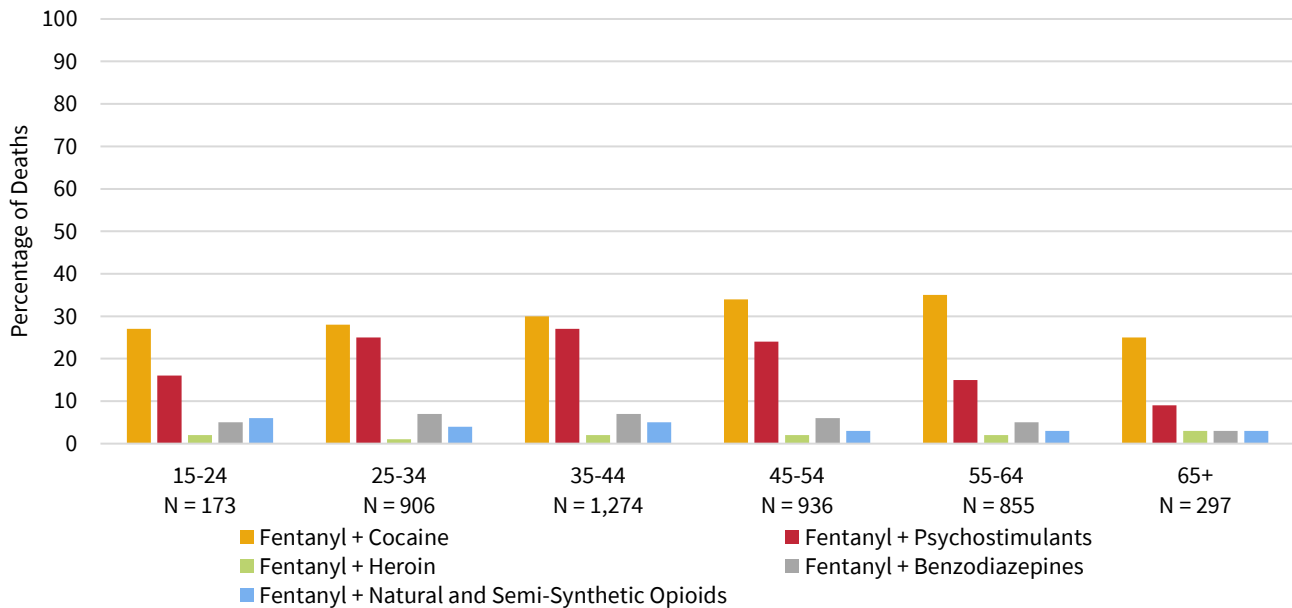
- In deaths involving a combination of fentanyl and other drug categories, the combination of fentanyl and cocaine was involved in the highest percentage of deaths among all age groups followed by the combination of fentanyl and psychostimulants.

Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category. Other age groups are not presented due to small numbers.

2022-2023 Drug Involvement Summary: Age

Table 5. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Age, Ohio, 2022-2023

	Opioids						Non-Opioids					
	Fentanyl		Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids		Heroin		Cocaine		Psychostimulants		Benzodiazepines	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Age Groups												
15-24	221	151	15	16	9	3	55	51	38	36	16	17
25-34	1,003	788	66	47	23	12	306	299	334	263	72	77
35-44	1,160	1,066	94	86	31	24	427	441	461	423	95	115
45-54	794	735	80	59	15	15	358	385	289	286	89	79
55-64	606	582	72	62	9	13	363	427	182	207	70	69
65+	173	158	35	21	3	8	119	134	47	48	18	18
Ohio Total*	**3,963**	**3,486**	**362**	**291**	**90**	**75**	**1,629**	**1,738**	**1,352**	**1,267**	**360**	**375**

Table 6. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl Combinations by Age, Ohio, 2022-2023

	Fentanyl + Other Opioids				Fentanyl + Non-Opioids					
	Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids		Heroin		Cocaine		Psychostimulants		Benzodiazepines	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Age Groups										
15-24	13	10	8	3	49	46	30	28	12	9
25-34	48	40	20	10	278	256	294	223	55	67
35-44	73	58	26	21	375	387	388	347	76	87
45-54	47	32	14	15	287	317	229	222	62	57
55-64	38	29	7	13	269	299	119	124	48	46
65+	25	8	3	8	75	73	32	26	14	9
Ohio Total*	**244**	**177**	**78**	**70**	**1,334**	**1,379**	**1,092**	**971**	**267**	**275**

Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to ICD-10 code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category. Other age groups are not presented due to small numbers.
*Total includes all unintentional drug overdose deaths among Ohio residents.

Demographic Summary

Table 7. Number and Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Demographics, Ohio, 2019-2023**

Demographics	2019 Number	2020 Number	2020 Rate[1]	2021 Number	2021 Rate[1]	2022 Number	2022 Rate[1]	2023 Number	2023 Rate[1]	2020-2023 Number	2020-2023 Rate[1]
Age											
<15	4	5	.	7	.	7	.	9	.	28	0.3
15-24	241	327	21.6	260	17.4	249	16.6	173	11.4	1,009	16.7
25-34	1,072	1,325	85.3	1,230	79.1	1,141	73.5	906	58.4	4,602	74.1
35-44	1,108	1,385	96.2	1,492	102.4	1,371	93.3	1,274	85.8	5,522	94.4
45-54	807	1,046	72.2	1,118	78.5	1,017	72.3	936	67	4,117	72.6
55-64	643	740	45.8	854	53.7	852	54.8	855	56.3	3,301	52.6
65+	153	189	9.2	213	10.1	278	12.9	297	13.4	977	11.5
Sex											
Female	1,269	1,599	28.8	1,572	28.2	1,554	27.8	1,356	23.9	6,081	27.2
Male	2,758	3,418	61.3	3,602	64.4	3,361	59.3	3,096	54.3	13,477	59.8
Race/Ethnicity											
American Indian, Non-Hispanic	3	5	.	2	.	12	39.9	3	.	22	19.6
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	10	19	5.4	19	5.6	16	4.3	8	.	62	4.3
Black, Non-Hispanic	642	820	55.3	954	64.2	1,021	67.7	988	64.9	3,783	63.0
White, Non-Hispanic	3,241	3,980	46.7	4,005	47.0	3,662	42.7	3,241	37.6	14,888	43.5
Multiracial, Non-Hispanic	26	44	20.7	43	22.0	34	13.9	28	13.5	149	17.4
Hispanic	102	144	30.6	147	30.9	160	31.1	177	33.6	628	31.6
Race/Ethnicity and Sex											
Black Non-Hispanic Females	184	242	31.9	268	34.9	285	36.4	264	33.1	1,059	34.1
Black Non-Hispanic Males	458	578	81.2	686	96.8	736	102.8	724	100.3	2,724	95.3
White Non-Hispanic Females	1,051	1,313	30.9	1,258	29.6	1,216	28.7	1,038	24.2	4,825	28.4
White Non-Hispanic Males	2,189	2,667	62.3	2,747	64.3	2,446	56.5	2,203	50.8	10,063	58.5
Hispanic Females	17	28	11.7	27	11.8	31	13.0	37	14.7	123	12.9
Hispanic Males	85	116	48.2	120	48.6	129	47.9	140	50.7	505	48.8
Total Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths[2]	**4,028**	**5,017**	**45.0**	**5,174**	**46.3**	**4,915**	**43.5**	**4,452**	**39.0**	**19,558**	**43.5**

This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers.

1. The death rates presented for age groups are age-specific. The death rates presented for sex and race/ethnicity are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

2. Total includes all unintentional drug overdose deaths among Ohio residents.

Figure 22. Average Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County, Ohio, 2020-2023
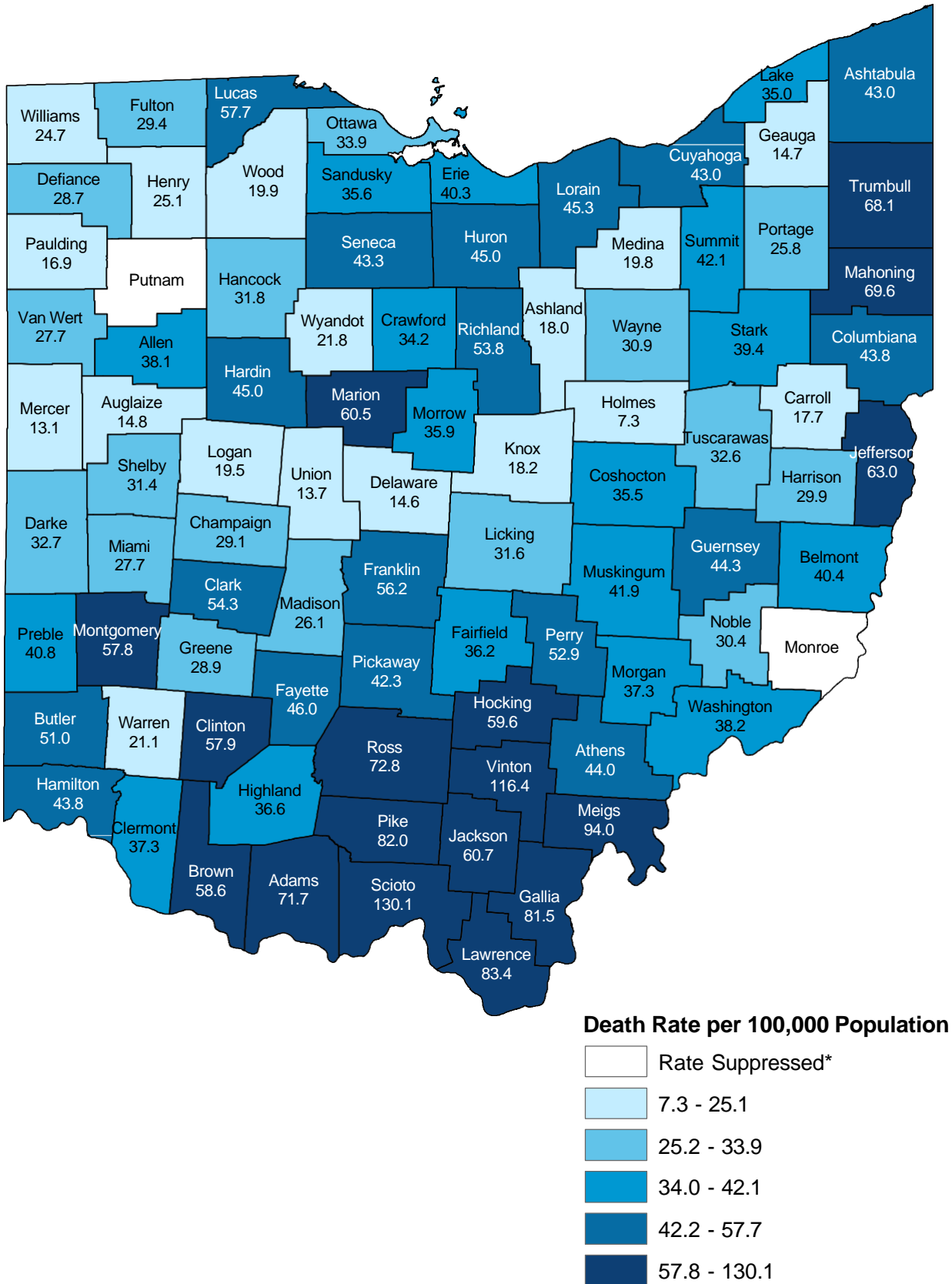
Death Rate per 100,000 Population

☐	Rate Suppressed*
☐	7.3 - 25.1
☐	25.2 - 33.9
☐	34.0 - 42.1
☐	42.2 - 57.7
☐	57.8 - 130.1

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44). County is determined by county of residence. *Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

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Demographics: County

Table 8. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County, Ohio, 2014-2023

County[1]	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Rate[2]	2020-2023 Rate[2]
Ohio	**2,531**	**3,050**	**4,050**	**4,854**	**3,764**	**4,028**	**5,017**	**5,174**	**4,915**	**4,452**	**39.0**	**43.5**
Adams	10	12	12	14	11	12	15	16	17	17	78.3	71.7
Allen	12	18	31	39	15	12	31	31	47	30	32.5	38.1
Ashland	3	6	3	3	4	3	11	5	4	11	26.4	18.0
Ashtabula	27	21	39	26	22	32	41	37	35	41	43.4	43.0
Athens	8	8	6	6	5	9	17	28	26	21	40.8	44.0
Auglaize	2	9	4	6	1	5	3	8	7	4	.	14.8
Belmont	14	18	20	18	18	18	28	19	27	26	40.5	40.4
Brown	17	23	18	31	26	14	20	30	23	25	57.3	58.6
Butler	151	195	211	260	176	169	204	190	199	145	39.6	51.0
Carroll	3	5	3	6	4	3	8	0	4	5	.	17.7
Champaign	11	6	10	17	10	8	16	12	6	7	.	29.1
Clark	38	71	73	96	72	56	55	81	69	55	44.2	54.3
Clermont	80	105	96	91	78	81	76	89	72	58	29.2	37.3
Clinton	13	20	12	30	13	18	23	22	20	19	56.2	57.9
Columbiana	19	30	39	48	35	40	46	45	31	40	42.5	43.8
Coshocton	2	3	4	6	7	6	15	12	7	10	34.6	35.5
Crawford	9	10	8	17	14	11	16	9	9	13	36.5	34.2
Cuyahoga	255	275	547	598	443	477	484	574	554	550	43.1	43.0
Darke	11	13	19	28	18	10	19	16	16	9	.	32.7
Defiance	7	7	6	3	6	7	10	12	10	6	.	28.7
Delaware	12	12	11	28	28	26	29	39	30	22	10.2	14.6
Erie	17	23	37	32	25	16	34	21	27	19	29.7	40.3
Fairfield	15	16	23	43	25	28	54	60	58	51	31.6	36.2
Fayette	12	16	7	26	8	11	12	12	16	7	.	46.0
Franklin	196	279	314	431	476	547	803	786	753	701	51.6	56.2
Fulton	5	6	10	3	7	4	14	8	10	10	29.4	29.4
Gallia	6	9	11	18	17	19	29	19	20	16	65.4	81.5
Geauga	11	15	24	25	12	20	10	15	9	12	16.7	14.7
Greene	40	43	44	63	49	40	43	51	47	42	25.7	28.9
Guernsey	9	9	13	10	8	10	15	16	14	15	45.7	44.3
Hamilton	248	335	318	444	357	353	366	394	333	310	38.7	43.8
Hancock	11	13	19	32	23	15	21	23	29	16	22.6	31.8
Hardin	1	8	7	9	5	9	9	19	11	7	.	45.0
Harrison	2	4	1	5	4	0	3	3	4	4	.	29.9
Henry	2	6	5	3	10	5	5	6	4	8	.	25.1

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).
1. County is determined by county of residence.
2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

Demographics: County

Table 8. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County, Ohio, 2014-2023

County[1]	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Rate[2]	2020-2023 Rate[2]
Ohio	**2,531**	**3,050**	**4,050**	**4,854**	**3,764**	**4,028**	**5,017**	**5,174**	**4,915**	**4,452**	**39.0**	**43.5**
Highland	12	9	6	13	5	13	14	18	20	6	.	36.6
Hocking	4	3	5	8	11	5	4	18	17	17	70.4	59.6
Holmes	0	0	4	2	4	1	3	2	2	4	.	7.3
Huron	17	10	16	27	16	23	34	24	17	16	30.0	45.0
Jackson	8	9	7	10	13	8	15	22	19	19	62.1	60.7
Jefferson	21	16	14	28	27	24	28	35	43	29	53.4	63.0
Knox	8	7	8	15	4	9	8	13	6	13	24.3	18.2
Lake	53	50	94	91	71	75	89	73	87	53	23.5	35.0
Lawrence	8	23	27	32	30	23	37	64	39	34	66.0	83.4
Licking	23	29	18	41	40	40	55	63	58	40	23.0	31.6
Logan	4	8	14	15	10	12	11	4	13	6	.	19.5
Lorain	71	63	146	133	101	106	140	144	126	119	40.1	45.3
Lucas	115	118	157	153	166	224	259	230	225	227	55.3	57.7
Madison	7	7	15	20	6	18	10	15	12	11	23.9	26.1
Mahoning	48	60	83	112	98	101	131	149	149	141	65.7	69.6
Marion	27	22	24	30	29	30	39	32	38	44	68.3	60.5
Medina	17	27	41	42	35	21	38	38	25	27	17.1	19.8
Meigs	4	3	9	4	14	9	19	19	22	12	63.3	94.0
Mercer	5	3	5	7	2	1	6	3	4	6	.	13.1
Miami	19	17	39	41	28	23	37	22	23	25	26.4	27.7
Monroe	4	1	1	2	5	1	2	4	1	0	.	.
Montgomery	251	239	320	521	275	266	309	304	284	270	54.0	57.8
Morgan	4	0	4	2	4	1	7	1	4	5	.	37.3
Morrow	6	3	6	11	7	13	16	12	10	7	.	35.9
Muskingum	5	13	7	21	35	33	41	35	30	23	31.1	41.9
Noble	0	5	1	1	4	1	2	4	5	1	.	30.4
Ottawa	3	5	14	7	13	7	11	12	13	6	.	33.9
Paulding	3	0	0	3	3	1	2	2	4	3	.	16.9
Perry	4	7	6	6	13	11	17	22	13	15	45.5	52.9
Pickaway	8	10	6	17	20	21	31	20	31	19	30.3	42.3
Pike	5	11	7	13	14	14	21	18	21	18	73.6	82.0
Portage	30	36	46	39	28	32	35	45	38	29	18.7	25.8
Preble	8	15	21	29	11	13	17	13	17	13	32.9	40.8
Putnam	3	4	4	3	3	1	2	2	2	1	.	.
Richland	31	36	68	49	51	54	62	82	64	39	32.0	53.8

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).
1. County is determined by county of residence.
2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

Demographics: County

Table 8. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County, Ohio, 2014-2023

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Ross	29	38	40	29	37	37	55	55	61	49	66.5	72.8
Sandusky	13	12	22	23	17	17	11	24	23	18	32.4	35.6
Scioto	23	30	35	51	47	81	106	80	87	81	117.9	130.1
Seneca	11	9	5	19	13	10	26	20	18	17	34.2	43.3
Shelby	7	8	15	21	10	14	17	13	9	13	29.5	31.4
Stark	59	59	97	91	74	101	119	142	143	156	43.2	39.4
Summit	118	173	298	239	128	201	217	213	230	216	40.9	42.1
Trumbull	54	89	111	135	79	99	126	120	119	124	67.3	68.1
Tuscarawas	6	8	14	22	10	14	28	29	23	23	29.7	32.6
Union	6	5	7	10	9	13	12	8	10	7	.	13.7
Van Wert	4	1	8	8	4	5	7	5	11	4	.	27.7
Vinton	3	1	2	2	4	2	10	14	18	10	90.6	116.4
Warren	40	42	58	81	40	45	56	64	45	34	14.2	21.1
Washington	12	8	20	14	13	8	16	18	26	17	33.5	38.2
Wayne	13	24	36	20	18	20	29	40	33	20	20.9	30.9
Williams	2	1	9	4	8	5	8	9	5	10	32.8	24.7
Wood	16	22	21	17	14	25	28	31	16	17	14.2	19.9
Wyandot	0	2	4	3	7	2	5	8	1	1	.	21.8

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).

1. County is determined by county of residence.

2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

Note:
Coroners have up to six months to complete death investigations. Due to reporting timelines and the processing of Ohio mortality records by ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, Ohio mortality data for 2023 was finalized Sept. 30, 2024.