

CRAWFORD COUNTY
DRUG OVERDOSE
FATALITY REVIEW

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

JULY 2023

#TOGETHERSTOPSTIGMA



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER
THAN ADDICTION.

#TogetherStopStigma 

CRAWFORD COUNTY
**PREVENTION
COALITION**
For a safe and healthy Crawford County.




CRAWFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

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Youth Rally, Schines Art Park, 2022



ABOUT OFR:

The purpose of the Suicide and Drug Overdose Fatality Review (SOFR) is to review and share information about both suicide and unintentional drug overdose deaths to gain a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding these deaths.

The objective of the SOFR is to identify possible trends and develop local recommendations based on information collected through the SOFR process to prevent future suicide and drug overdose deaths.

The SOFR team meets quarterly, either virtually or in-person. Current SOFR membership includes:

- Bucyrus City Fire/EMS
- Crawford County Coroner's Office
- Crawford County Prosecutor's Office
- Crawford County Public Health
- Crawford County Sheriff
- Crawford-Marion ADAMH Board
- Marion-Crawford Prevention Programs
- Wise Funeral Home

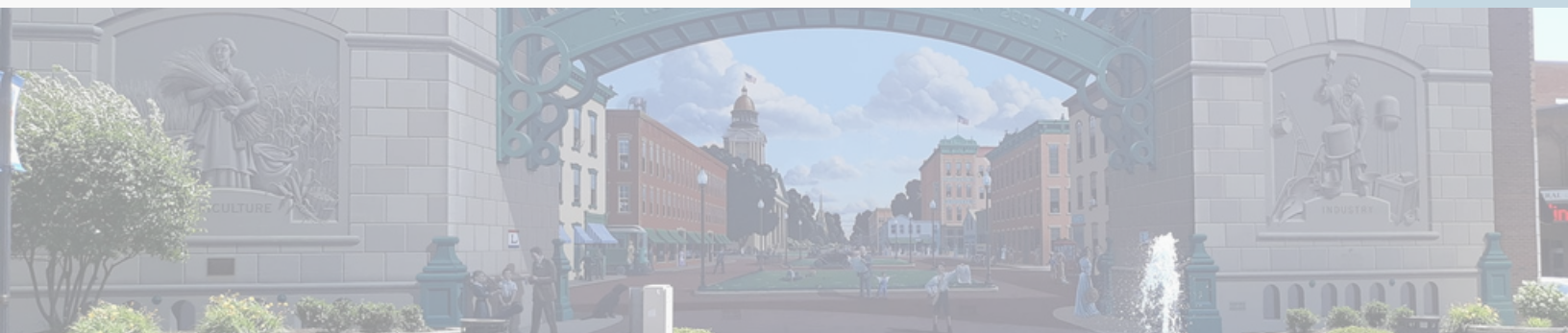
Sources of data include Death Certificates, Coroner/Medical Examiner Reports, Toxicology Reports, Police/Sheriff Reports, Obituaries, News, Social Media, Court Records, Medical Records, Mental Health Records and other treatment information, and EMS Reports.

HIPAA regulations prevent access to or exchange of some protected health information. All SOFR participants are required to maintain confidentiality of information obtained throughout the process. Obtaining autopsy and toxicology reports from deaths that occur out of county is often difficult.



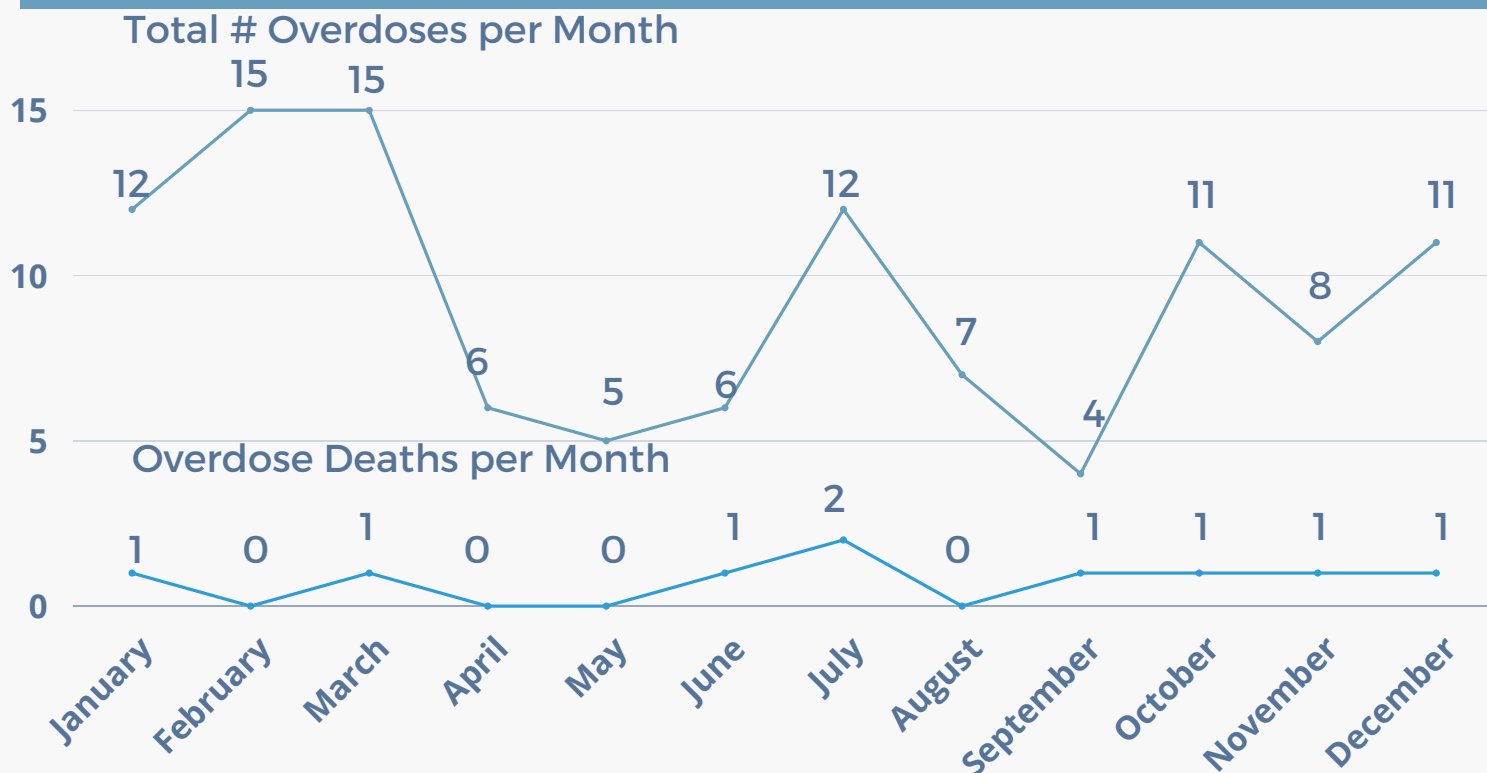
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- In 2022, the total number of unintentional drug overdoses reported was 112 with 9 unintentional drug overdose deaths (4 males and 5 females).
- Six of the decedents lived within the 44820 (Bucyrus area) zip code, two from 44833 (Galion area) and one from 44818 (Bloomville area).
- Ages of decedents ranged from 23 to 57 years. The average age of decedent was 38 years.
- There were at least 8 children under the age of 18 years that lost a parent to drug overdose during 2022.
- Home or a friend/family member's home was identified as the most frequent location of the overdose (8 instances) with the remaining case occurring at an out of county hotel room.
- Fentanyl was listed in the toxicology reports for all 9 of the fatal overdoses (100%).
- None of the decedents were married at time of death, five had never married, three were divorced and one was widowed.
- The highest education level obtained for any of decedents was some college credit, but no degree for one case. Seven of the decedents had a high school diploma or GED, and one case had attended 9th through 12th grade but not a diploma.
- None of the decedents were in the military or a veteran.
- All nine decedents had law enforcement history, with all of them having at least 5 years of history and two having a known juvenile record. Five of the nine cases had been involved with law enforcement before they reached age 21.
- Six of the nine decedents had known history of a previous overdose in which first responders were called.





2022 NON-FATAL OVERDOSES & DEATHS PER MONTH



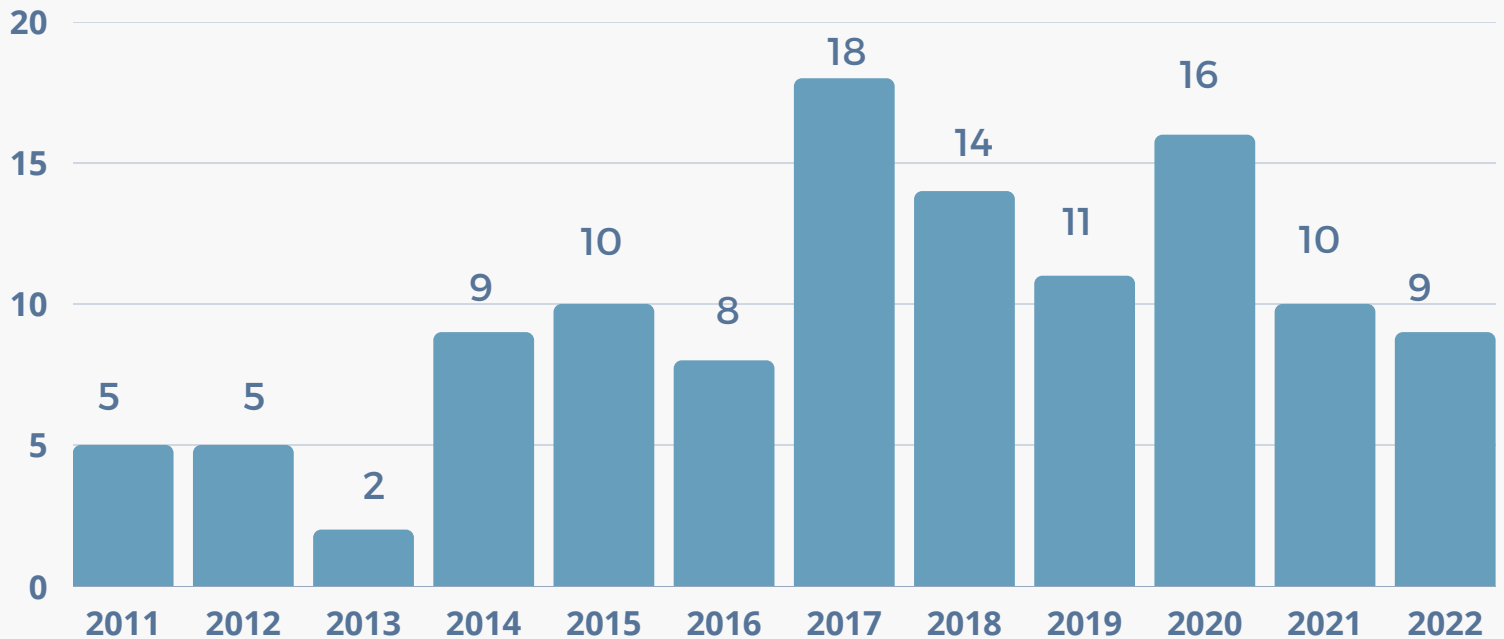
| 2022 | Overdoses | Deaths | Opioid Deaths |
|-----------|-----------|--------|---------------|
| January | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| February | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 15 | 1 | 1 |
| April | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| July | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| August | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| September | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| October | 11 | 1 | 1 |
| November | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| December | 11 | 1 | 1 |

Data was extracted from EpiCenter surveillance system that classified the chief complaint in real-time. This surveillance data captured Crawford County residents that presented to an ER or Urgent Care Center anywhere in Ohio.

Mortality data is provided by the Ohio Department of Health from the Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse. The Department of Health specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.



2011 - 2022 NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS



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2022 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AGES



Minimum Age Males: 23
Maximum Age Males: 52
Average Age Males: 36

Males: 4
Females: 5

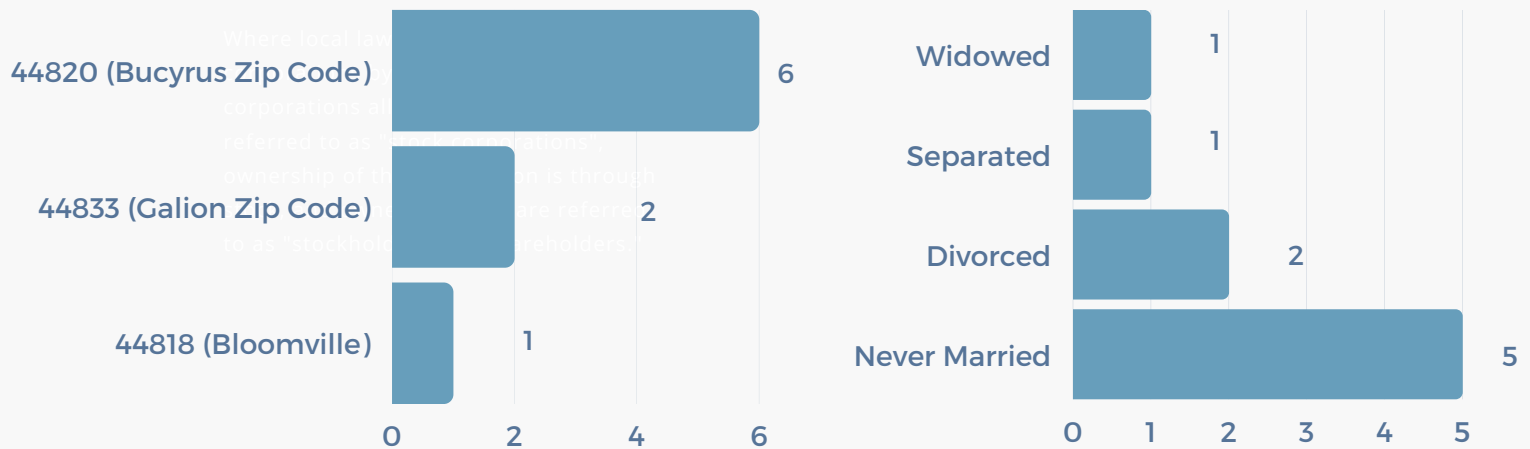
Overall Minimum Age: 23
Overall Maximum Age: 57
Overall Average Age: 38



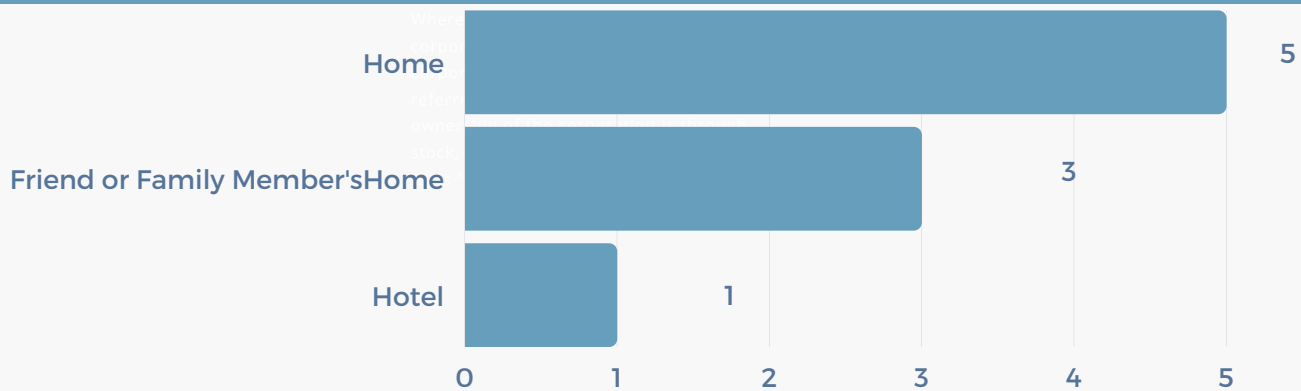
Minimum Age Females: 24
Maximum Age Females: 57
Average Age Females: 40



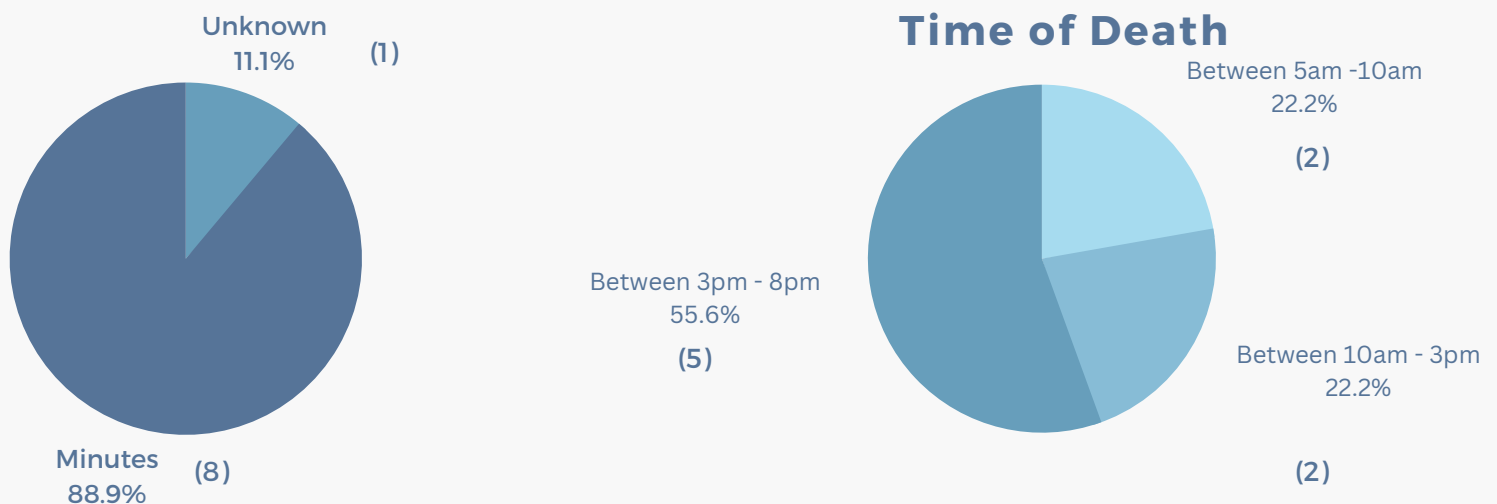
RESIDENCY & MARITAL STATUS



LOCATION OF OVERDOSE



INTERVAL OF TIME BETWEEN OVERDOSE & DEATH



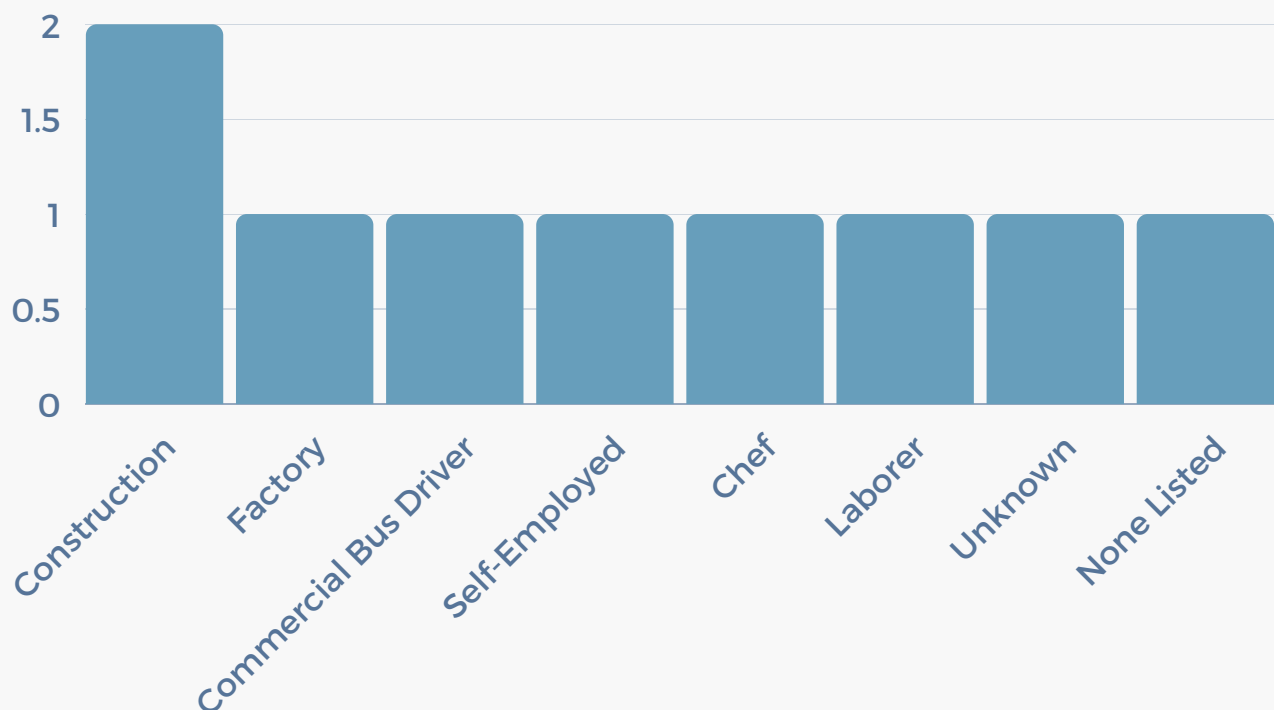


EDUCATION

Seven (7) of the decedents had graduated high school or held a GED. One (1) had some college credit but no degree. One (1) of the decedents had attended high school but did not have a diploma.

Studies have long shown that higher levels of education strongly correlate with an overall increase in health.

OCCUPATION





CRIMINAL HISTORY

All of the decedents had a history with law enforcement. The least amount of prior involvement with law enforcement was 5 years and the longest was 25 years. The average number of years of law enforcement history was 16 years.

KNOWN INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT BEFORE AGE 21

5 OUT OF 9

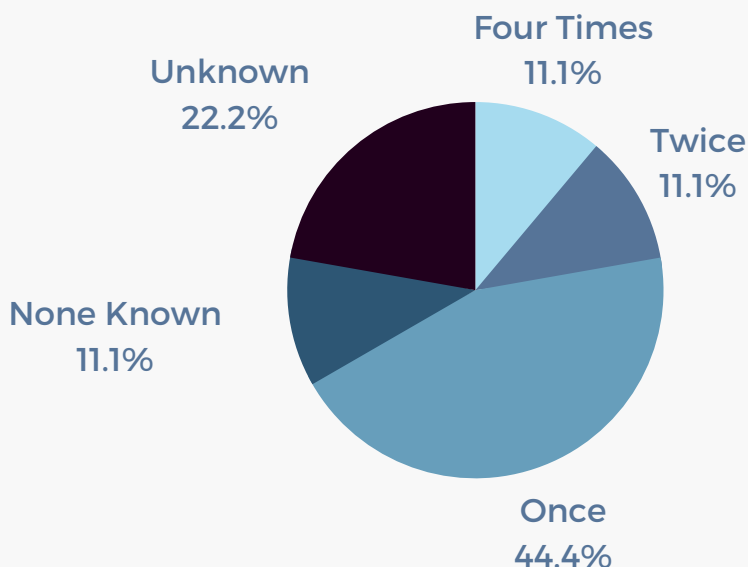
RELEASED FROM JAIL WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF DEATH

5 OUT OF 9

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRIOR INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

5 TO 25

HISTORY OF PRIOR NON-FATAL OVERDOSE



Six of the decedents (67%) had a known history of non-fatal drug overdose in which first responders were called to the scene. One of the decedents had records of four prior non-fatal drug overdose events with calls made to first responders.

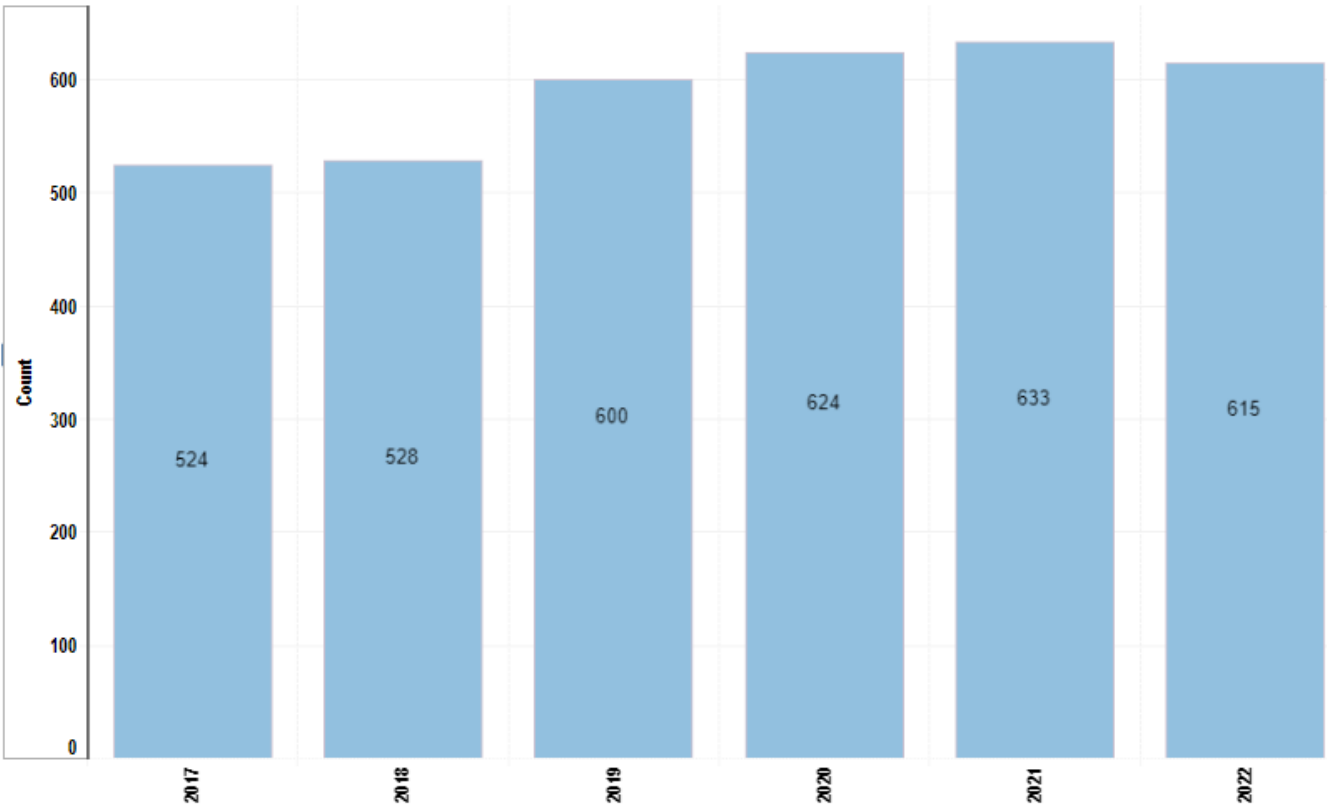


RESIDENTS RECEIVING BUPRENORPHINE

Buprenorphine is a prescription opioid medication used to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) as part of a comprehensive treatment plan. Buprenorphine diminishes withdrawal symptoms and cravings and blocks the ability for many other drugs (like heroin) to have an effect. This chart shows the number of Crawford County residents receiving buprenorphine as Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) or Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

State of Ohio Integrated Behavioral Health Dashboard

Individuals receiving buprenorphine as MOUD/MAT

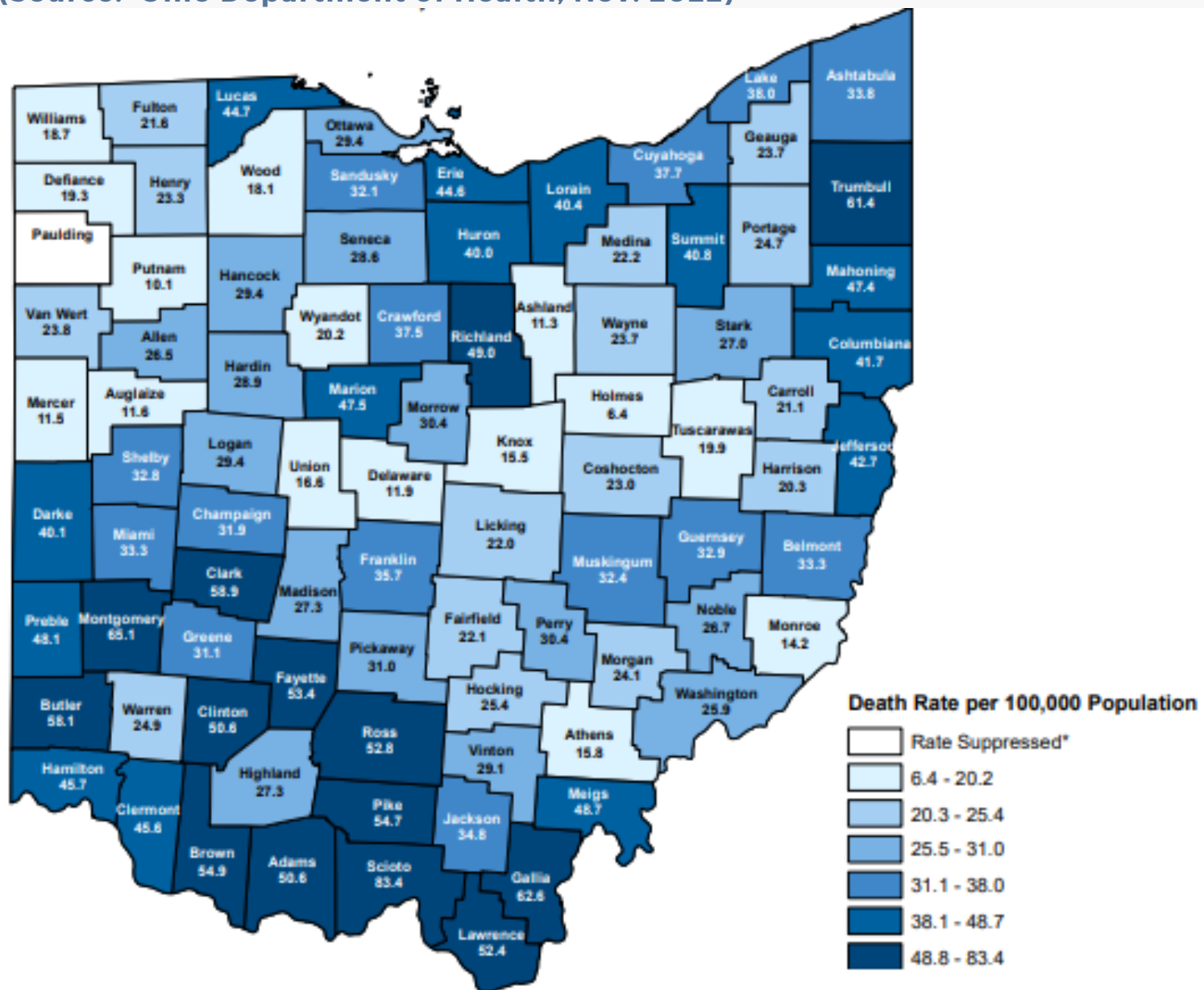


Measure Description: County residents receiving buprenorphine for treatment of OUD
Data source: OARRS/Rxs Reported to Drug Monitoring Program | **Values suppressed** are: counts 1-4
Reporting Lag: 1 month | **Stability Lag:** 3 months
First reported: January 2017 | **Last reported:** December 2022 | **Last updated:** January 2023
County: Crawford | **Measure number:** 2.5.1 | **Age range:** 18+
Notes: Buprenorphine products directly purchased for administration in practitioner offices (i.e., that are not first dispensed by pharmacies) are not captured in OARRS data.



OHIO AVERAGE RATE OF UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY (2015-2020)

From 2019 to 2020, the Ohio overdose death rate increased to 45.6 deaths per 100,000 population. 2020 surpassed 2017 as the highest year for unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio, 5017 deaths. (Source: Ohio Department of Health, Nov. 2022)





WORDS MATTER

Language can impact the stigma associated with addiction and substance use. Our choice of words can help or harm people with stigmatized conditions, including substance use disorder (SUD). Person-first language places emphasis on people rather than their diagnosis or condition. Here are some examples of how you can apply person-first language:

| Say This..... | Not That..... | Because..... |
|---|--|--|
| Substance use, substance use disorder, risky use, unhealthy substance use | Substance abuse, drug habit | The word "abuse" is associated with child abuse, domestic abuse and criminalizes a treatable health condition. |
| Person with a substance use disorder or challenge | Addict, junkie, user, alcoholic, drunk | Person-first language demonstrates the person has a health condition. The other terms elicit negative ideas and perpetuate stigma. |
| Person in recovery, person in long-term recovery | Former addict | Person-first language demonstrates the person has a health condition. The other terms elicit negative ideas and perpetuate stigma. |
| Testing positive for substance use | Dirty | Dirty/clean is associated with filth, not a medical condition. |

NEXT STEPS

Substance use prevention is an important component of any community. Overdose death is preventable. Informing individuals of the dangers of substance use, prevention techniques, and where to find treatment and recovery supports are necessary to reduce drug use in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

NOTED TRENDS

Upon reviewing the 2022 unintentional drug overdose deaths, the SOFR team noted the following:

- **Fentanyl was listed as the cause of death for 100% of the cases.**
- **All of the cases had a history of interactions with law enforcement.**
- Four of the reviews indicated the individual had been referred for mental health treatment previously.
- Eight Crawford County children under the age of 18 lost a parent to unintentional drug overdose in 2022.
- Home was the most common location of an unintentional drug overdose death.
- Two of the cases had information indicating CPR and naloxone had been administered upon EMS arriving. Two other cases had reports indicating it was too late to administer by the time the decedent was found by a friend/family member.



NEXT STEPS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The SOFR team discussed the following recommendations for the Crawford County community:

- **Continue distribution of naloxone** and encourage individuals who are personally at risk and their family/friends to carry naloxone. Provide anyone who has an encounter with EMS, Law Enforcement, or a medical facility for an overdose naloxone for the home. Distributing naloxone is recognized as one of the top strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic.
- **Increase awareness and education** on the risks of exposure to fentanyl.
- **Expand treatment services** available locally within Crawford County.
- **Increase community education** on recognizing the signs of substance use and empower friends/family members to engage conversations.
- **Reduce stigma** towards getting treatment and increase messaging on treatment options available.
- **Explore diversion/deflection programs** to use specialized courts to offer criminal offenders with SUD an alternative to adjudication or incarceration.
- **Research feasibility of initiating a syringe services program** that includes treatment and referral services at the site(s).



CONSIDERATIONS

The Healthy People 2030 target for the United States is to reduce the drug overdose death rate from 28.3 deaths per 100,000 population to 20.7 per 100,000 population. Ohio's drug overdose death rate is currently 38 and Crawford County is 32 deaths per 100,000 populations. (County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2023)

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine (CDC, 2022). It is often mixed with other drugs (heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, etc.) to increase the effects. It is highly recommended that all persons with SUD and the family/friends of people that have SUD carry naloxone. When fentanyl is listed as cause of death, the death is often listed as occurring within minutes.

A highly rated evidence-based strategy involves use of Drug Courts or Diversion Programs that are specialized courts that offer criminal offenders an alternative to incarceration.

Offenders are highly supervised, are required to participate in drug testing and treatment, and are imposed with sanctions for failed drug tests or program non-compliance. Evidence has found reduced recidivism and reduced drug use in communities with a drug court. The research indicates that programs that limit participation to nonviolent offenders, include longer treatment periods, require community service, and involve restitution but not fines tend to have better outcomes. (Drug Court Effectiveness and Efficiency: Findings for Virginia, 2016)

Syringe services programs (SSP) provide sterile injection equipment free of cost to people who inject drugs (PWID) and promote safe disposal of used equipment. SSPs often provide PWID with support services, education on risks, naloxone, infectious disease testing and referrals and links to treatment services. Benefits for the community include reduced HIV and bloodborne pathogens, increased treatment rates, improved neighborhood safety and reduced overdose deaths. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2023)





WHO CAN HELP PREVENT OVERDOSE?

- People who use drugs
- Friends/family members of people who use drugs
- Local community leaders
- Faith-based organizations
- School staff
- Coaches
- Substance use treatment providers
- Social services agencies
- Anyone! You!



Help us bring overdose prevention conversations and services to your neighborhood.



Visit the Crawford County Prevention Coalition Facebook page for local meeting information and updates. Or call (740)914-6444 to learn more on how you can get involved.

Other Resources:

**Pathways of Central Ohio
Contact Crawford County
Crisis Text Line**

**800-544-1601
419-562-9010 or 419-468-9081
text 4HOPE to 741741**