

CRAWFORD COUNTY DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MARCH 2024

#TOGETHERSTOPSTIGMA



TOGETHER WE ARE **STRONGER**
THAN ADDICTION.

#TogetherStopStigma 



For a safe and healthy Crawford County.



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Save The Date
AMPLIFIED

Expressions of our Journey

CRAWFORD COUNTY
**PREVENTION
COALITION**



For a safe and healthy Crawford County

Date: **Saturday, August 10th, 2024**

Time: **5:00 - 8:00 PM**

Place: **GALION COMMUNITY THEATRE**

Join us as we **AMPLIFY** voices
of individuals in recovery
through artistic

Expressions.

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. All Crawford County resident deaths by suicide and unintentional drug overdose are reviewed by the SOFR.

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 interacts quarterly, either in person or virtually.

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
- Wise Funeral Home

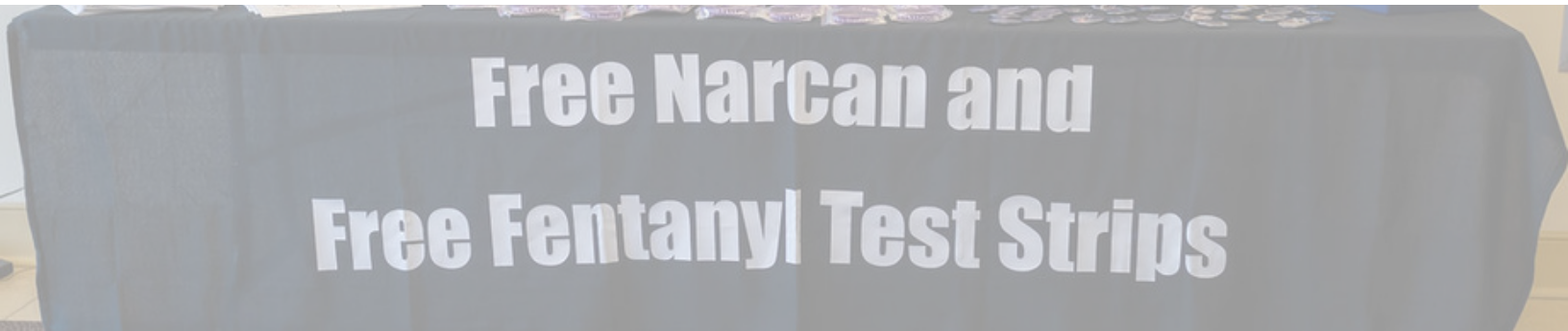
Sources of data include Death Certificates, Coroner/Medical Examiner Reports, Toxicology Reports, Police/Sheriff Reports, Obituaries, News, Social Media, Court Records, Medical Records, Mental Health Records and other treatment information, and EMS Reports.

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

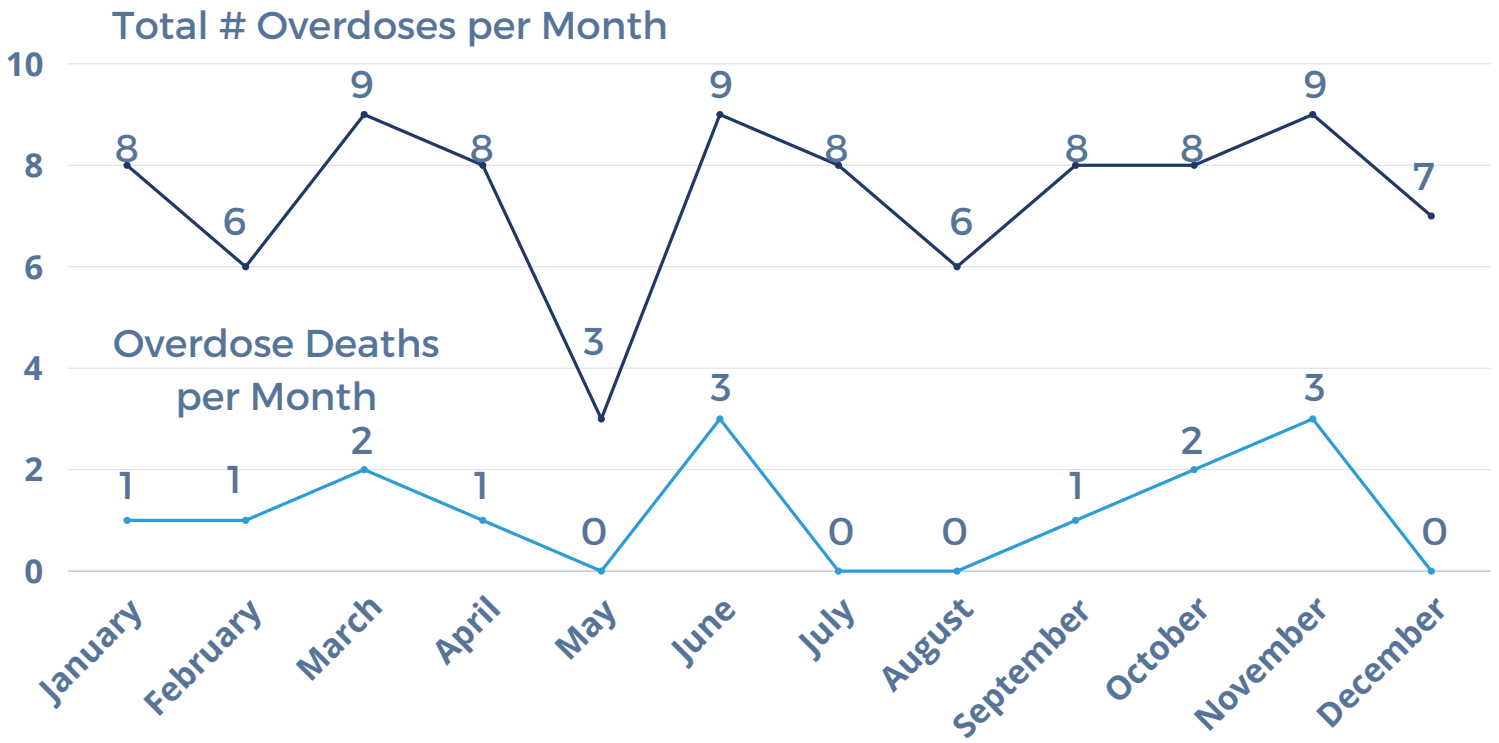
- In 2023, the total number of unintentional drug overdoses reported was 89, with 14 unintentional drug overdose deaths (8 males and 6 females).
- Six of the decedents lived within the 44820 (Bucyrus area) zip code, four from 44833 (Galion area), two from 44827 (Crestline area) and two from 44887 (Tiro area).
- Ages of decedents ranged from 22 to 64 years. The average age of decedent was 42 years.
- There were at least 7 children under the age of 18 years that lost a parent to drug overdose during 2023.
- Home was identified as the most frequent location of the overdose (11 instances) with the remaining cases occurring at either a residential setting that was not their own home (2 instances) or in a public area/street (1 instance).
- Fentanyl was listed in the toxicology reports for 12 of the fatal overdoses (86%).
- Four decedents were married, eight had never married, one was divorced and one was married but separated at time of death.
- The highest education level obtained for any of decedents was some college credit, but no degree for two individuals. Seven of the decedents had a high school diploma or GED, four had attended 9th through 12th grade but did not hold a diploma. One individual had an associate degree.
- None of the decedents were in the military or a veteran.
- Eleven of the decedents had law enforcement history.
- 50% of the decedents had known history of a previous overdose in which first responders were called. One had a history of at least 13 past incidents of contact with law enforcement regarding either overdose, using illegal substances or being in possession or selling illegal substances.

A dark grey banner with white text is positioned at the bottom of the page. The text reads "Free Narcan and Free Fentanyl Test Strips".

**Free Narcan and
Free Fentanyl Test Strips**



2022 NON-FATAL OVERDOSES & DEATHS PER MONTH



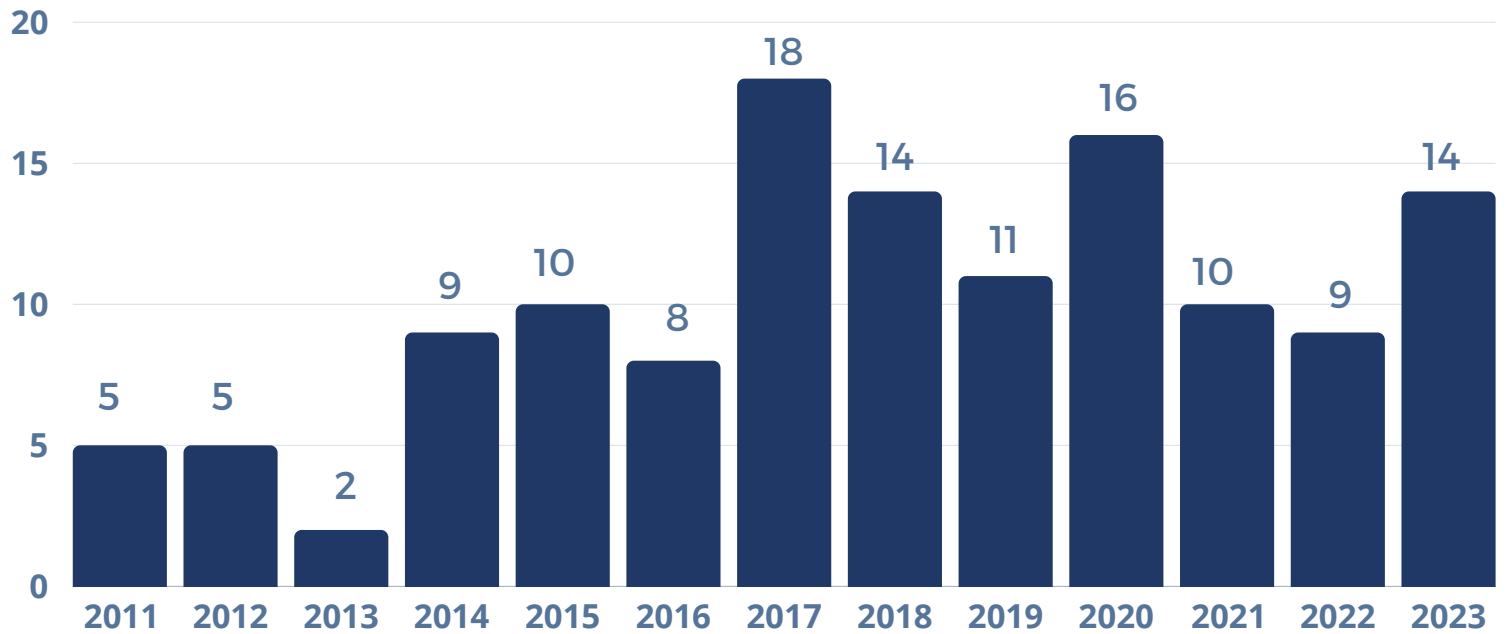
2023	Overdoses	Deaths	Opioid Deaths
January	8	1	1
February	6	1	1
March	9	2	2
April	8	1	1
May	3	0	0
June	9	3	2
July	8	0	0
August	6	0	0
September	8	1	1
October	8	2	2
November	9	3	2
December	7	0	0

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 - 2023 NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS



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2023 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AGES



Minimum Age Males: 22
Maximum Age Males: 50
Average Age Males: 38

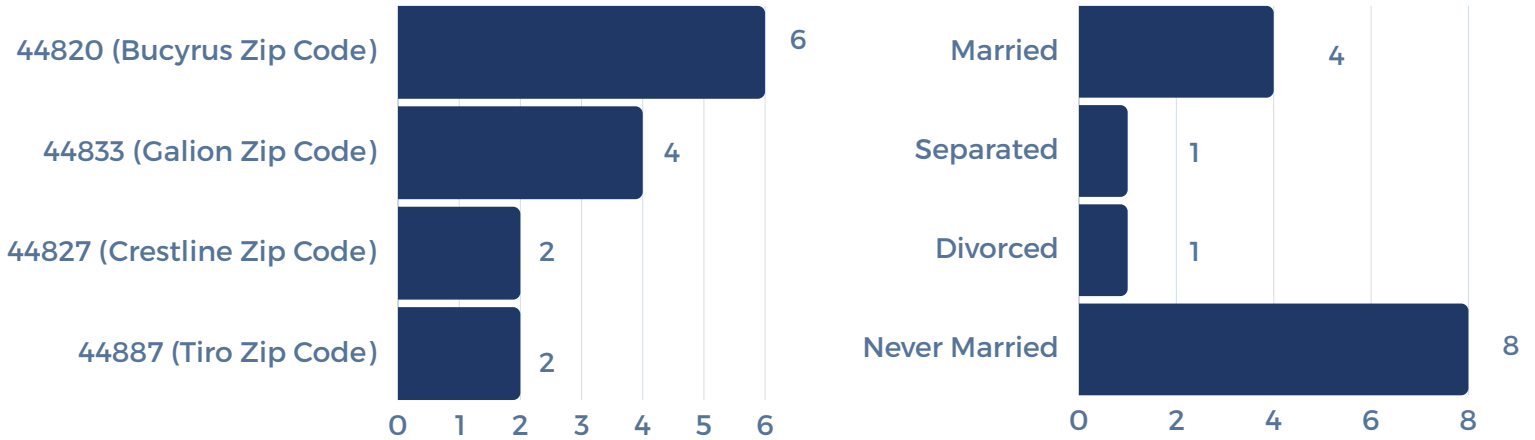
Males: 8
Females: 6

Overall Minimum Age: 22
Overall Maximum Age: 64
Overall Average Age: 42

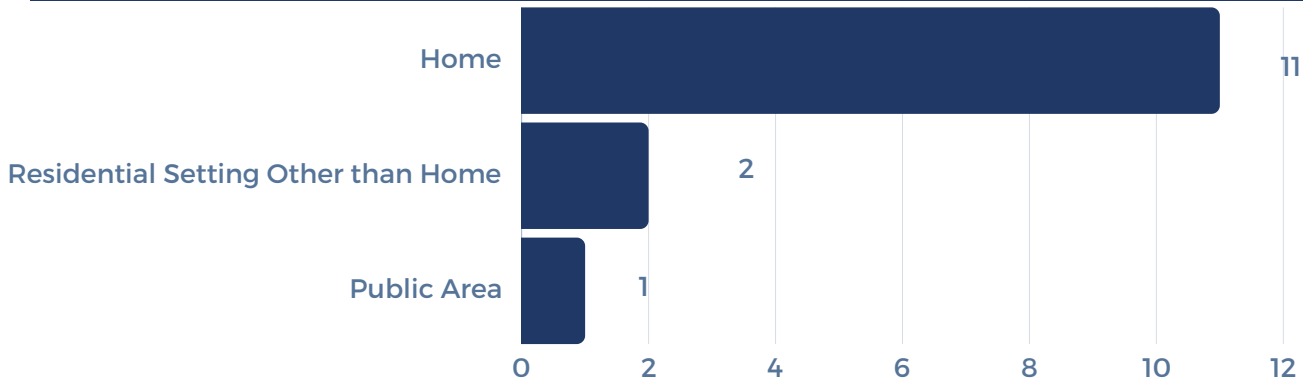


Minimum Age Females: 29
Maximum Age Females: 64
Average Age Females: 48

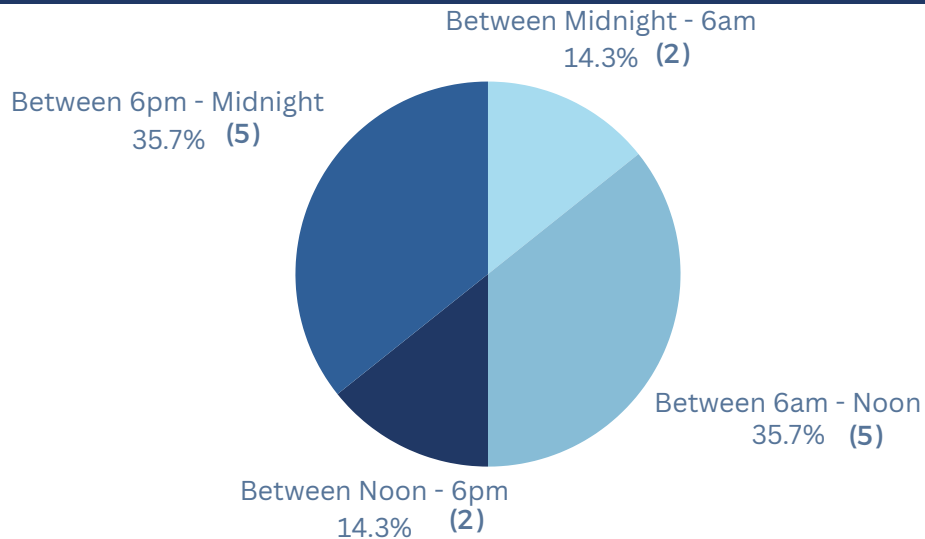
RESIDENCY & RELATIONSHIP STATUS



LOCATION OF OVERDOSE



TIME OF DEATH



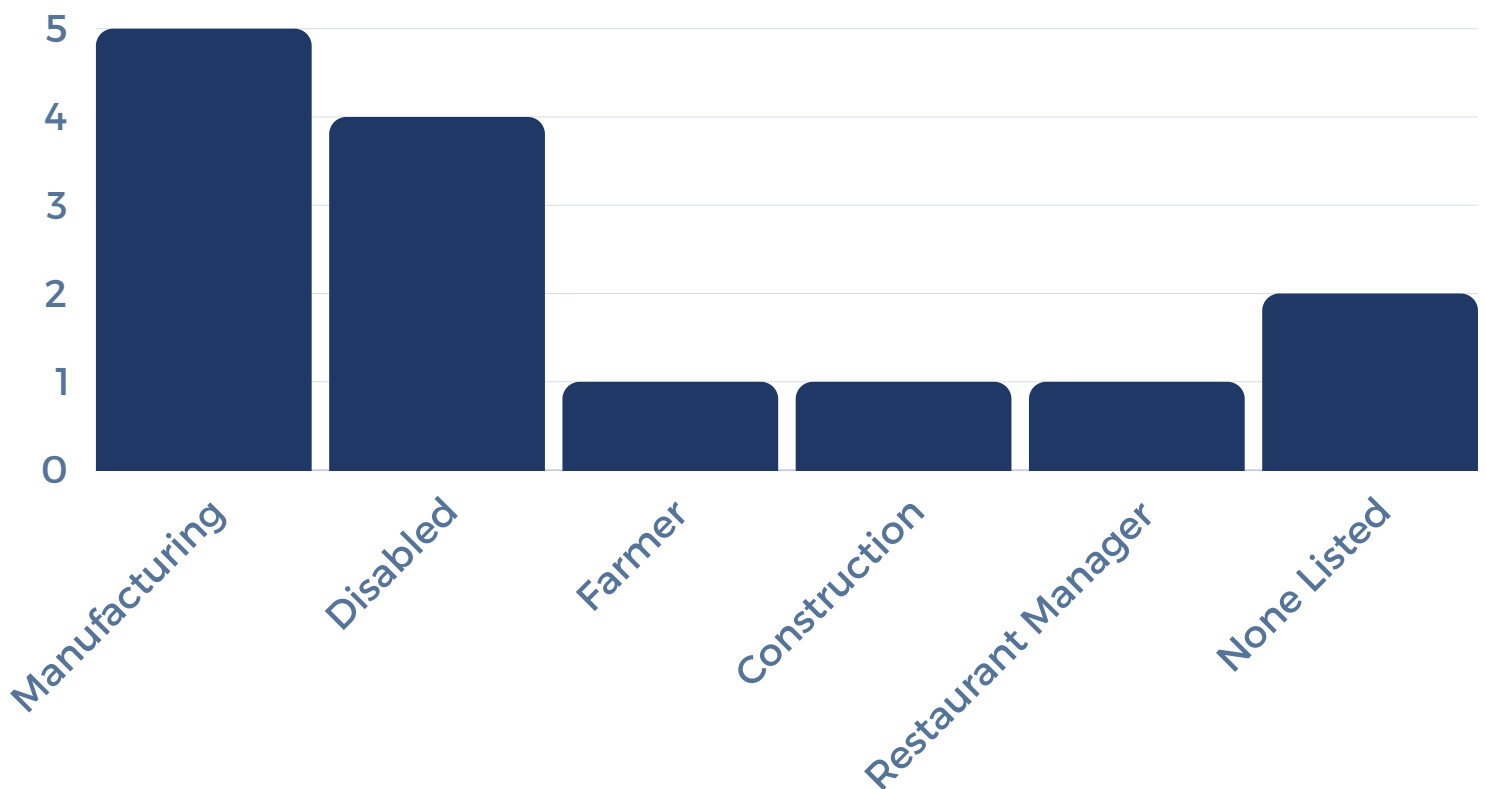


EDUCATION

Seven (7) of the decedents had graduated high school or held a GED. One (1) had an associate degree and two (2) had some college credit but no degree. Four (4) 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

11 out of 14 of the decedents had a history with law enforcement. Of those 11, the least amount of prior involvement with law enforcement was 5 years and the longest was 21 years. The average number of years of law enforcement history was 16 years.

KNOWN INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

11 OUT OF 14

RELEASED FROM JAIL WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF DEATH

2 OUT OF 14

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRIOR INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

5 TO 21

DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOUND AT SCENE

Credit Card

Foil Envelope

Cut Straw

Baggie of Powder

Glass Dinner Plate

Paper Bindle

Syringe

Red Plastic Caps

Cotton Swab with Residue

Bowls

Pipes

Grinders

Joint Wraps

Roaches

Shoe String

Rolled Five Dollar Bills

Digital Scall

Empty Cellophane

Wrappers

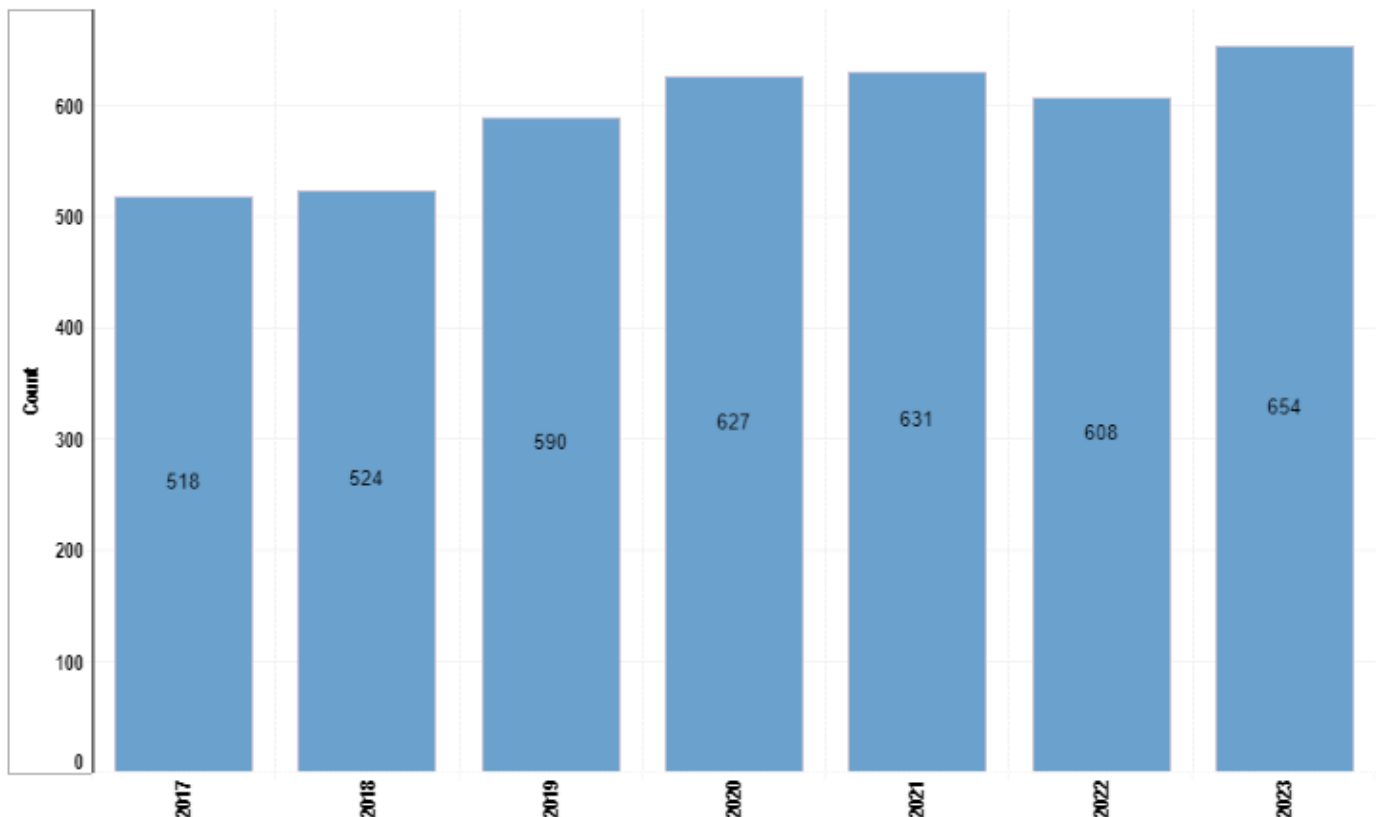


RESIDENTS RECEIVING BUPRENORPHINE 2017-2023

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:Rx's 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:** January 2024 | **Last updated:** January 2024

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. Values of this measure reported for multiple counties are sums of non-suppressed county-level values.



OHIO'S GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

In 2016, Ohio passed legislation with the intent to make it easier for people at risk of opioid overdose to gain access to naloxone and to encourage people who witness an overdose to summon emergency assistance. The Good Samaritan Law grants immunity from being arrested, charged, prosecuted, or convicted for a minor drug possession offense if they are acting in good faith to seek or obtain medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose or if they are the person experiencing a drug overdose. The person that experiences the overdose must seek treatment within 30 days after seeking emergency assistance to maintain protection by the Good Samaritan Law.

Studies have shown that states with Good Samaritan Laws containing protections from arrest are associated with lower overdose mortality rates. People know they can call 911 to seek help for an overdose without worrying it will result in an arrest for a minor drug possession/paraphernalia offense. However, one of the individuals in this report is a decedent that had received first responder assistance for an overdose on one day, was under the immunity of arrest for the next 30 days due to Ohio's Good Samaritan Law, but then the next day the first responders were called back to the home for a fatal overdose. The first responders on the fatality review team commented this is not an isolated incidence of returning to the same home for someone "under immunity." The first responders recommend considerations of putting measures in place to require a more immediate referral for treatment for the individuals that overdose instead of a 30 day immunity.



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 2023 unintentional drug overdose deaths, the SOFR team noted the following:

- **Fentanyl was listed as the cause of death for 86% of the cases.**
- **Eleven out of fourteen of the cases had history with law enforcement.**
- At least seven Crawford County children under the age of 18 lost a parent to unintentional drug overdose in 2023.
- Home was the most common location of an unintentional drug overdose death.
- 50% of the decedents had known history of a previous overdose in which first responders were called. One had a history of at least 13 past incidents of contact with law enforcement regarding either overdose, using illegal substances or being in possession or selling illegal substances.
- Two of the cases had recently been released from jail and two had recently been released from a treatment center - most likely resulting in lowered tolerances.



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 and to have it at home. Distributing naloxone is recognized as one of the top strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic.
- **Support Quick Response Team (QRT)** efforts to interact with those recently known to have overdosed to provide support and access to resources.
- **Increase awareness and education** on the risks of exposure to fentanyl.
- **Expand treatment services** available locally.
- **Increase community education** on recognizing the signs of substance use and empower friends & family members to engage in conversations. (Use the Start Talking! campaign.)
- **Reduce stigma** towards getting treatment and increase messaging on treatment options available.
- **Explore diversion/deflection programs** 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 45.0 and Crawford County is 33.7 deaths per 100,000 populations. (2022 Ohio Unintentional Drug Overdose Report, Ohio Department of Health, 2023)

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, not leaving enough time for first responders to arrive. (Two Harm Reduction Vending Machines (one at each hospital ER entrance in Crawford County) were installed in 2023 and have been well-received.)

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 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.

If you or someone you know needs support now,
call or text 988 or chat
988lifeline.org



CRAWFORD COUNTY
PREVENTION
COALITION

For a safe and healthy Crawford County.



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.