

CRAWFORD COUNTY
DRUG OVERDOSE
FATALITY REVIEW

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024

MARCH 2025

#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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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.



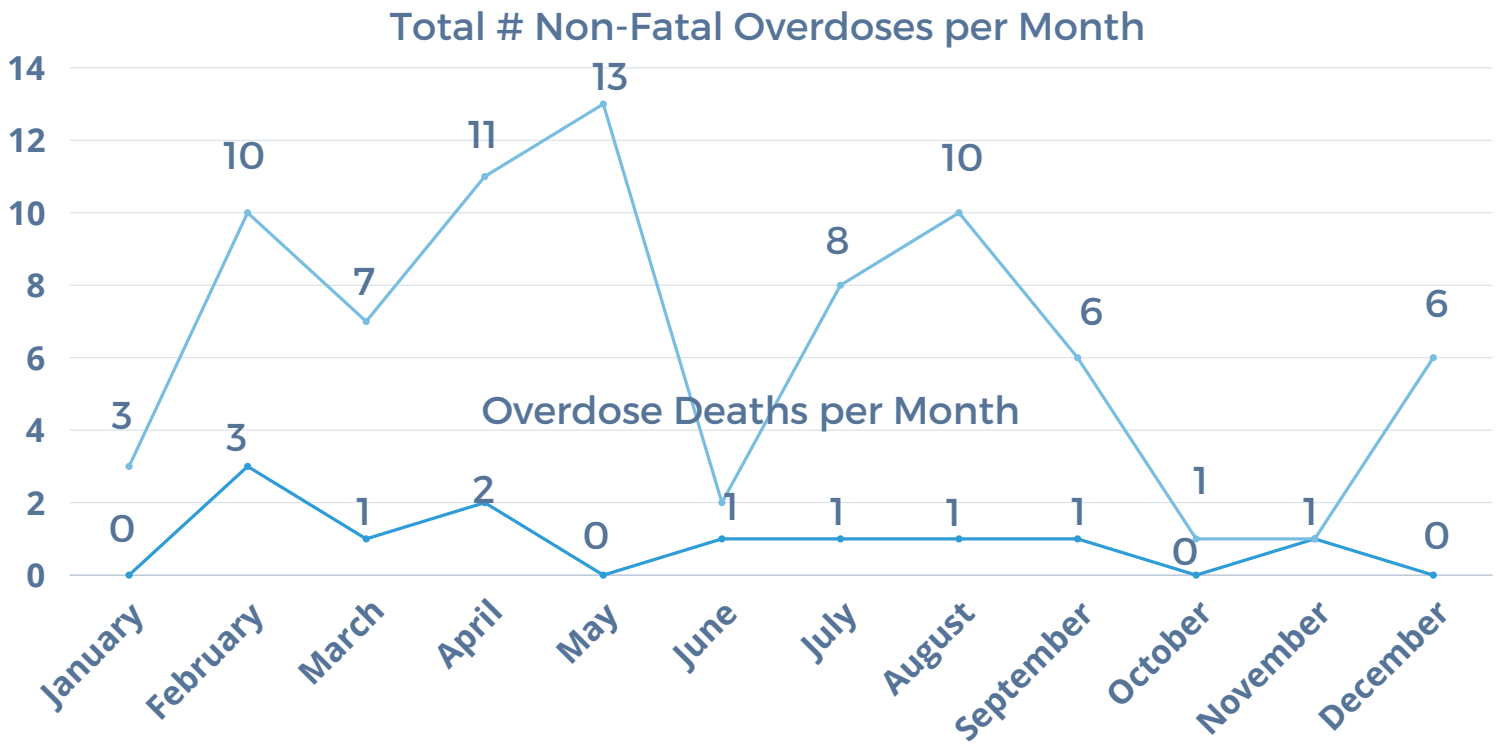
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- In 2024, the total number of unintentional drug overdoses reported was 89, with 11 unintentional drug overdose deaths (7 males and 4 females).
- Four of the decedents lived within the 44820 zip code (Bucyrus area), four from 44833 (Galion area) and three from 44827 (Crestline area).
- Ages of decedents ranged from 27 to 65 years. The average age of decedent was 48 years.
- There were at least 3 children under the age of 18 years that lost a parent to unintentional drug overdose during 2024.
- Home was identified as the most frequent location of the overdose (10 instances) with one death occurring at a hotel.
- Fentanyl was listed in the toxicology reports for 9 of the fatal overdoses (82%).
- Two of the decedents were married, four had never married, four were divorced and one was married but separated at time of death.
- The highest education level obtained for any of the decedents was one with a Bachelor's degree, one with some college courses but no degree, one with an Associate degree, five had either a high school diploma or GED, and four had attended 9th through 12th grade but did not hold a diploma.
- One of the decedents was a veteran.
- Nine of the eleven decedents had law enforcement history.
- Six of the decedents had known previous mental health services.
- Four of the deaths were discovered by family members, two by either a boyfriend/girlfriend, three by first responders upon requested welfare checks and two did not list who first found the decedent.





2024 NON-FATAL OVERDOSES & DEATHS PER MONTH



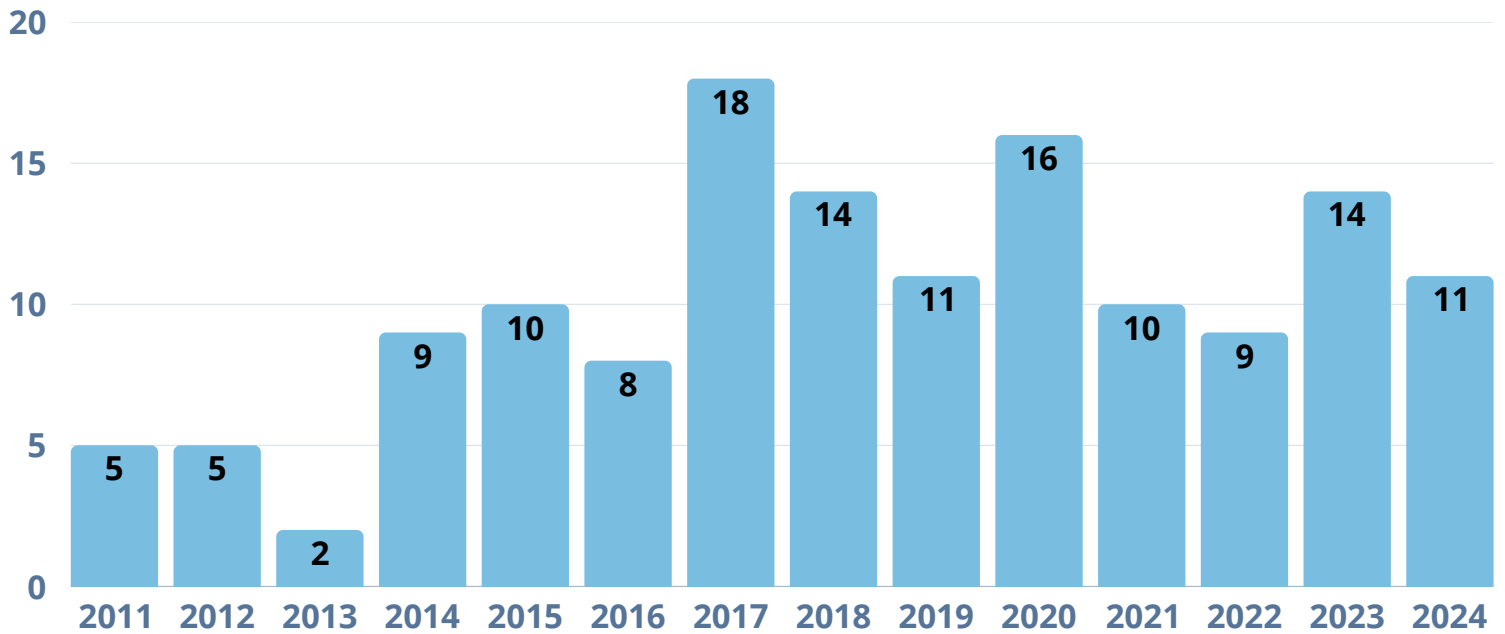
2024	Overdoses	Deaths	Fentanyl Deaths
January	3	0	0
February	10	3	2
March	7	1	1
April	11	2	1
May	13	0	0
June	2	1	1
July	8	1	1
August	10	1	1
September	6	1	1
October	1	0	0
November	1	1	1
December	3	0	0

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.

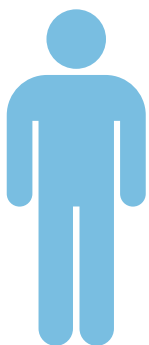


2011 - 2024 NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS



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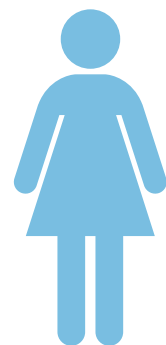
2024 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AGES



Minimum Age Males: 27
Maximum Age Males: 65
Average Age Males: 45

Males: 7
Females: 4

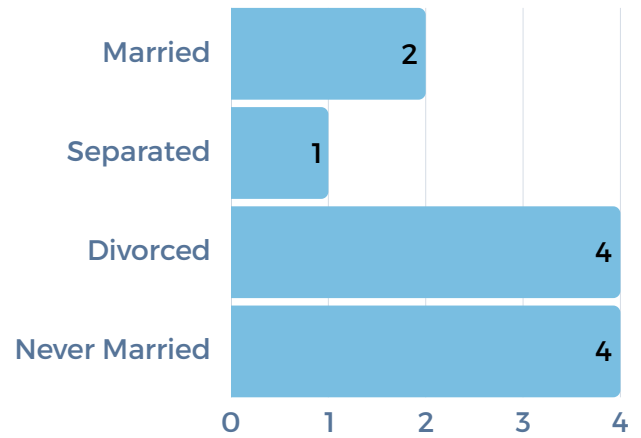
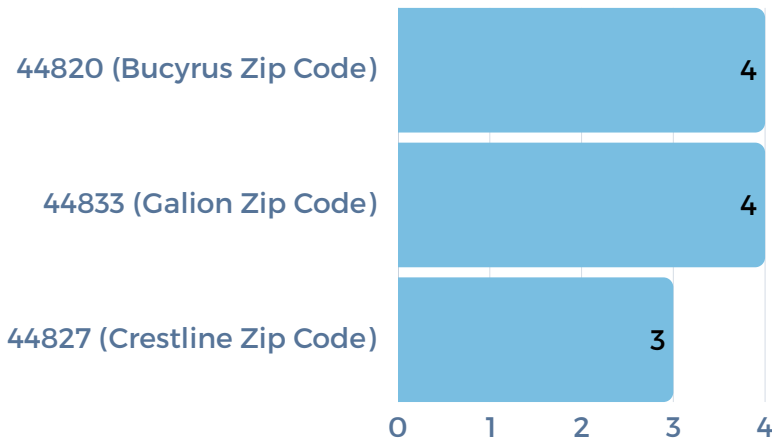
Overall Minimum Age: 27
Overall Maximum Age: 65
Overall Average Age: 48



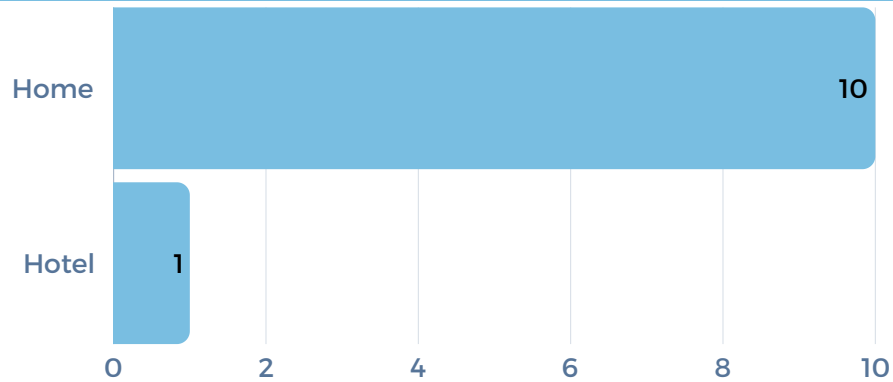
Minimum Age Females: 36
Maximum Age Females: 60
Average Age Females: 52

Drug Overdose Awareness

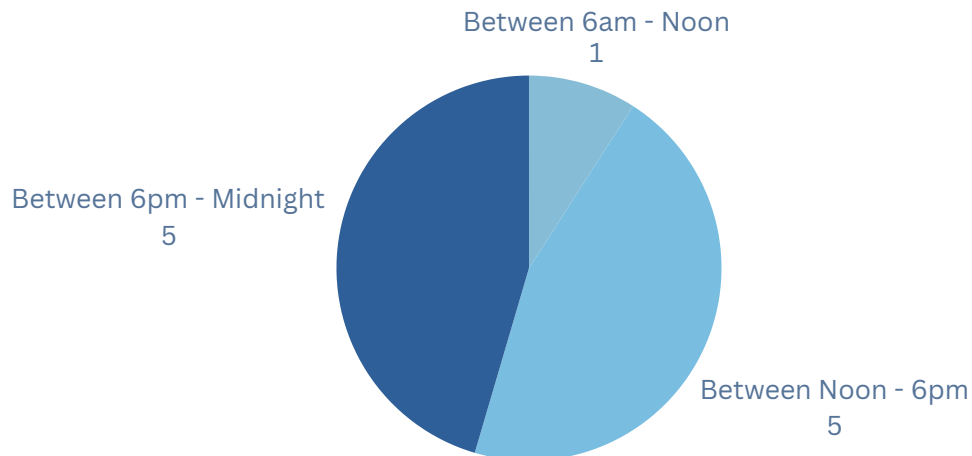
RESIDENCY & RELATIONSHIP STATUS



LOCATION OF OVERDOSE



TIME OF DEATH



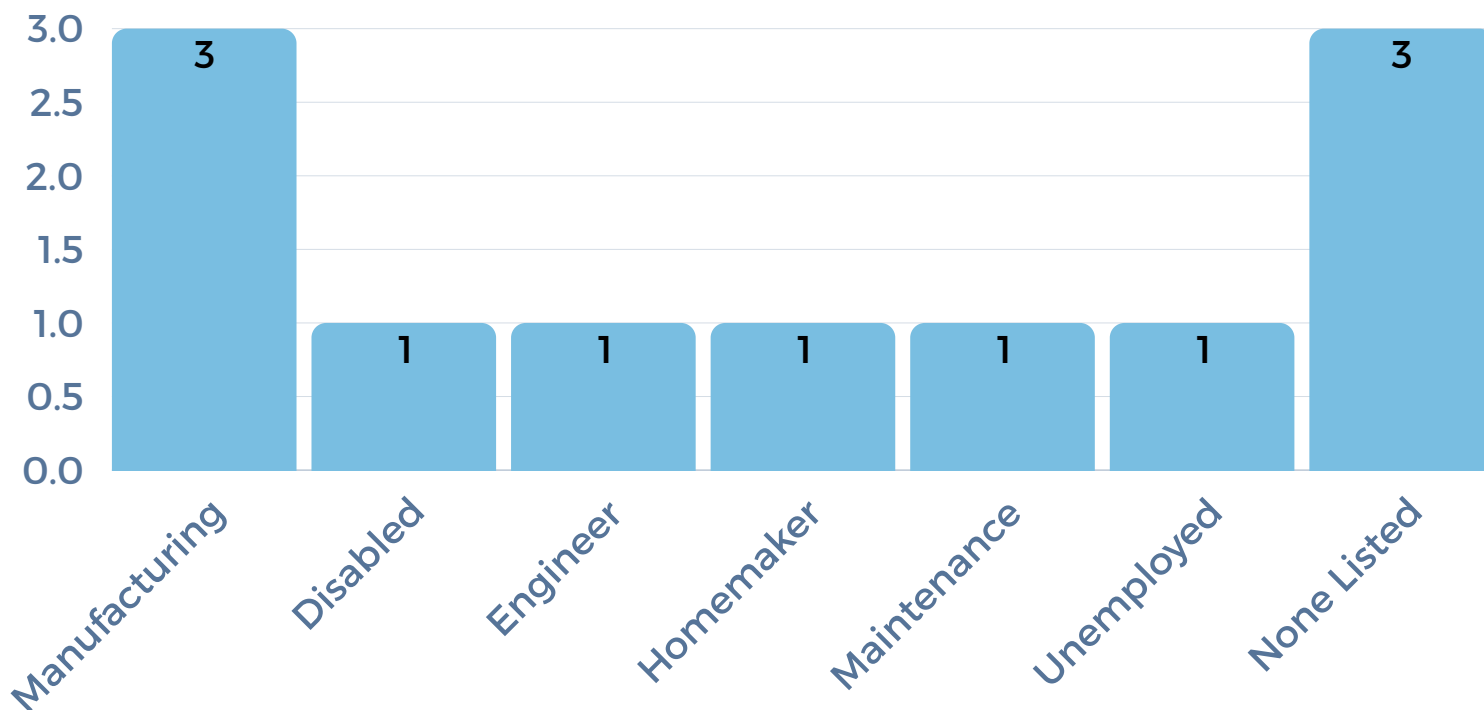


EDUCATION

Five (5) of the decedents had graduated high school or held a GED. One (1) had a Bachelor's degree and one (1) 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

9 out of 11 of the decedents had a history with law enforcement. Of those 9, the least amount of prior involvement with law enforcement was less than 1 year prior to death and the longest length of history with law enforcement was 25 years.

KNOWN INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

9 OUT OF 11

CURRENTLY ON PAROLE

1 ON PAROLE WITH WEEKLY DRUG TESTING

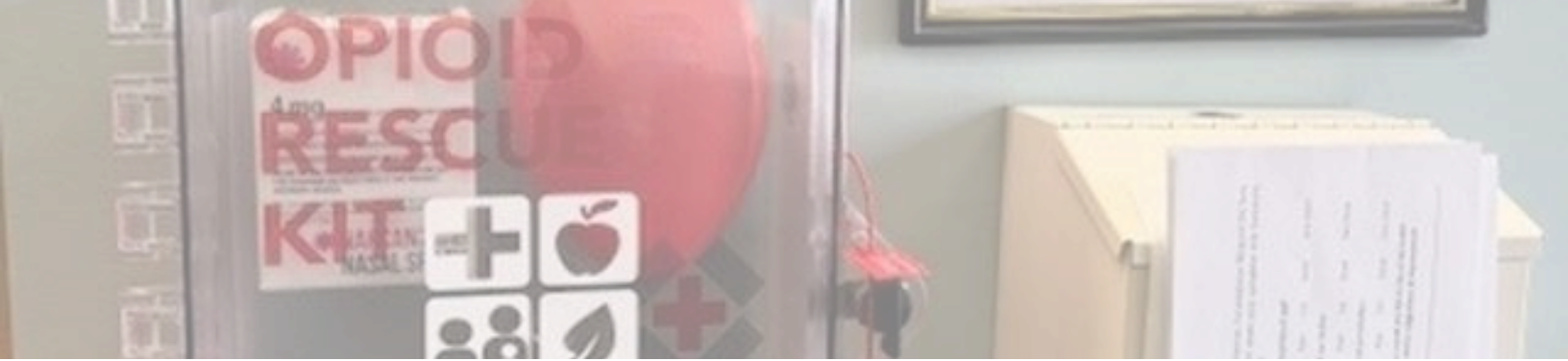
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRIOR INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

<1 TO 25 YEARS

DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOUND AT SCENE

- Loose white pills
- Prescription bottles
- A marijuana bong
- “Shake marijuana”
- Plastic box with pills
- Small baggie with white powder
- White/tan powder
- Syringes
- Spoon
- Pipe
- Glass plate





TOXICOLOGY

The following is a list of drugs identified in the toxicology reports and/or death certificates:

Fentanyl

Methamphetamine

Gabapentin

Norbuprenorphine

Nortriptyline

Venlafaxine

Mitragynine (Kratom)

Amphetamine

Delta-9 THC (marijuana)

Alprazolam

Cocaine

4-ANPP

Methanol

Benzodiazepines

Norfentanyl

Oxycodone

Quetiapine

Topiramate

Oxymorphone

Quetiapine



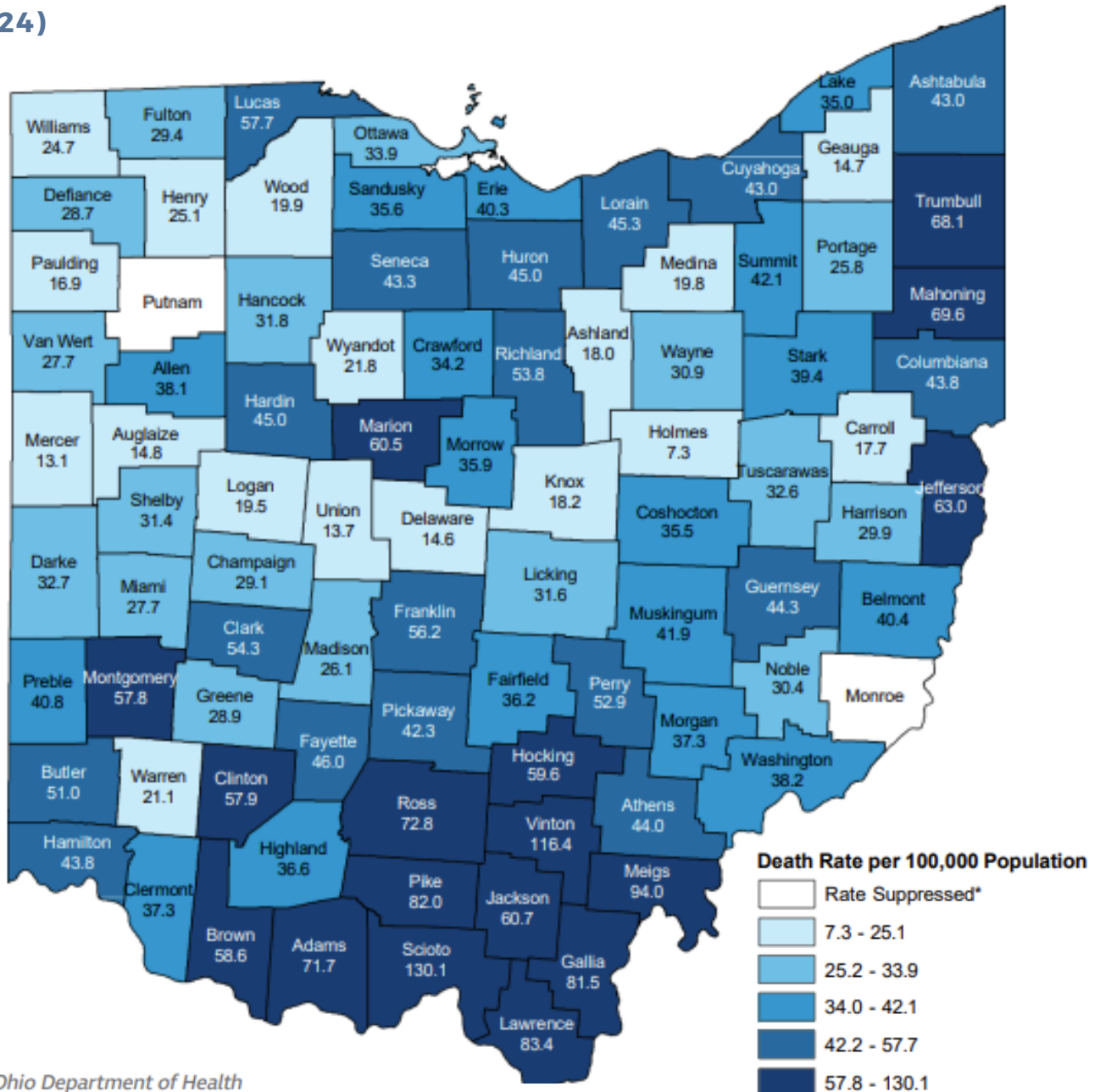
DRUG INFORMATION

- **Kratom** - an herbal substance that can produce opioid- and stimulant-like effects. Kratom and kratom-based products are currently legal and accessible in many areas, including online. While kratom is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, people report using kratom to manage drug withdrawal symptoms and cravings (especially related to opioid use), pain, fatigue and mental health problems. Often used with other drugs. (NIDA. 2022, March 25. Kratom. Retrieved from <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom> on 2025, March 19)
- **Delta-9 THC** - the main ingredient in marijuana that produces the psychoactive effect. Can cause severe hallucinations and delusions and can cause increased heart rate, blood pressure and panic attacks. Often used with other drugs.
- **4-ANPP** - is commonly found as a contaminant in samples of drugs containing synthetic fentanyl, including heroin or other opioids. Its presence with fentanyl is highly indicative of illicitly manufactured fentanyl. US DEA notes it has been detected in tablets that mimic pharmaceutical opiate products.

Free Narcan and Free Fentanyl Test Strips

OHIO AVERAGE RATE OF UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY (2020-2023)

From 2020 to 2023, the average Ohio unintentional overdose death rate was 43.5 deaths per 100,000 population. The average overdose death rate for Crawford County is currently 34.2. (Source: Ohio Department of Health, Oct. 2024)



Source: Ohio Department of Health

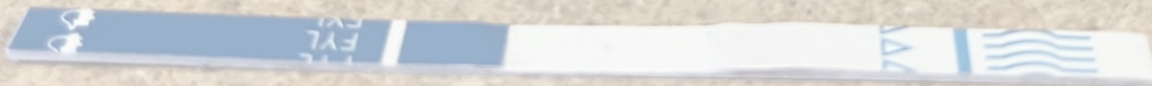
*Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 deaths



REDUCE STIGMA - CHANGE BEGINS WITH US

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, clean	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.



USING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

Fentanyl test strips can identify the presence of fentanyl in unregulated drugs. They can be used to test injectable drugs, powders, and pills. Being aware if fentanyl is present allows people to implement appropriate harm reduction strategies to reduce the risk of an overdose.

HOW TO TEST YOUR DRUGS

USING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS



1. Put the drugs you are testing in a small, unused container.
The more of your drugs you test, the more reliable the results will be.



2. Add water to your drugs and mix them up.
For 10 milligrams (mg) of:
• **Meth, MDMA, and ecstasy**, use 1 teaspoon of water.
• Other drugs, like **heroin, cocaine, crack, ketamine, and pills from nonmedical sources**, use a half teaspoon of water.
10 mg is enough to cover Abraham Lincoln's hair on a penny or fill a standard microscop.
1 teaspoon holds about as much as a soda or water bottle cap.



Tips for testing your drugs:
• Do not use test strips more than once.
• Finely crush **pills and tablets**, and add water to the powder mix thoroughly. If you do not want to test the entire pill, break it in half, and test a portion of the middle.



3. Place the strip in the water for 15 seconds.
Hold test strip at solid blue end and insert the wavy end in water for 15 seconds.

Instructions Continued on Back



Scan here for video instructions (BTNX Rapid Strips):



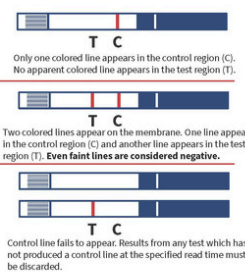
USING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS



4. Place the strip down flat and wait 5 minutes.
After waiting **at least 5 minutes**, look at the strip in full light. Do not attempt to read results after 10 minutes.



5. Read the results.
Positive test: If you are not planning to use fentanyl, avoid using the drugs, or start low and go slow.
Negative test: Remember, no test is 100% accurate and your drugs may still contain fentanyl.
Invalid test: Retest your drugs with a new strip.



What else can I do to lower my risk of overdose?

No drug is completely safe and there is always a risk of overdose. Try using the following tips:
• **Use drugs with other people**, take turns, and avoid sharing needles and other devices.
• **Go slow** by taking small amounts and waiting in between uses.
• Get **naloxone** and use it if there is an overdose. Naloxone can be obtained at your local pharmacy or can be obtained free-of-charge through the mail by visiting: naloxone.ohio.gov
• **Contact 988:** If you or someone you know is experiencing a non-life-threatening mental health or addiction-related crisis (thoughts of suicide, emotional distress, or substance use/addiction) **call, chat, or text 988** for free, 24/7, confidential support.

Adapted from materials developed by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. www.nyc.gov/health/fentanyl.



Fentanyl test strips are one of the resources provided to the public for free in the Harm Reduction Vending Machines located outside of the Avita ER entrances in both Bucyrus and Galion.

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 43.5 and Crawford County is 34.2 deaths per 100,000 populations. (2023 Ohio Unintentional Drug Overdose Report, Ohio Department of Health, 2024)

It is highly recommended that all persons with substance use disorder (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. Crawford County should continue to promote the resources available in the vending machines.

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 2024 unintentional drug overdose deaths, the SOFR team noted the following:

- **Fentanyl was listed as the cause of death for 86% of the cases.**
- **Nine out of eleven of the cases had history with law enforcement.**
- At least three Crawford County children under the age of 18 lost a parent to unintentional drug overdose in 2024.
- Home was the location of the fatal unintentional drug overdose for all but one of the deaths.
- One of the cases was still on parole with required weekly drug testing and was wearing an ankle monitor at time of death.

NEXT STEPS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- **Continue distribution of naloxone.** 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.** Promote use of fentanyl test strips.
- **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.





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.