

# CRAWFORD COUNTY DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

MARCH 2026



**CRAWFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**  
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT



CRAWFORD COUNTY  
**PREVENTION  
COALITION**



For a safe and healthy Crawford County.



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**Photo Credits: Crawford County Prevention Coalition.**

**Photos used in this report are primarily from the 2025 Overdose Awareness Day and the 2025 Amplified Expressions of our Journey event.**



# ABOUT SOFR:

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.

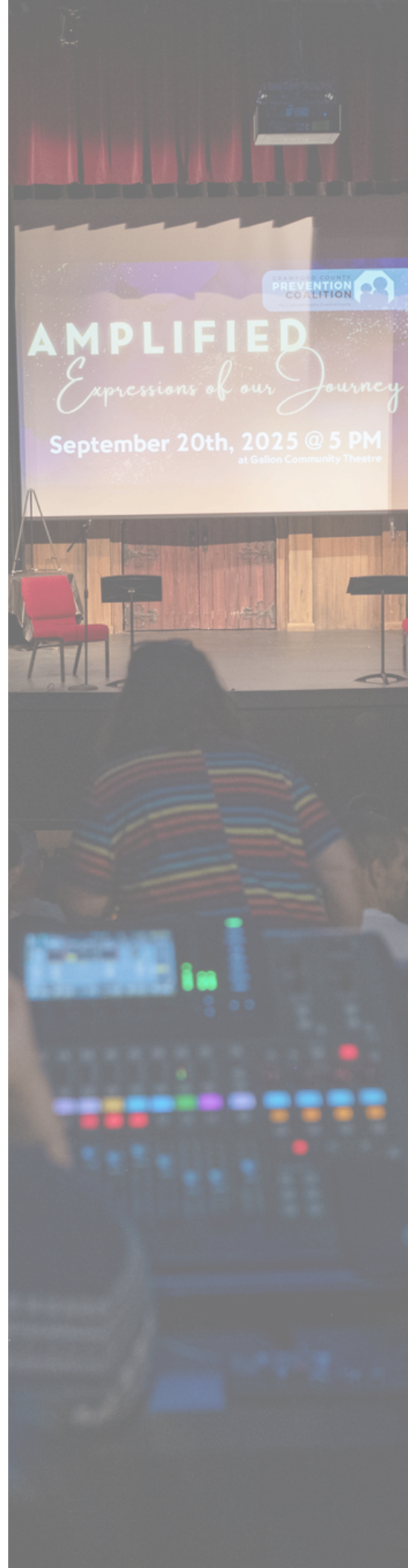
The objective of the SOFR is to identify possible trends and develop local recommendations based on information collected through the SOFR process to prevent future suicide and drug overdose deaths. The SOFR team interacts at a minimum annually in person.

Current SOFR membership includes:

- Bucyrus City Fire/EMS
- Bucyrus City Police Department
- Crawford County Child Protective Services
- 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. We could not obtain autopsy and toxicology reports for any deaths that occurred out of county.



# NARRATIVE SUMMARY

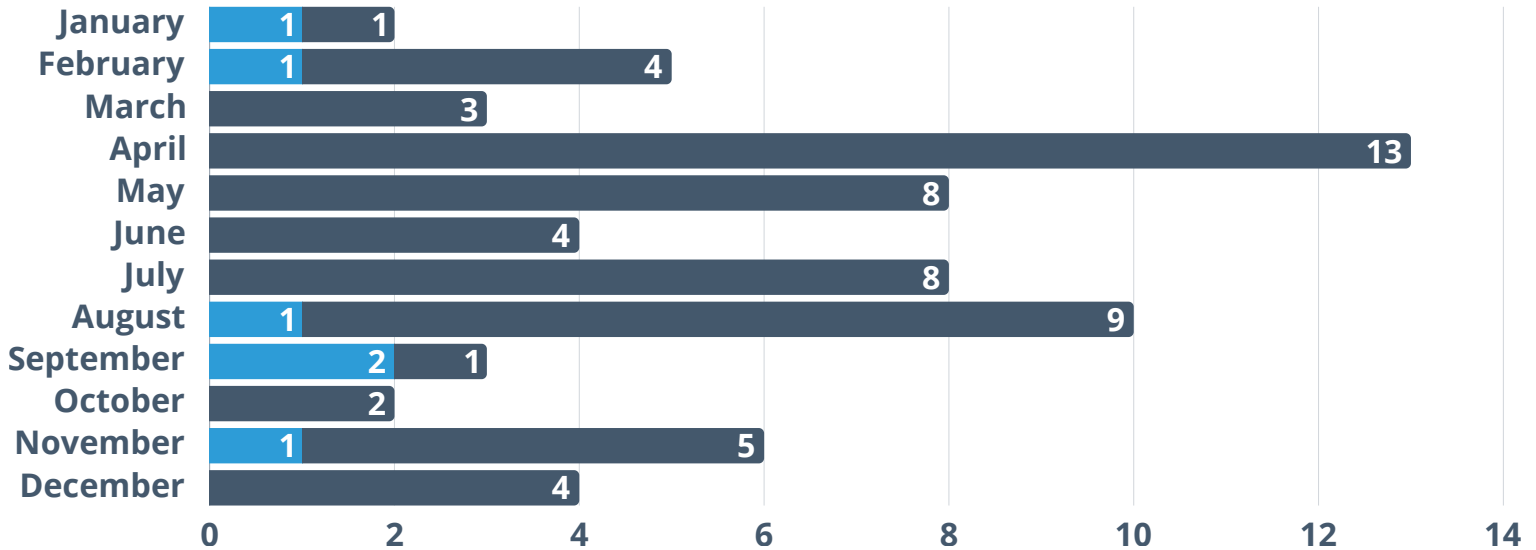
- In 2025, the total number of unintentional drug overdoses reported was 62, with 6 unintentional drug overdose deaths (5 males and 1 female).
- Four of the decedents lived within the 44820 zip code (Bucyrus area), one from 44833 (Galion area) and one from 44827 (Crestline area).
- Ages of decedents ranged from 24 to 67 years. The average age of decedent was 48 years.
- Home was identified as the most frequent location of overdose (4 instances) with one death occurring at a campground and one in an alley.
- Only 1 of the 6 fatal overdoses listed fentanyl in the toxicology report.
- Use of stimulants was listed as cause of death for 3 of the 6 fatal overdoses.
- Three of the decedents were married and three had never married.
- The education levels for the decedents are as follows: one with an Associate degree, one with some college courses but no degree, two had either a high school diploma or GED, and two had attended 9th through 12th grade but did not hold a diploma.
- None of the decedents were veterans.
- All six of the decedents had law enforcement history and had spent time in the county jail.
- Two of the six decedents had previously sought mental health services.
- Four of the deaths were discovered by family members and the other two by a friend.
- One of the decedents had undergone gastric bypass surgery a few years prior to death. The family shared that it seemed to have caused the substance use effects/concentrations to increase, especially blood alcohol levels.





# 2025 NON-FATAL OVERDOSES & DEATHS PER MONTH

● Deaths ● Non-Fatal Overdoses



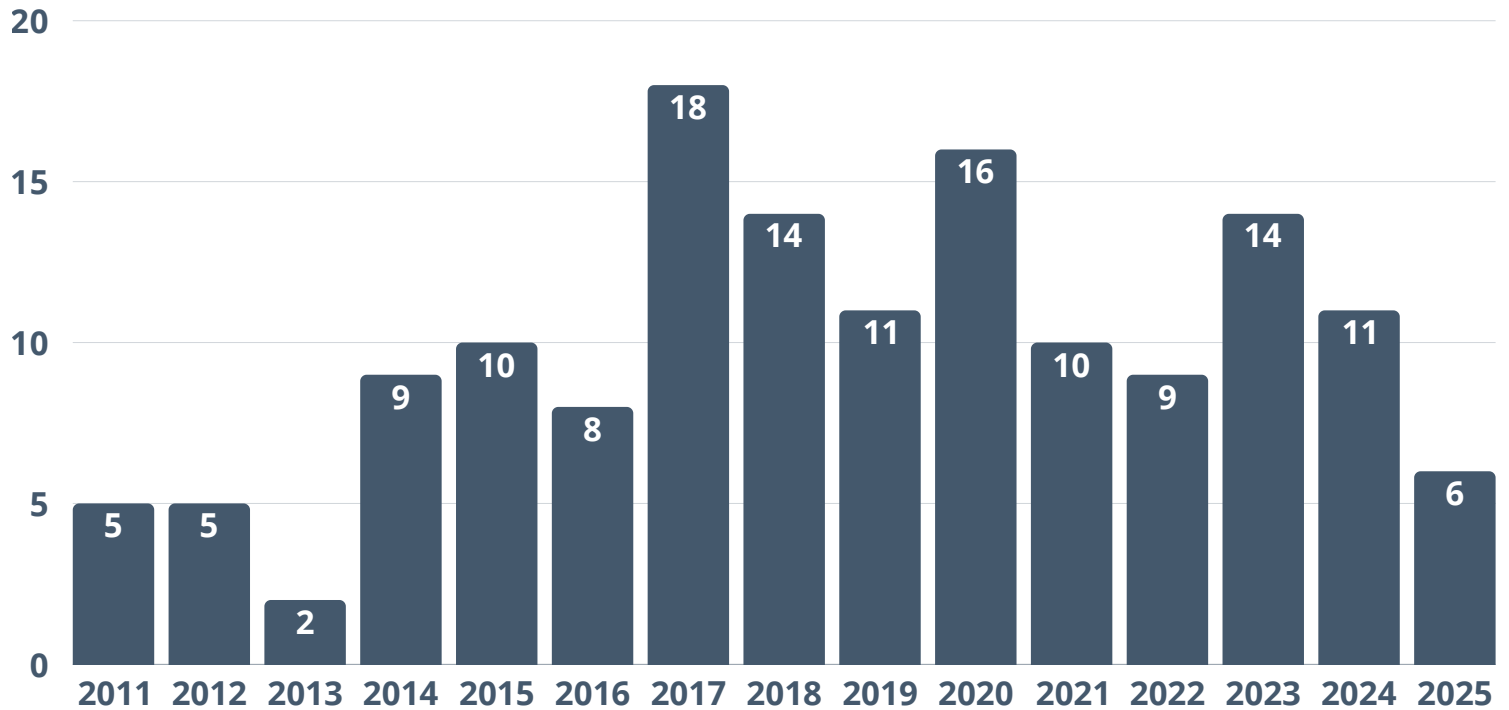
2025	Overdoses	Deaths	Fentanyl Deaths
January	1	1	0
February	4	1	0
March	3	0	0
April	13	0	0
May	8	0	0
June	4	0	0
July	8	0	0
August	9	1	1
September	1	2	0
October	2	0	0
November	5	1	0
December	4	0	0

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.

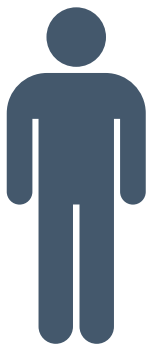


# 2011 - 2025 NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS



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.

# 2025 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH AGES



**Males: 5**

**Females: 1**

**Overall Minimum Age: 24**

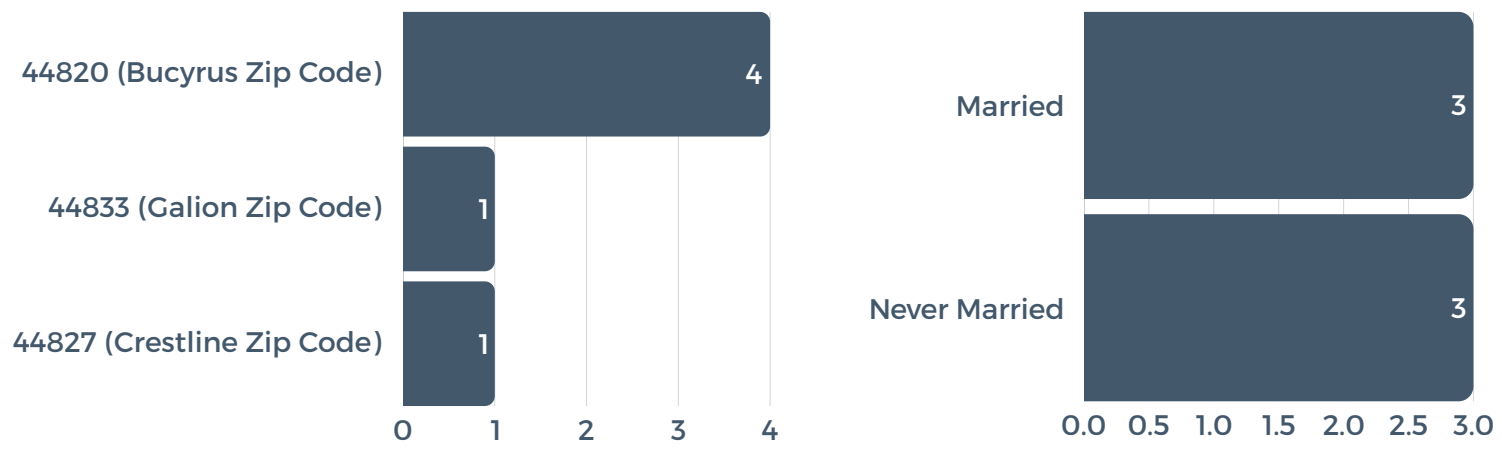
**Overall Maximum Age: 67**

**Overall Average Age: 48**

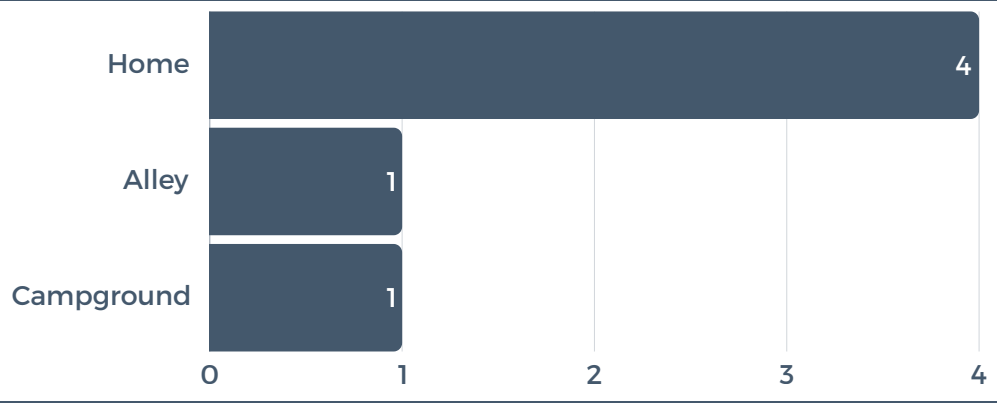




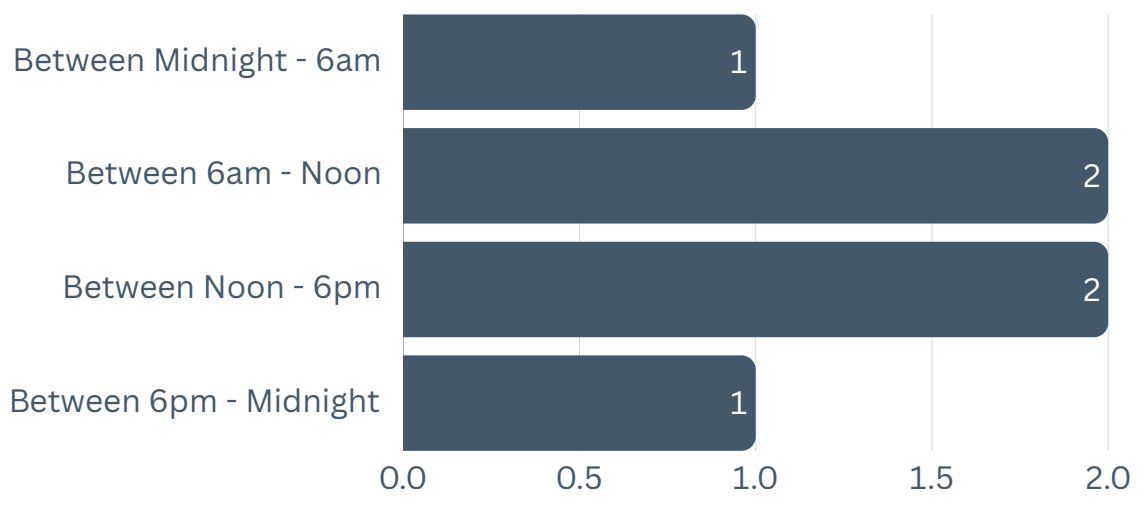
## RESIDENCY & RELATIONSHIP STATUS



## LOCATION OF OVERDOSE



## TIME OF DEATH





## EDUCATION

**Two (2) of the decedents had graduated high school or held a GED. One (1) had an Associate degree and one (1) had some college credit but no degree. Two (2) 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 six of the decedents had a history with law enforcement. Of those 6, the most recent involvement with law enforcement was less than 1 year prior to death and the longest length of history with law enforcement was 32 years.

KNOWN INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

**6 OUT OF 6**

UNDER AGE 21 WITH FIRST CRIMINAL HISTORY

**1 HAD HISTORY SINCE AGE 17**

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRIOR INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

**<1 TO 32 YEARS**

# DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOUND AT SCENE

- Cut straws
- Spoon with residue
- Lighters
- Meth pipes
- Empty plastic bag
- Plates with residue
- Prescription bottles containing pills



Photo Credit: Bucyrus Police Department



## TOXICOLOGY

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

<b>Fentanyl</b>	<b>Topiramate</b>
<b>Methadone</b>	<b>Dextrorphan/Levorphanol</b>
<b>Hydrocodone</b>	<b>Promethazine</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Pseudoephedrine</b>
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	<b>Norpseudoephedrine</b>
<b>Norfluoxetine</b>	<b>Acetone</b>
<b>Fluoxetine</b>	<b>Ethanol</b>
<b>Risperidone</b>	<b>Diphenhydramine</b>
<b>Olanzapine</b>	
<b>Amphetamines</b>	



Photo Credit: Bucyrus Police Department

## DRUG INFORMATION

- **Methadone**- used to treat opioid use disorder (often used in recovery from addiction to heroin), as well as for pain management. When taken as prescribed, methadone is safe & effective. But it can be abused. Slang names for methadone include: doll, dolls, dollies, tootsie roll, mud, fizzies & red rock. (National Drug Intelligence Center, Methadone Fast Facts, accessed March, 30, 2026.)
- **Hydrocodone** - a semi-synthetic opioid often prescribed for the treatment of severe and persistent pain. A common brand name is Vicodin. If you are prescribed a hydrocodone, your doctor may recommend that you get naloxone and keep it with you at all times. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK537288/>)



Photo Credit: Crawford County Teen Institute - 2025 Youth Rally

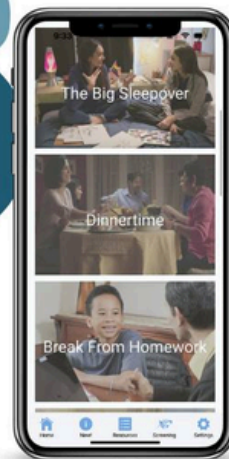
# COMMUNITY RESOURCES - YOUTH SURVEY

In the fall of 2025, all six public schools in Crawford County participated in a Community-Level Youth Development Evaluation (CLYDE) that asks youth about drug use and personal behaviors. Youth in grades 7-12 participated with 2,060 responses. Results from the CLYDE survey can be used to help change norms and practices that will improve overall community health.

Some highlights from the Crawford County CLYDE Survey:

- Local youth cigarette usage rates are double the national average for youth
- Marijuana use was lower than the state and nation averages
- 55.6% of the youth using alcohol stated they got it from home with parent permission
- 33% of youth using alcohol indicated they got it from someone they know over age 21
- 73% of youth using alcohol drink at home, 36% at a friend's home
- 79% of youth stated they had not drunk any alcohol in the past year
- From the 8th grade survey - age of onset for those that use marijuana was 11.5 years old
- Largest identified risk factors - no commitment to school, family conflict, parental attitudes favorable towards substance use

Download the  
"Talk. They Hear You."  
mobile app today!










# COMMUNITY RESOURCES - HEALTH NAVIGATOR

**A Health Navigator helps link people who use drugs to needed resources and care. Katie is here to provide harm reduction resources, conduct outreach, and distribute educational materials. Conversations with Katie are confidential and are focused on providing ongoing support to keep individuals engaged in treatment & recovery.**



**Recovery starts with a conversation.**  
Talk to your local *Health Navigator* today.

## How We Can Help

-  Referrals to treatment and recovery services
-  Connections to community resources
-  Naloxone distribution
-  Overdose prevention education
-  Help navigating barriers to care

***Confidential. Compassionate. Free.***

## Crawford County Health Navigator

**Katie Rafeld**

✉ [Katie.rafeld@crawfordhealth.org](mailto:Katie.rafeld@crawfordhealth.org)

☎ 419-835-2499

*Call, text, or email to get started.*



This work is funded either in whole or in part by a grant awarded by the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Health Improvement and Wellness, Violence and Injury Prevention Section and as a sub-award of a grant issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Overdose Data to Action grant, grant award number OD2A Funding Award Number: SNU17CE010223-03-00

# 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 and know how and when to use it. However, knowing when to use it needs to be promoted more effectively. One first responder at the fatality review meeting shared that naloxone use when they are still breathing on their own can interfere with EMS interventions.

# 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 2025 unintentional drug overdose deaths, the SOFR team noted the following:

- **Stimulant use** was cause of death for 3 out of the 6 deaths and fentanyl was only listed as cause of death for one instance.
- All six of the cases had **history with law enforcement**.
- **Home** was the location of the fatal unintentional drug overdose for 4 of the 6 deaths.
- A family member was most likely to be the one to discover the overdose (4 out of 6 instances).

# NEXT STEPS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- **Continue distribution of harm reduction tools.** 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.
- **Promote Safe Storage** of prescriptions, over-the-counter medications and THC products.
- **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.



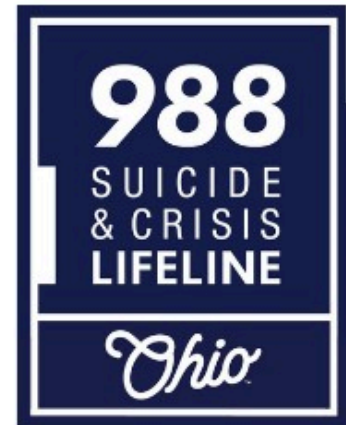


## WHO CAN HELP PREVENT OVERDOSE?

- 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  
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For a safe and healthy Crawford County.



The Crawford County Prevention Coalition meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00am at Crawford County Public Health. 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.