

## Summary

This report contains a summary of drug-related fatalities that occurred from 2018 to 2022 among residents of Medina County, OH as well as the number of emergency department visits for suspected drug overdose. Drug-related fatalities were identified using primary cause of death ICD-10 codes. The ICD-10 codes included were X40-45 and X60-65 which describe instances of intentional self-poisoning and accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances.

## Key Findings

- There were 166 drug-related fatalities among Medina County residents with an average age-adjusted rate of 19.9 fatalities per 100,000 population. The Medina County age-adjusted rate is below the Ohio age-adjusted rate of 46.6 fatalities per 100,000 population in 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- Prescription opiates and fentanyl were the most common substances indicated among Medina County drug-related fatalities.
- Medina County zip codes 44215 (Chippewa Lake) and 44254 (Lodi) had the highest drug-related fatality rate per 100,000 population.

**Figure 1. Number of Drug-Related Fatalities and ED Visits by Year (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

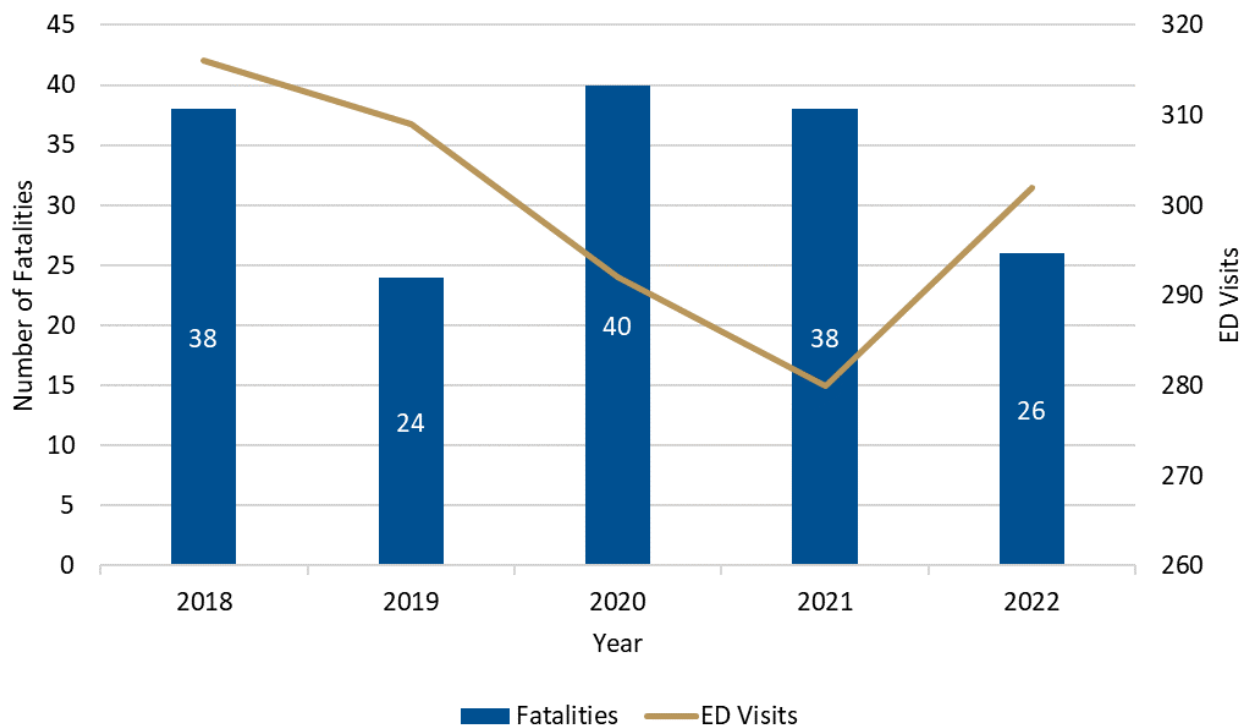


Figure 1 shows the number of drug-related fatalities<sup>2</sup> and emergency department (ED) visits<sup>3</sup> for suspected drug overdose per year from 2018 to 2022. The year with the highest number of drug-related fatalities was 2020. The year with the highest number of ED visits was 2018.

**Table 1. Indicated Substances in Drug-Related Fatalities  
(Medina County, 2018-2022)**

Substance	ICD-10 Codes	Number of Fatalities	Percentage of Fatalities
Alcohol	T51.0-51.9	20	12.0%
Barbiturates	T42.3	^	^
Benzodiazepines	T42.3	19	11.4%
Carfentanil	Carfentanil found in literal cause of death	14	8.5%
Cocaine	T40.5	32	19.3%
Designer Opioids	Synthetic designer opioids found in literal cause of death	^	^
Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogues	Fentanyl or fentanyl analogues found in literal cause of death	131	78.9%
Hallucinogens	T40.7-40.9	5	3.0%
Heroin	T40.1	17	10.2%
Prescription Opiates	T40.2-40.4, T40.6	136	81.9%
Psychostimulants (e.g., Methamphetamine)	T43.6	34	20.5%
Other Unspecified Drugs	T50.9	102	61.4%
<b>Total Fatalities</b>		<b>166</b>	

Table 1 displays drug-related fatalities by substances indicated in the fatality. Prescription opiates and fentanyl were the most commonly indicated substance among drug-related fatalities.

^Data not presented when fewer than 5 fatalities were observed.

**Figure 2. Number of Drug-Related Fatalities among Medina County Residents by County of Injury (2018-2022)**

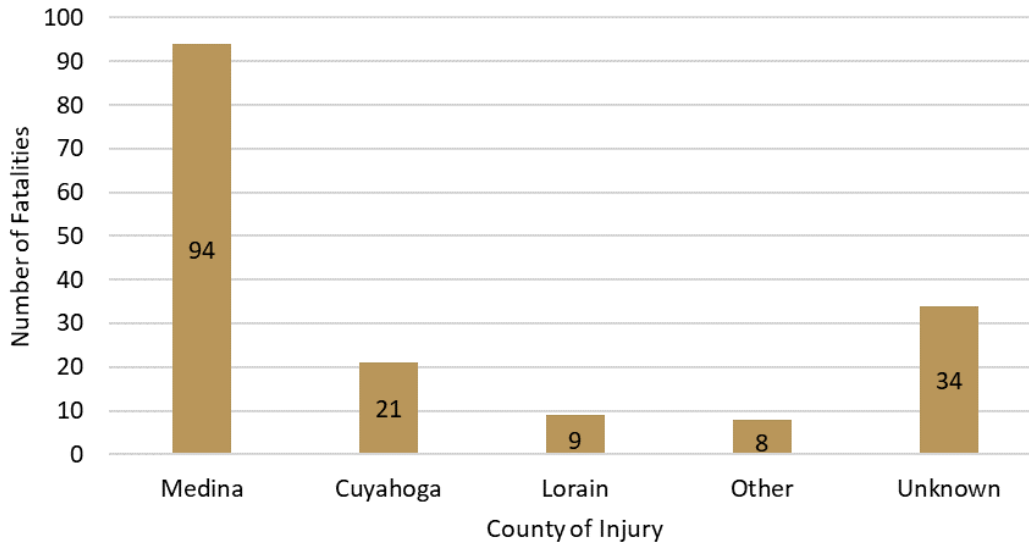


Figure 2 displays the county where the substance(s) that lead to the fatality were taken among Medina County residents. In-county drug-use accounted for 57% of deaths, out-of-county drug-use accounted for 23% of deaths, and 20% of deaths did not have a location of injury.

**Table 2. Drug-Related Fatalities by Residential Zip Code and Area (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

Zip Code	Area	Number of Fatalities	Fatality Rate per 100,000
44203	Norton (Border of Wadsworth)	^	^
44212	Brunswick	38	16.6
44214	Burbank	^	^
44215	Chippewa Lake	6	50.8
44233	Hinckley	6	15.0
44251	Westfield Center	^	^
44253	Litchfield	^	^
44254	Lodi	11	46.0
44256	Medina	50	15.5
44273	Seville	7	19.4
44275	Spencer	^	^
44280	Valley City	^	^
44281	Wadsworth	26	15.6
Missing Zip	N/A	7	N/A
<b>Total Fatalities</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>18.1</b>

Table 2 displays the number and crude rate of drug-related fatalities by the primary residence of the individual. Medina and Brunswick had the most fatalities in Medina County from 2018—2022. Chippewa Lake and Lodi had the highest fatality rates per 100,000 population.

^Data not presented when fewer than 5 fatalities were observed.

2 - Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics. Mortality File.  
4 - United States Census Bureau. 2020 Decennial Census.

**Figure 3. Drug-Related Fatalities by Gender and Year of Fatality (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

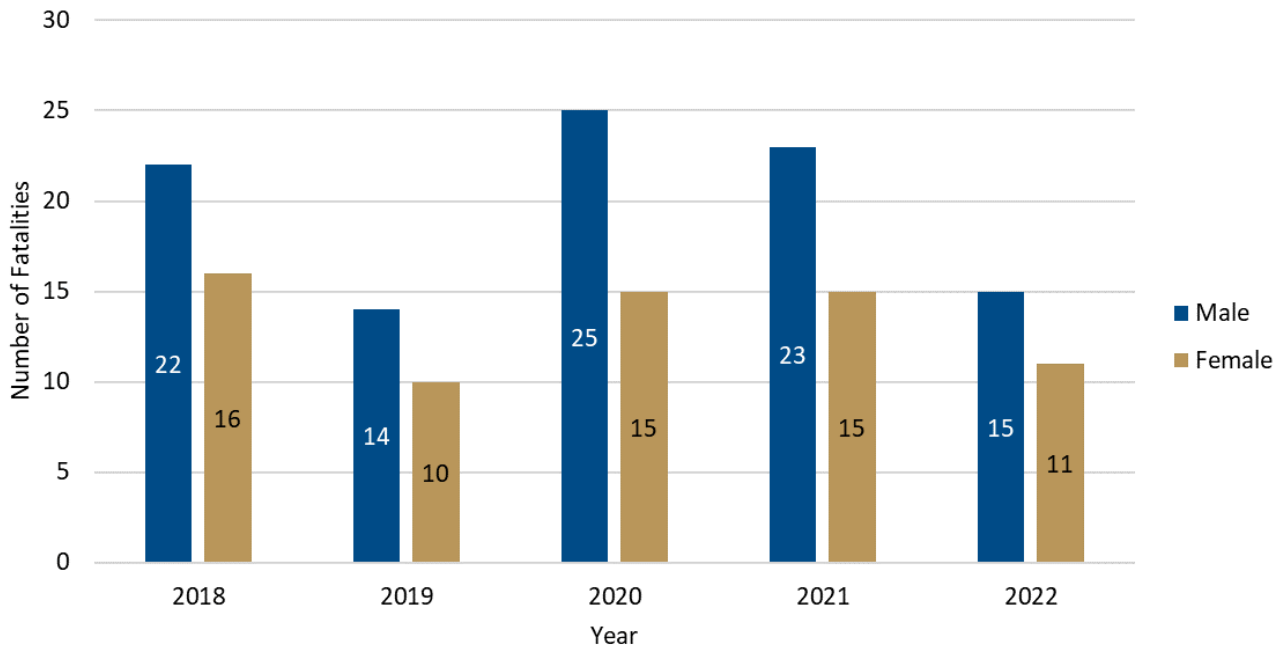


Figure 3 displays drug-related fatalities by gender and year of death. The year 2018 had the highest number of fatalities for females (16) and 2020 had the highest for males (25). Males accounted for more fatalities than females.

**Figure 4. Drug-Related Fatalities by Age Group (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

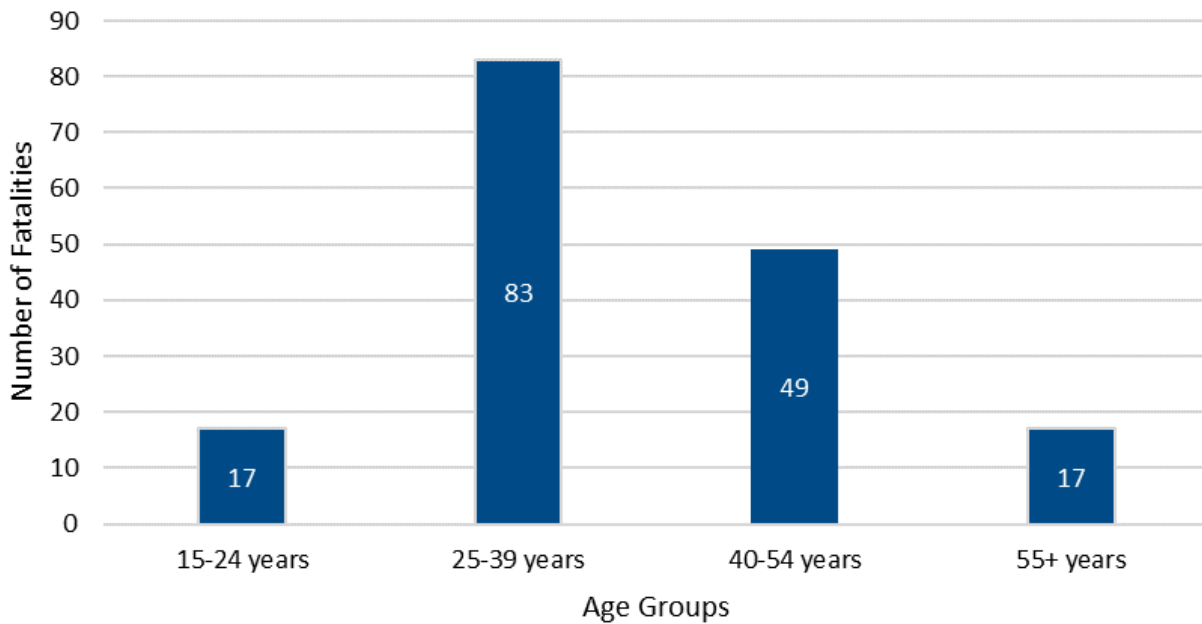


Figure 4 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by age group. The average age of fatality was 38.1 years.

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment of Drug-Related Fatalities and Medina County Population (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

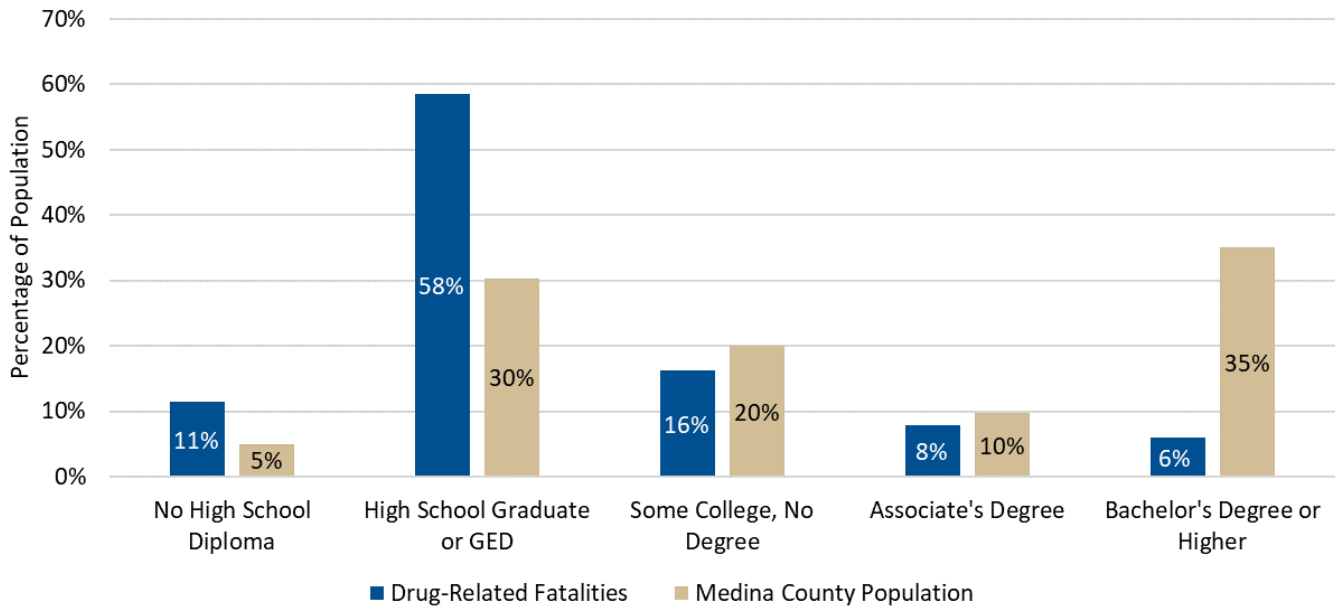


Figure 5 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by educational attainment as well the educational attainment of the entire Medina County population, represented by the gold striped bars. In comparison to the population of Medina County, those who experienced a drug-related fatality had a higher percentage of high school graduates and a lower percentage of individuals with a college degree.

**Figure 6. Marital Status of Drug-Related Fatalities and Medina County Population (Medina County, 2018-2022)**

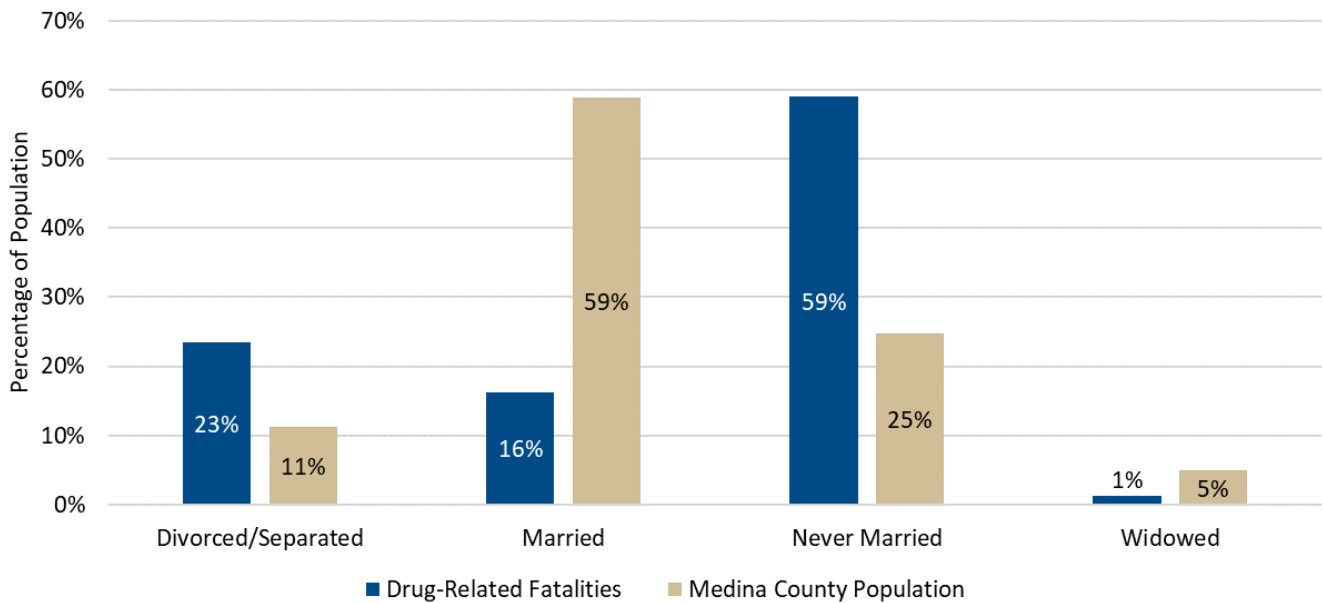


Figure 6 displays the number of drug-related fatalities marital status as well the marital status distribution of the entire Medina County population, represented by the gold bars. In comparison to the population of Medina County, those who experienced a drug-related fatality had a higher percentage of never married individuals and a lower percentage of married individuals.

2 - Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics. Mortality File.  
 5 - United States Census Bureau. 2021 American Community Survey.

## Methods

Fatalities were obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics Mortality File. All data from 2021 and 2022 are considered preliminary and subject to change. A drug-related fatality was identified by ICD-10 codes X40-X45 and X60-X65 listed under the primary cause of death code. The mortality file provided year of death, age, education, marital status, residence zip code, location of injury, gender, race, ethnicity, and indicated substance ICD-10 codes. Data was aggregated to be included in this report. Race and ethnicity were examined but not included because the number of fatalities by racial group did not meet the minimum threshold to be reported.

ICD-10 codes and the literal text listed in the cause of death field were used to identify substances indicated in the fatality, displayed in Table 1. One fatality may have multiple ICD-10 codes listed. Therefore, one death may be represented in multiple categories.

Emergency department visits for suspected drug overdose were extracted from EpiCenter. A count of the total ED visits was calculated by year.

Medina County population educational attainment and marital status data were obtained from the American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates. Educational attainment and marital status of the entire county are used as comparisons in Figure 5 and Figure 6.

The total county population, population by zip code, and population by age group was obtained from the 2020 Decennial Census and used in rate calculations. For zip codes that are partially in Medina County, a partial population was obtained to account for only the residents of that zip code that reside in Medina County.

## Data Sources

1 - Ohio Department of Health. 2020 Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. <https://odh.ohio.gov/>

2 - Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics. Mortality File. Data from 2021 and 2022 are considered preliminary and subject to change as more information is added. The Ohio Department of Health specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.

3 - EpiCenter. Operated by Health Monitoring. EpiCenter collects, stores, and analyzes de-identified registration data from hospitals and other healthcare facilities in near-real time so that public health personnel have the information they need to address emergent situations promptly.

4 - United States Census Bureau. 2020 Decennial Census. <https://data.census.gov/>.

5 - United States Census Bureau. 2021 American Community Survey. <https://data.census.gov/>.

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Questions about this report can be directed to the Medina County Health Department Epidemiologist, Teegan Plackowski, by calling 330-723-9688 option 2, or via email at [tplackowski@medinahealth.org](mailto:tplackowski@medinahealth.org).

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