MEDINA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Drug-Related Fatality Report 2017-2021

3/29/2022

This data report provides a summary of drug-related fatalities that occurred from 2017 to 2021* among residents of Medina County, OH. A drug-related fatality was identified as any fatality where a drug or controlled substance was detected immediately upon death and does not include deaths resulting from chronic substance use or abuse. During this time frame, Medina County saw a total of 185 drug-related fatalities with an overall age adjusted mortality rate of 23.6 fatalities per 100,000 people in the county.

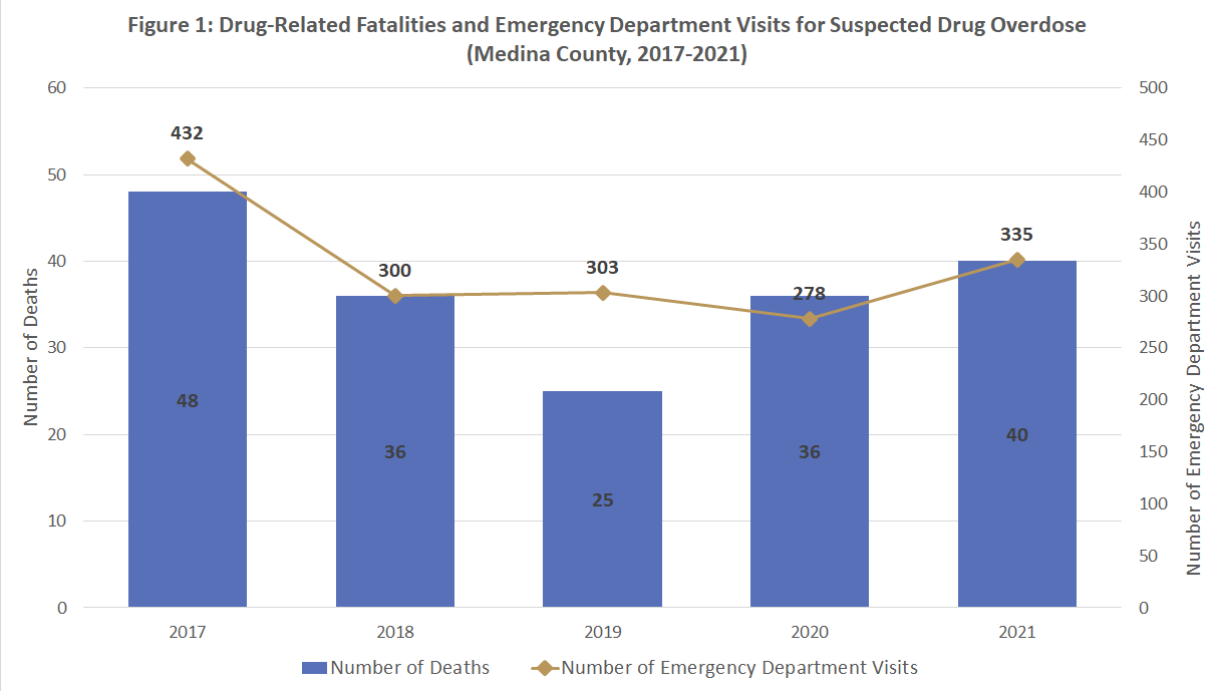

Figure 1 shows the number of drug-related fatalities and emergency room visits per year from 2017 to 2021. Between 2017 to 2019, there was a 47.9% decrease in drug-related fatalities but that sharply increased by 60% between 2019 and 2021. There was a 20.5% increase in emergency room visits between 2020 and 2021, but there was a decrease of 22.5% compared to visits in 2017.

*Data are based on mortality records received from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Vital Statistics and were extracted on March 25, 2022. Data from 2021 are considered preliminary and subject to change as more information is added. Fatalities were analyzed based on indicators in the death record. These indicators use ICD 10 codes for poisonings and exposure to noxious substances in combination with literal text from cause of death fields.

**Data for emergency department visits come from Health Monitoring Systems EpiCenter 3.5.21 and represent all visits made to hospitals and urgent cares for suspected drug overdoses and were extracted on April 4, 2022.

Table 1: Indicated Substances in Drug-Related Fatalities (Medina County, 2017-2021)			
Substance	**ICD 10 Codes**	**Number of Fatalities**	**Percent**
Prescription Opiates	T40.2-T40.4, T40.6	155	83.8%
Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogues	T40.411— T40.416	122	65.9%
Carfentanil	Carfentanil found in literal cause of death	20	10.8%
Heroin	T40.1	16	8.7%
Designer Opioids	T402-403	1	0.5%
Benzodiazepines	T42.4	28	15.1%
Barbituates	T42.3	1	0.5%
Cocaine	T40.5	33	17.8%
Psychostimulants (e.g., Methamphetamine)	T436	27	14.6%
Hallucinogens	T40.7, T40.8, T40.9	5	2.7%
Alcohol	T51.0-51.9	23	12.4%
Other Unspecified Drugs	T50.9	100	54.1%
Poly-Substance Use	Any combination of substances listed above	155	83.8%
	TOTAL	**185**	

Table 1 displays drug-related fatalities by substance indicated based on ICD 10 codes and literal text listed in the cause of death to provide a description of the type of substance that contributed to the fatality. The highest number of fatalities were attributed to prescription opiates: ICD 10 code T40.2-T40.4 & T40.6 (84%), followed by Fentanyl or its analogues (66%). Notably, 84% of fatalities involved multiple substances.

In examining the leading cause of death among overdose deaths, 170 (92%) were identified as unintentional or accidental, 12 (6.5%) were suicides, 1 (0.5%) was of undetermined intent, and 2 (1.1%) were from natural causes .

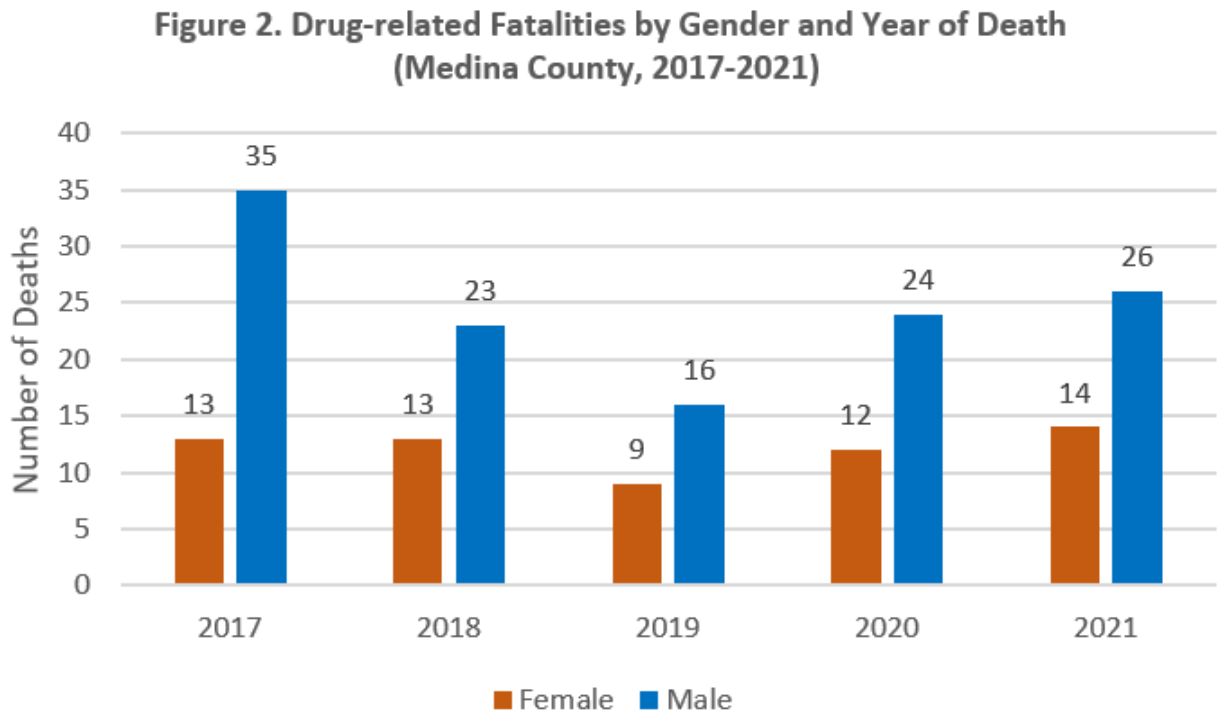

Figure 2 displays drug-related fatalities by gender and year of death. 2021 had the highest number of fatalities for females (14) and 2017 had the highest for males (35). Males accounted for twice as many drug-related fatalities. There was a decreasing number of deaths from 2017 to 2019 then an increase in 2020 and 2021 for both genders.

Table 2: Drug-Related Fatalities by Age Groups (Medina County, 2017-2021)

Age Groups	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Totals	Percentages
0-14 years	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
15-24 years	7	7	3	3	2	**22**	11.9%
25-44 years	27	23	17	22	24	**114**	61.6%
45-64 years	10	6	4	10	13	**43**	23.2%
65+ years	4	0	0	1	1	**6**	3.2%
Totals	**48**	**29**	**22**	**33**	**38**	**185**	

Table 2 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by age groups and year of death. The 25-44 years age group had the highest number of overdose related fatalities with 114 fatalities (61.6%). The 0-14 age group had the lowest with 0 fatalities (0%). The average age of death was 37.5 years with a range from 15 to 76 years of age.

Table 3: Drug-Related Fatalities by Residential Zip Codes and Area (Medina County, 2017-2021)			
Zip Codes	**Area**	**Number of Drug-Related Fatalities**	**Rate of Fatalities per 100,000**
44203	Norton (Border of Wadsworth)	*	*
44212	Brunswick	44	126.1
44215	Chippewa Lake	7	323.8
44217	Creston	*	*
44230	Doylestown (Border of Wadsworth)	*	*
44233	Hinckley	6	78.5
44251	Westfield Center	*	*
44253	Litchfield	*	*
44254	Lodi	15	310.4
44256	Medina	62	99.9
44273	Seville	5	68.1
44275	Spencer	*	*
44280	Valley City	*	*
44281	Wadsworth	30	100.2
	Totals	**185**	**102.9**

*Data are not presented when fewer than 5 fatalities were observed.

Table 3 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by the individuals' residential zip codes and area. The zip codes with the highest rate of fatalities were the following: 44215 (Chippewa Lake), 44254 (Lodi), and 44212 (Brunswick).

Figure 3: Density of Drug-Related Fatalities Based on Location of Injury (Medina County, 2017-2021)

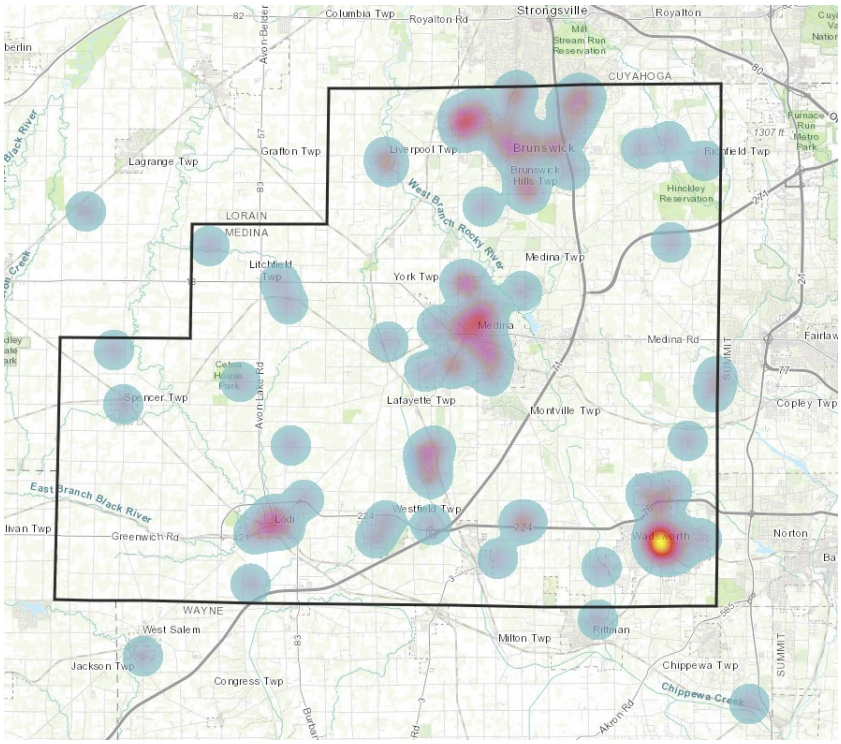

*Figure 3 displays the density of locations of where drug-related fatalities occurred (based on location of injury). One in four fatalities (24%) occurred outside of Medina County (*location of injury was not always known*).*

In examining the location of death, 85 (45%) died in their home, 56 (30%) died in a hospital or in route, 15 (8%) died on a roadway or in a parking lot, 4 (2%) died in a hotel or shelter, 4 (2%) died at a campground or outdoors, and 21 (11%) had an unknown location.

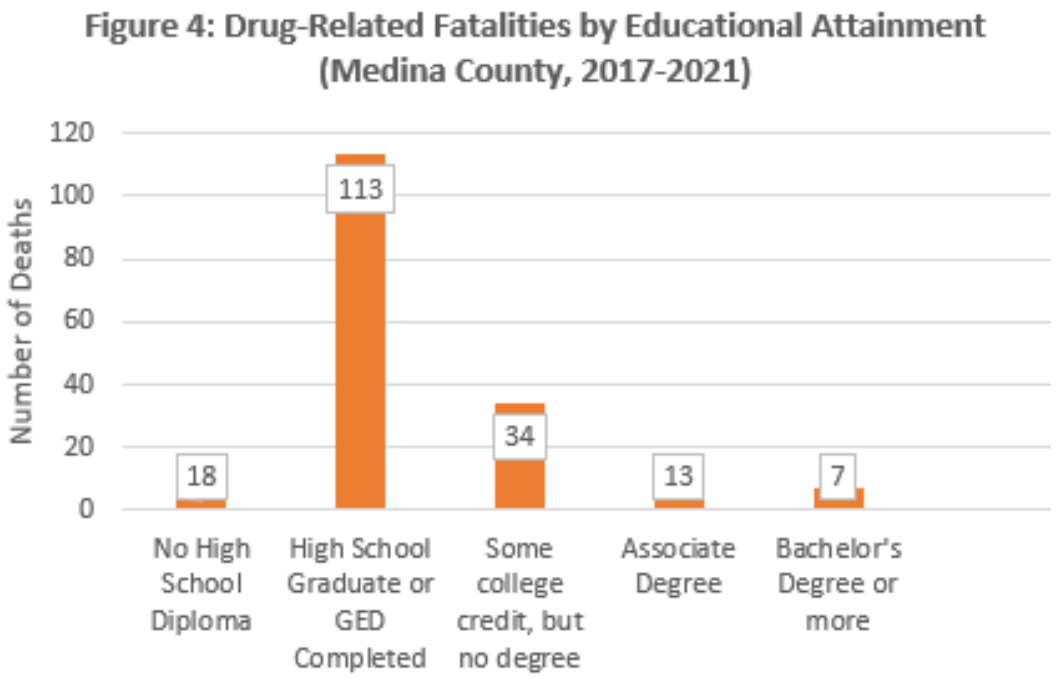

Figure 4 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by educational attainment. The highest number of fatalities occurred among individuals who had an educational level of high school graduate or GED completed with 113 fatalities (61.1%) and the lowest number of fatalities occurred among individuals who a Bachelor's Degree or higher (4%).

Table 4: Drug-Related Fatalities by Year and Marital Status (Medina County, 2017-2021)

Marital Status	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Totals	Percentage of Fatalities
Divorced/ Separated	9	6	3	9	11	38	20.5%
Married	2	10	1	6	3	32	17.3%
Single	25	20	21	20	25	111	60%
Widowed	2	0	0	1	1	4	2.2%
Totals	**48**	**36**	**25**	**36**	**40**	**185**	

Table 4 displays the number of drug-related fatalities by year and marital status. The highest number of fatalities occurred among individuals who were single with 111 fatalities (60%) followed by individuals who were divorced/separated accounted for 20.5% of all overdose related fatalities.

Questions about this report can be directed to the Medina County Health Department Epidemiologists, Geethika Kodukula or Brent Styer, by calling 330-723-9688 option 2, or via email at gkodukula@medinahealth.org or bstyer@medinahealth.org.

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