

Population Health Vital Statistics Brief:

Drug Overdoses, January - December 2022

The *Population Health Vital Statistics Data Brief* series was created to provide regular updates to the Community Health Assessment and to provide the community with additional important information about population health. For more information on the Community Health Assessment and to access other reports in the *Vital Statistics Data Brief* series, please visit scph.org/assessments-reports



Summit County Public Health Population Health Division
1867 W. Market St., Akron, Ohio 44313 (330) 923-4891
www.scphoh.org

Drug Overdose Visits to Hospital Emergency Rooms

From January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, emergency rooms serving Summit County residents have treated an estimated 1,065 drug overdoses (OD); about 2.9 overdoses per day as of 12/31/2022.*

Interruptions in normal surveillance reporting -- Beginning in November 2022, one of Summit County's major hospital systems was removed from EpiCenter's emergency room surveillance reporting by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The reason given at that time was related to computer system changes as well as upgrades and coding changes made nationally to the standard disease classification system. ODH removed current and historical data for this system until such time as ODH can ensure reporting and historical data is consistent and accurate. As of June 2023, that process is ongoing; no estimated resolution date has been made available. These changes have meant that the daily reporting of overdoses is an understatement of the actual number of overdose-related ER visits that are taking place. For this reason, overdose totals for the last two months of 2022 were projected based on long-term trends for non-reporting facilities. Figure 1 shows the average number of overdoses from 1/1/2022 until 9/30/2022 from all Summit County facilities (gold line). Throughout October, reported cases dropped sharply until the facilities in question were removed from ODH surveillance in November. The dashed blue line shows *projected* totals for the county had all facilities continued to report as normal.

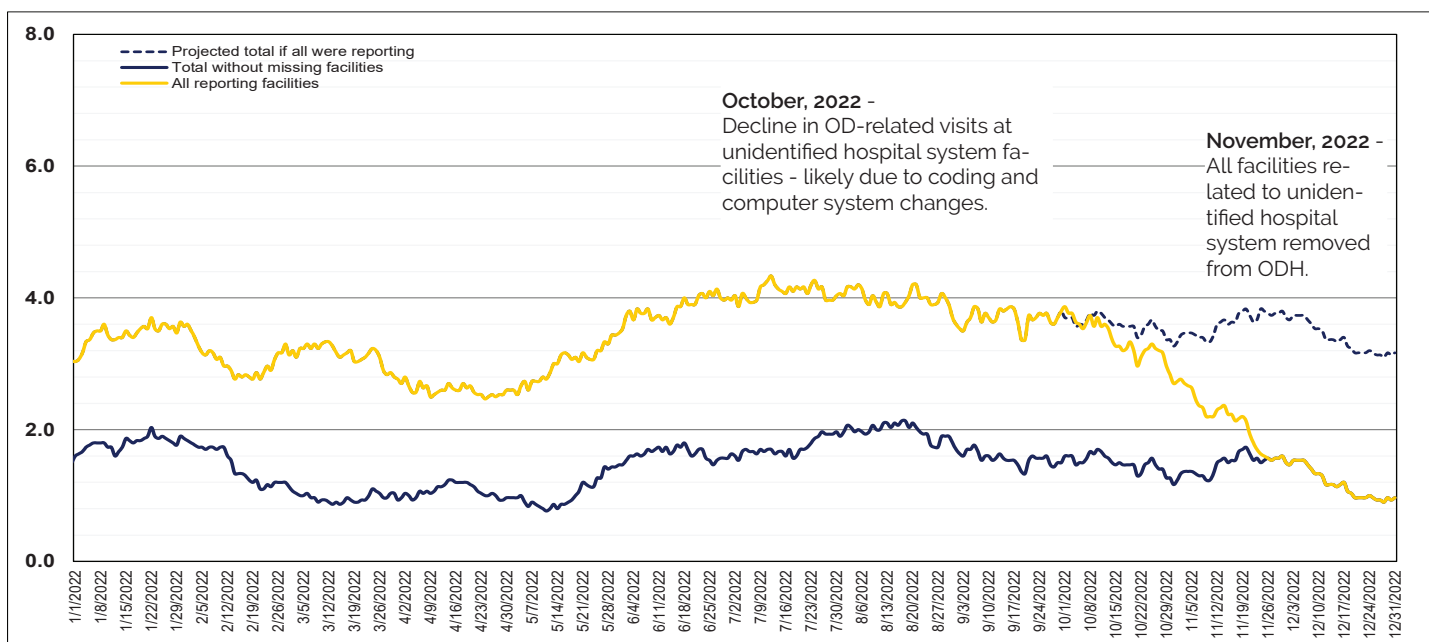


Figure 1: Estimated and Projected Overdose-Related ER Visits, 2022 -- Reported 30-day average overdose-related visits from 1/1 to 9/30 are shown, as are projected totals from 10/1 to 12/31/2022. Source: EpiCenter

* Drug overdose data is retrieved from the state's EpiCenter surveillance tool. "Overdose" cases include all emergency visits by a Summit County resident to any medical provider in which drugs were identified as the cause of traumatic injury. Traumatic injuries due to drugs caused by suicide attempts, allergic reactions to normal medications, or accidental overdoses of everyday drugs (such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) were removed where identified.

QR code link to SCPH
Drug Dashboards



Demographic Analysis of Drug Overdose ER Visits, 1/1 2022 to 9/30/2022

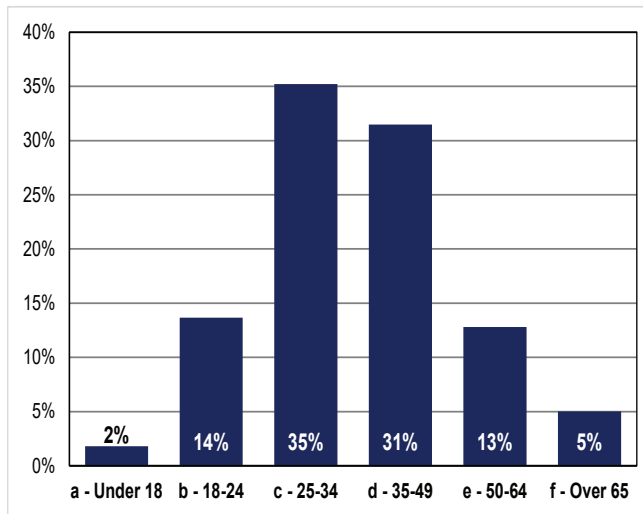


Figure 2 Age of ER Visitors, Source: EpiCenter/SCPH

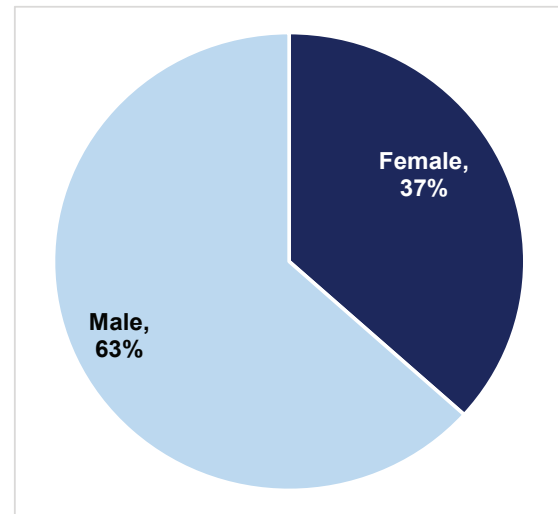


Figure 3: Sex of ER Visitors, Source: EpiCenter/SCPH

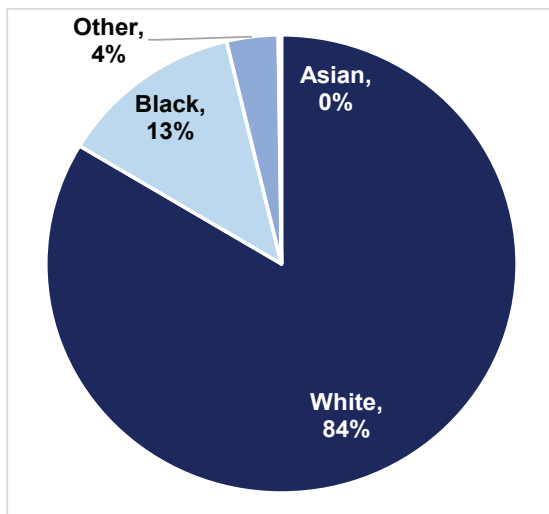


Figure 4: Race of ER Visitors, Source: EpiCenter/SCPH

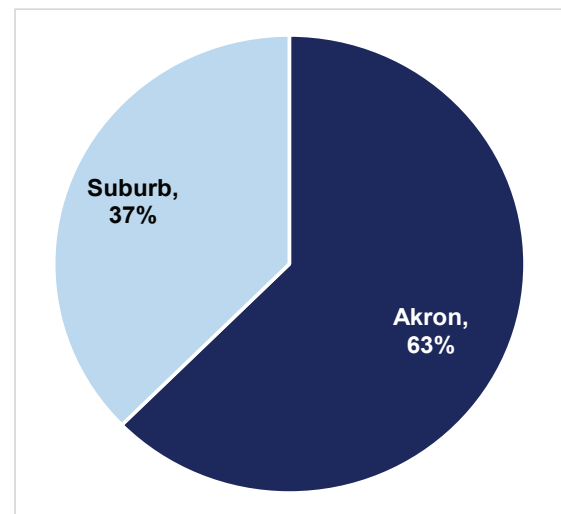


Figure 5: Location of ER Visitors, Source: EpiCenter/SCPH

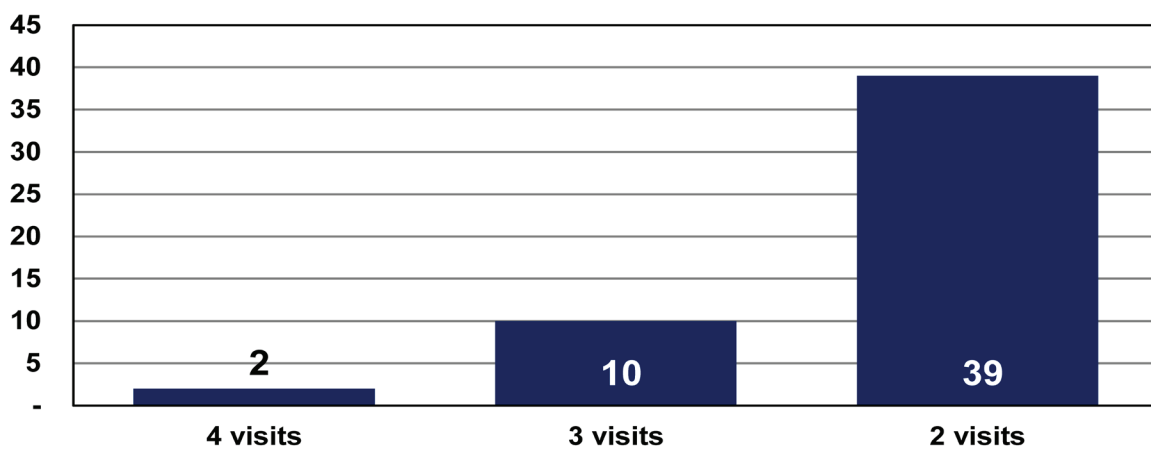


Figure 7: Number of patients with multiple visits in 2022, by number of visits, Source: EpiCenter/SCPH

Deaths Caused by Drug Overdose, 2021-YTD 2022

Data from the Summit County Medical Examiner's office provides a snapshot of those who have been victims of an overdose death since the beginning of 2021:

Race: Three-quarters of OD deaths are White and 24% are Black. The percentage of 2022 OD deaths who were Black is far higher than in 2019, when Black deaths only accounted for 11% of total ODs.

Age: Nearly half of all OD deaths are between ages 25 and 44.

Sex: Nearly three-quarters of OD deaths are male.

Substances involved: The vast majority of OD deaths involve fentanyl. More than one-third involve methamphetamines, while one-in-four involve cocaine. It should be noted that most victims of an overdose were found to have taken more than one substance, so percentages will add up to more than 100%.

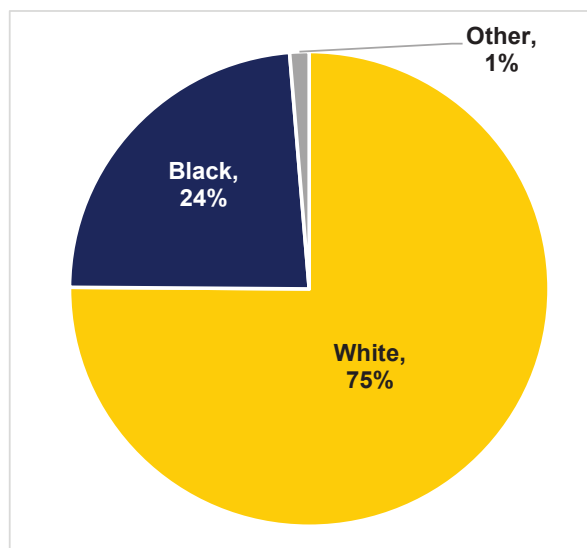


Figure 6: Race of Overdose Deaths, 2022, Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, SCPH

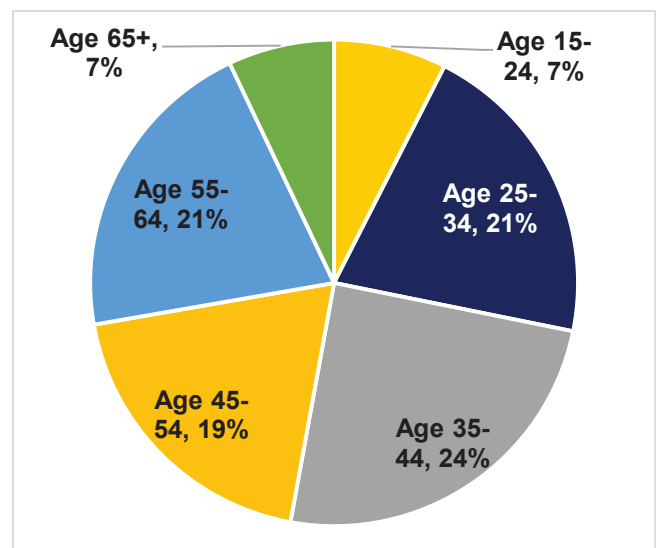


Figure 7: Age of Overdose Deaths, 2022, Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, SCPH

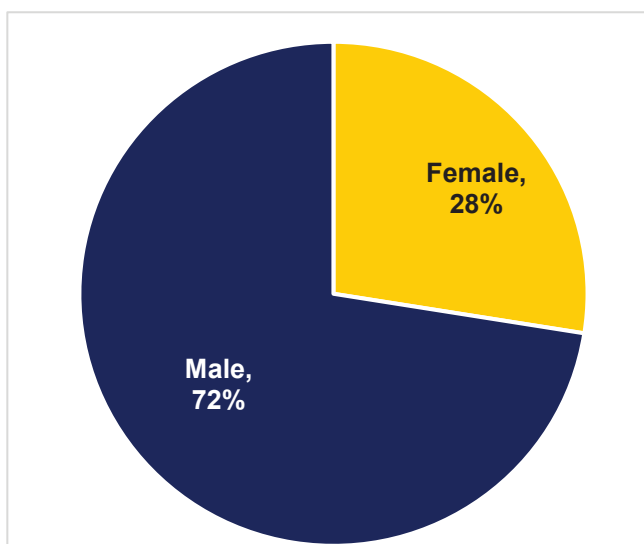


Figure 8: Sex of Overdose Deaths, 2022, Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, SCPH

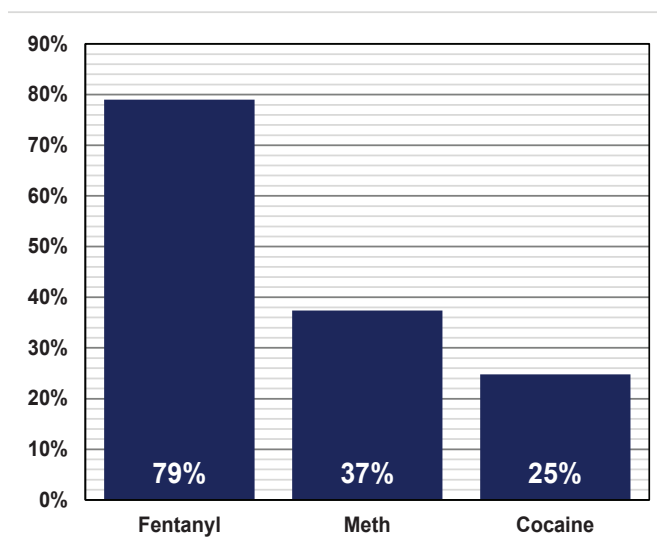
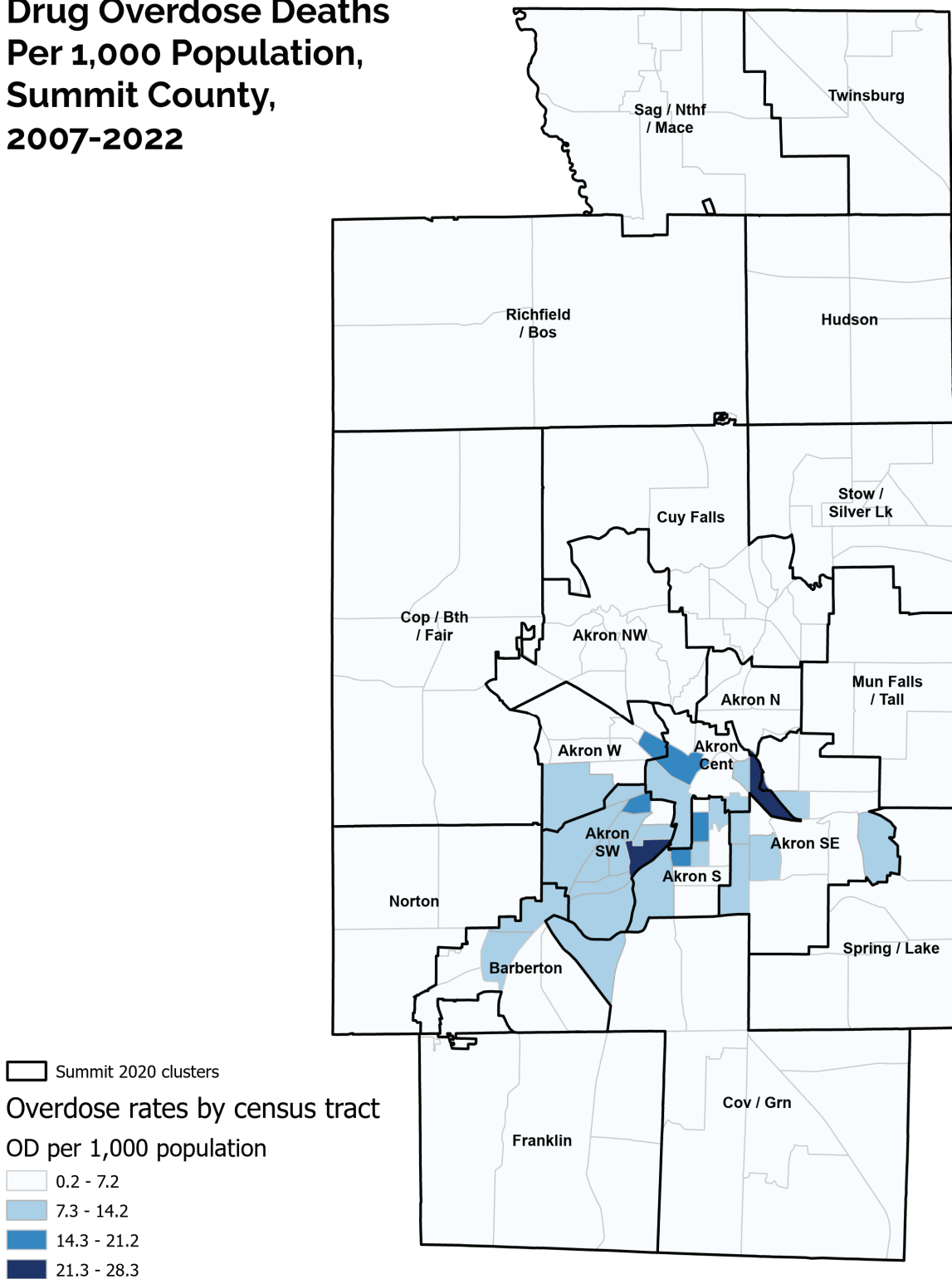


Figure 9: Top 3 Substances Found in Overdose Fatalities, 2022, Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, SCPH

Drug Overdose Deaths Per 1,000 Population, Summit County, 2007-2022



Map 1: OD Deaths Per 1,000 Population by Census Tract
Source: ODH death certificate database

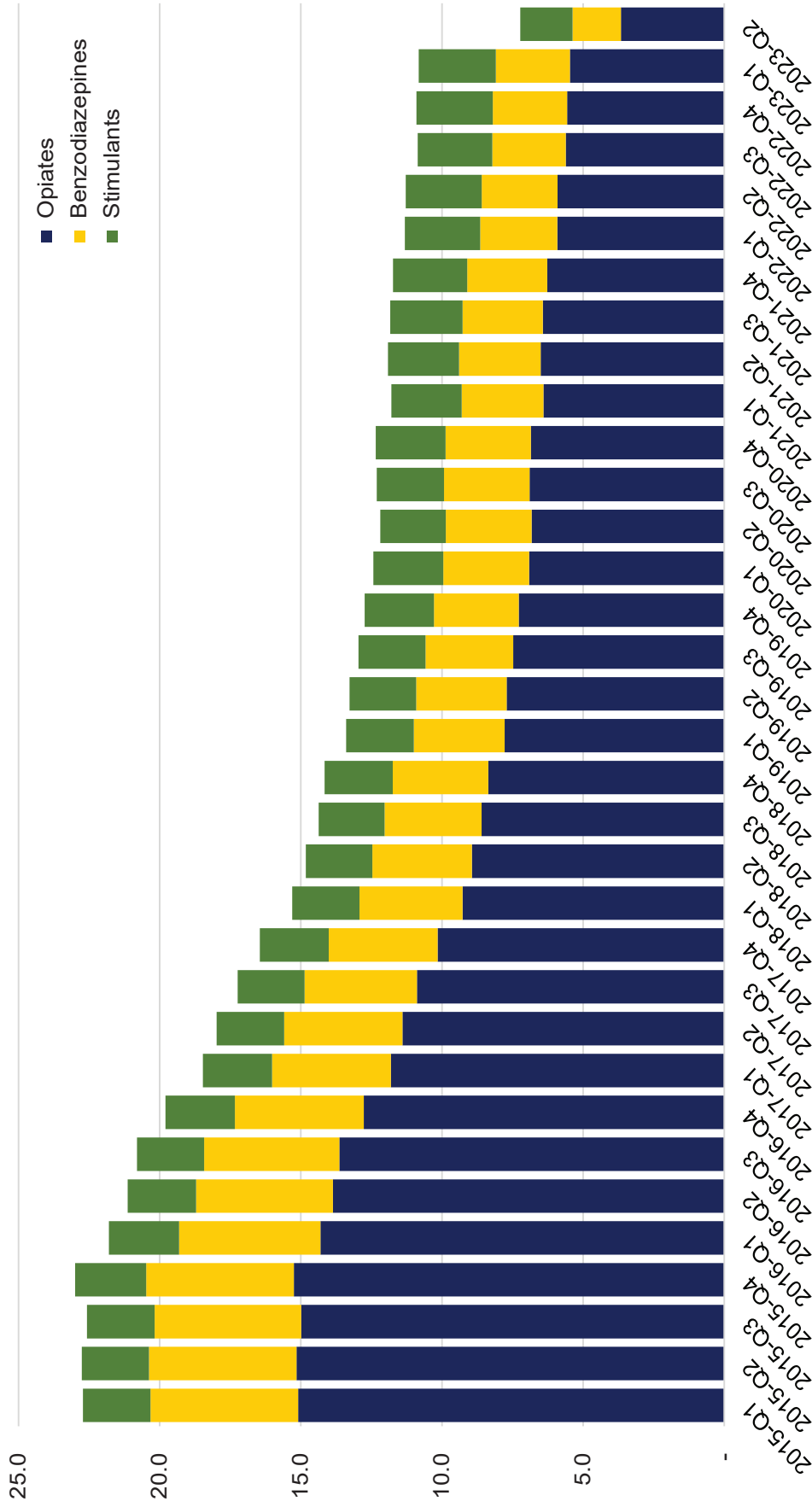


Figure 10: Number of Doses of Each Type of Prescription Drug Per 100,000 Population, By Quarter
Source: Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)

Figure 10 presents the number of doses of the three largest categories of controlled prescription drugs tracked by Ohio's OARRS system per capita.* "Doses" includes solid dose equivalents only (tablets, capsules and patches). In the 1st quarter of 2015, Summit County had more than 20 doses of opiates, benzodiazepines, and stimulants dispensed per person. About 15 of those doses were opiates. By the 1st quarter of 2023, that figure had dropped to just over 10 doses per person, 5.5 of which were opiates.

* The OARRS prescription tracking system was established in 2006 and is housed at the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. According to the OARRS website: "OARRS collects information on all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances and one non-controlled substance (gabapentin) dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and personally furnished by Ohio prescribers...OARRS is a tool that can be used to address prescription drug diversion and abuse. It serves multiple functions, including: patient care tool; drug epidemic early warning system; and drug diversion and insurance fraud investigative tool."

Trends In Substance Abuse, Akron-Canton Region

The table below presents data from "Drug Abuse Trends in the Akron-Canton Region, July - December 2022" published by the *Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network* (OSAM). The data in this report highlights emerging trends over the same time period in the previous year and provides some insight on how those trends impact today's overdose picture. The report relies primarily on input by focus groups made up of drug users, community professionals, service providers, and law enforcement. The summary of the findings for the Akron-Canton area can be found in the table below:

Summary of Drug Trends in the Akron-Canton Region, July-December, 2022

Drug	Current availability	Availability change	BCI case incidence change	Most available form
Powdered cocaine	No consensus	No change	No change	
Crack cocaine	Moderate / High	No change	No change	
Heroin (unadulterated)	Low	No change	Increase	Brown powdered
Fentanyl	High	Increase	Decrease	
Prescription opioids	Low	No change	Vicodin (No change)	Percocet
			OxyContin / Percocet (Increase)	
			Tramadol (Decrease)	
Buprenorphine	Moderate / High	No change	Decrease	
Sedative-Hypnotics	High	No change	Xanax (No change)	Xanax
			Klonopin (few cases)	
Marijuana	High	No change	Decrease	
Methamphetamine	High	No change	Decrease	

The full *Drug Trends Monitoring Report* can be downloaded here:

<https://mha.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-and-reports/osam/drug-trend-reports>