



SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

# DRUG OVERDOSES IN SUMMIT COUNTY, 2025



QR code link to SCPH  
Drug Dashboards

---

## POPULATION HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS DATA BRIEF, FEBRUARY 2026

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](https://scph.org/assessments-reports)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



# Recovered

From January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, emergency rooms serving Summit County residents that report to the state's EpiCenter system have treated an estimated 1,166 drug overdoses (OD), or about 2.4 overdoses per day.\*

- **Age Group:** Those age 35-49 make up the largest single group of overdose victims, 35% of the total.
- **Sex:** Most overdose victims are male (55%).
- **Race:** Whites make up nearly three-quarters of overdose victims (76%), followed by Blacks at 19%. Just over 1% did not have an identified race.
- **Residence:** Just over half of overdose victims come from Akron (51%), with the remaining 49% coming from the suburbs.

## DRUG OVERDOSES

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

ER VISIT SUMMARY	2
ER DEMOGRAPHICS	4
OVERDOSE DEATHS	5
DRUG OVERDOSE MAP	6
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	8
TRENDS IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE	9

- **Multiple OD:** The vast majority of overdose victims visit the emergency room once (89%). The remaining 11% either come 2-3 times (10%), or 4-5 times (1%).
- **Time of day:** Two-thirds of all overdoses happen between 10 am. and 10 pm (71%). The low point for overdose activity is 6 a.m. (0.7%).

Complete demographic details can be found on pages 4-5.

**NOTE:** Drug overdose Emergency Room 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.

Overdose death data comes from the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, while types of drugs being dispensed in Ohio comes from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Wastewater monitoring data comes from testing of Akron Wastewater Treatment Facility water performed by Biobot Analytics through a partnership with Summit County Public Health.

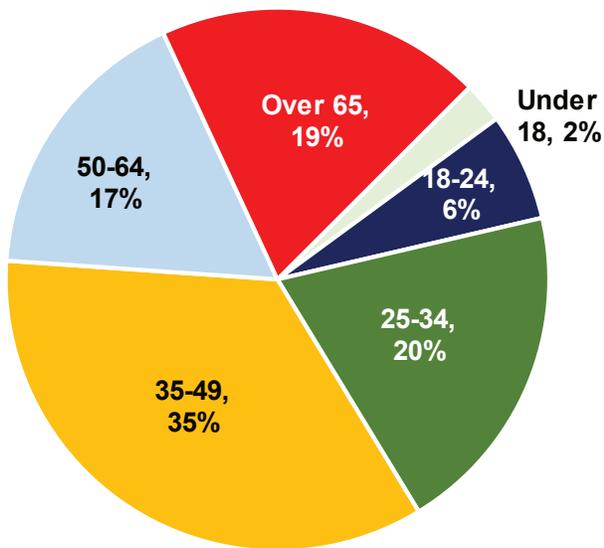


**FIGURE 1: 4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE OVERDOSE-RELATED ER VISITS, 2025**

Source: EpiCenter

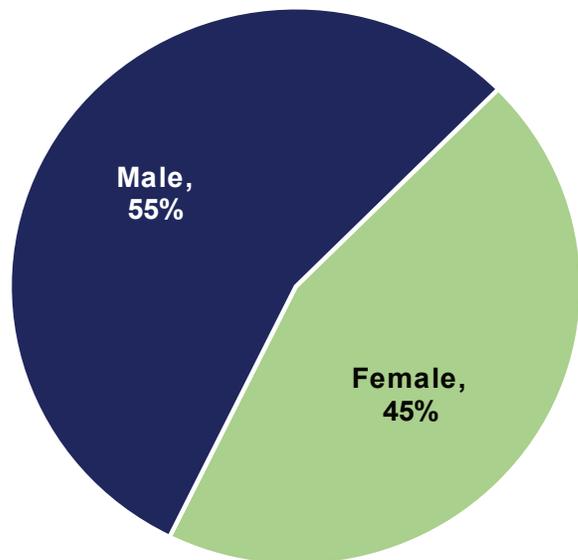
Reported overdose activity peaked in Week 21 (May) and have been trending downward throughout the summer. Only in the past couple of weeks (Weeks 40-41) have signs appeared that indicate the decline is leveling off.

## DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF REPORTED DRUG OVERDOSE ER VISITS, YTD 2025



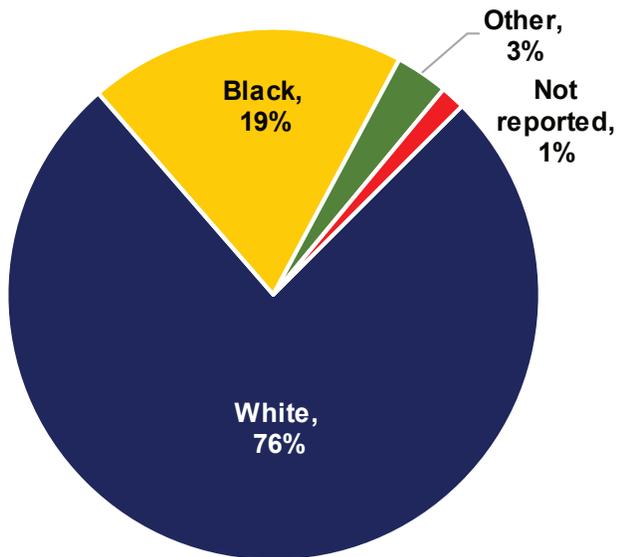
**FIGURE 2: AGE OF ER VISITORS, 2025**

Source: EpiCenter / SCPH

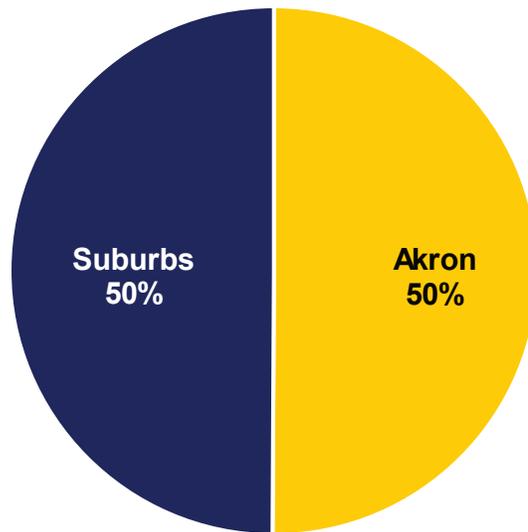


**FIGURE 3: SEX OF ER VISITORS, 2025**

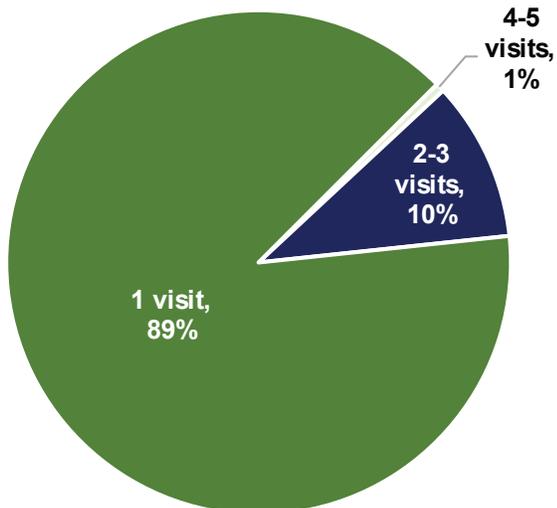
Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



**FIGURE 4: RACE OF ER VISITORS, 2025**  
 Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



**FIGURE 5: LOCATION OF ER VISITORS, 2025**  
 Source: EpiCenter / SCPH



**FIGURE 6: NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE VISITS, BY NUMBER OF VISITS, 2025**  
 Source: EpiCenter / SCPH

Hour	OD %
12:00 AM	4.5%
1:00 AM	3.4%
2:00 AM	3.0%
3:00 AM	2.5%
4:00 AM	2.0%
5:00 AM	1.6%
6:00 AM	1.4%
7:00 AM	1.5%
8:00 AM	2.2%
9:00 AM	2.4%
10:00 AM	3.2%
11:00 AM	3.8%
12:00 PM	4.3%
1:00 PM	5.1%
2:00 PM	4.8%
3:00 PM	5.4%
4:00 PM	6.0%
5:00 PM	6.1%
6:00 PM	6.4%
7:00 PM	6.3%
8:00 PM	6.5%
9:00 PM	6.4%
10:00 PM	6.0%
11:00 PM	5.2%

**FIGURE 7: TIME OF DAY OF OD-RELATED ER VISITS, 2016-2025 (YTD)**  
 Source: EpiCenter / SCPH

# DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS, 2025

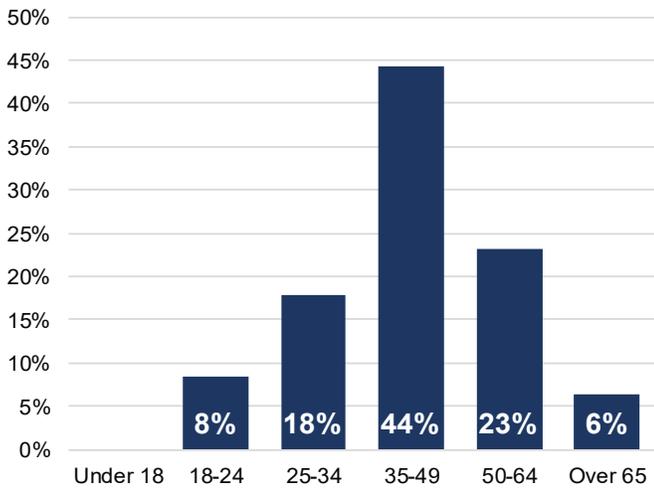
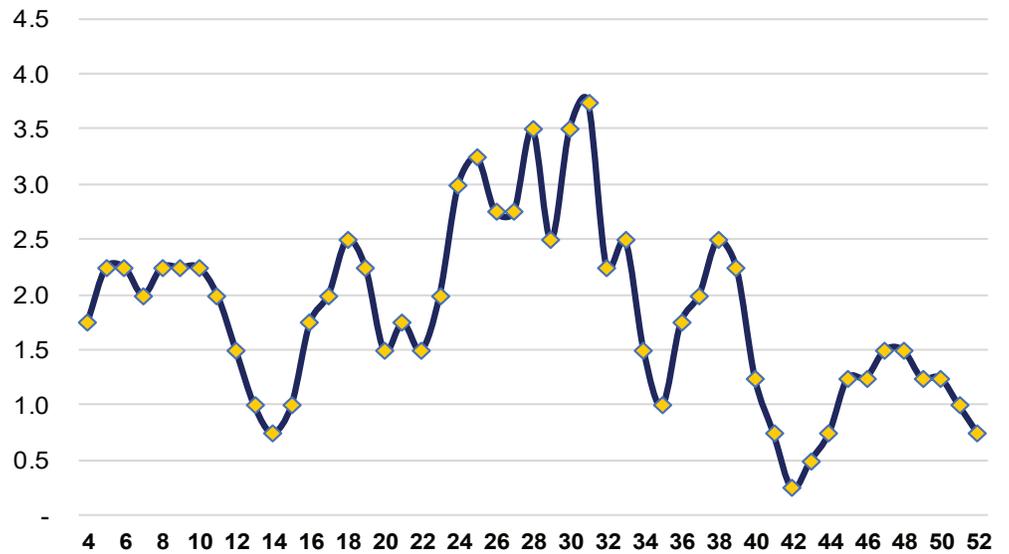
Figures for 2025 show 95 accidental overdose fatalities of Summit County residents as of the end of 2025. Drug overdose deaths averaged 197 per year during the five previous years. The figures below show the demographic distribution of the victims:

- **Race:** Three-quarters of OD victims were White and 24% were Black.
- **Age:** Sixty-seven percent of all OD victims were between the ages of 35 and 64.

- **Sex:** Two-thirds of all OD victims were male (67%).
- **Marital Status:** The vast majority of OD victims were either single, never married, or divorced / separated (82%). Only 11% were currently married. These figures are far different than those for the general population.
- **Residence:** Seventy-six percent of OD victims lived in the city of Akron, while the rest lived in the suburbs.

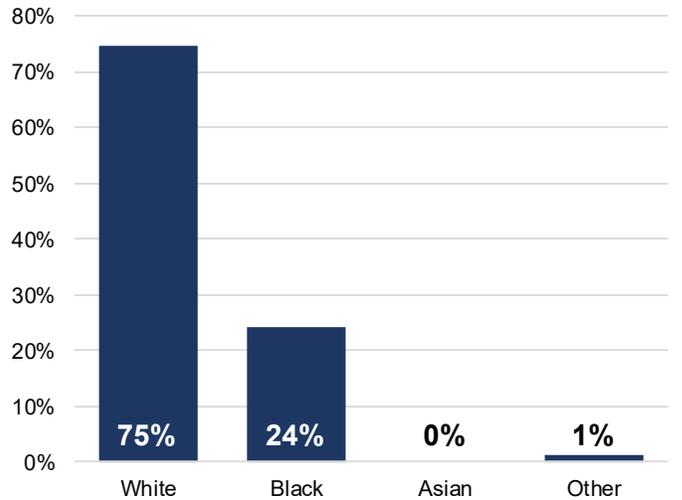
**FIGURE 8: 4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE OVERDOSE DEATHS PER WEEK, 2025**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



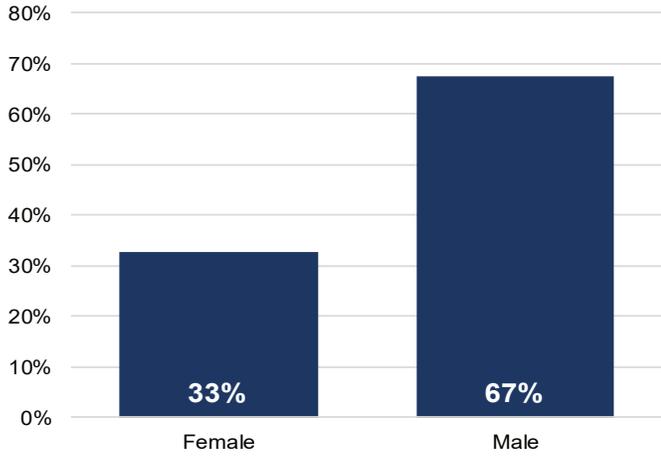
**FIGURE 11: AGE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



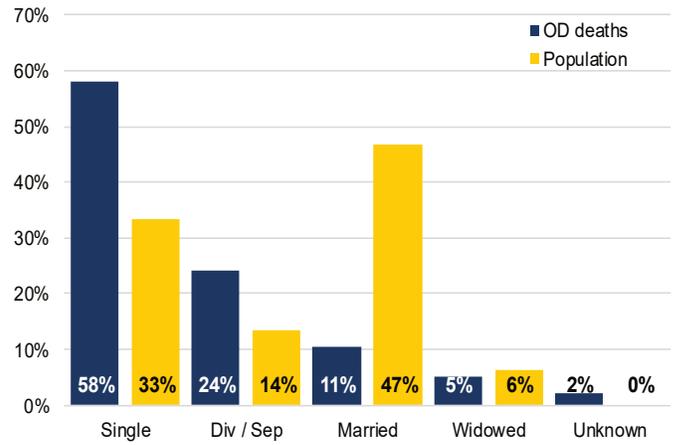
**FIGURE 9: RACE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



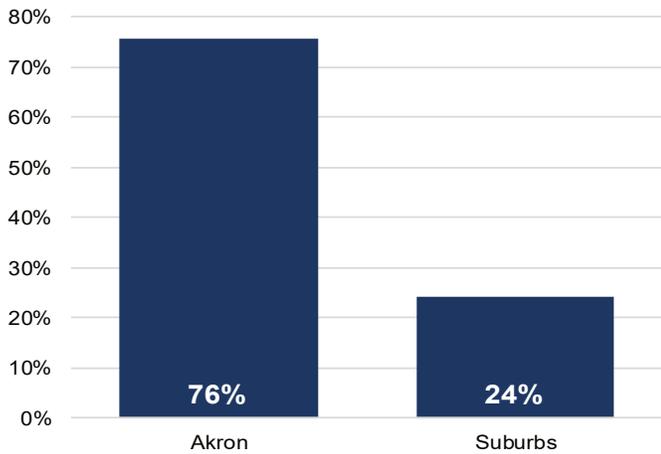
**FIGURE 10: SEX OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



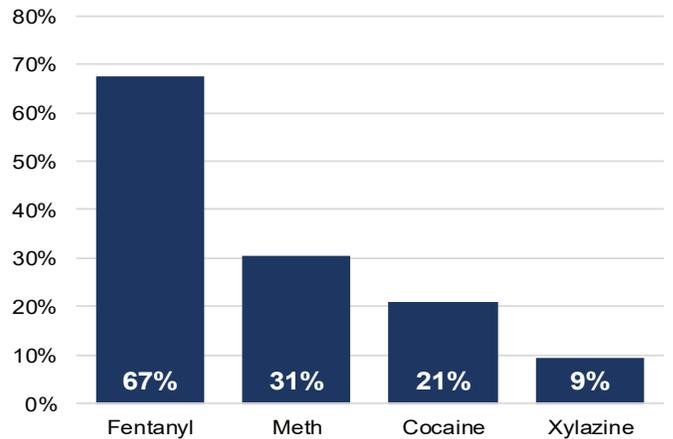
**FIGURE 11: MARITAL STATUS OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



**FIGURE 13: RESIDENCE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH



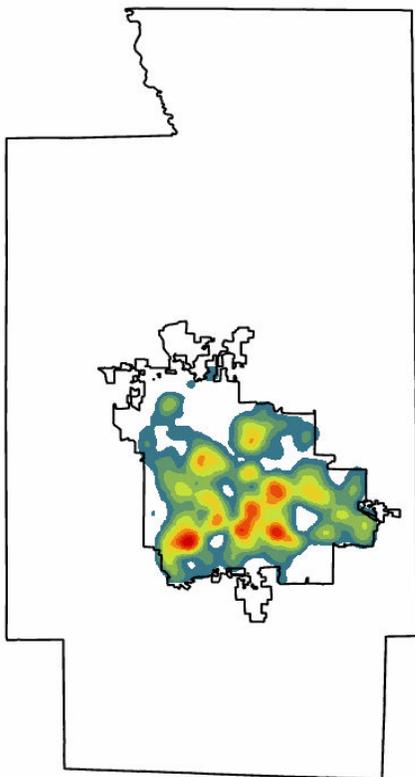
**FIGURE 14: MAJOR SUBSTANCES FOUND IN OVERDOSE DEATHS**

Source: Summit County Medical Examiner's Database, SCPH

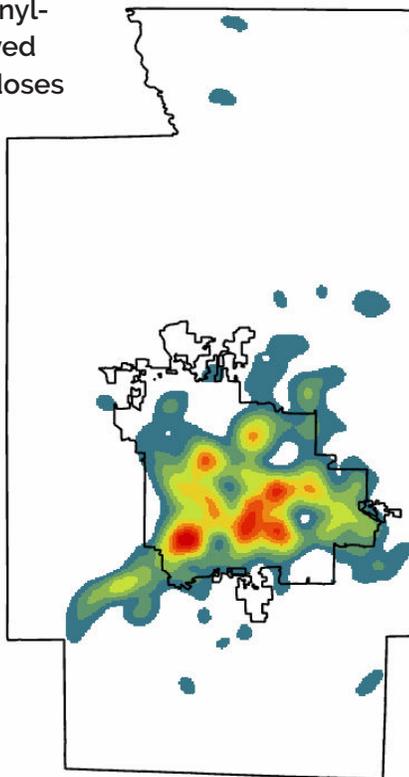
**Note:** Because most overdose deaths involve more than one substance, the percentages in Figure 14 will add up to more than 100%

# MAP 1: DENSITY MAP OF OVERDOSE DEATHS BY MAJOR SUBSTANCE, 2016-2024

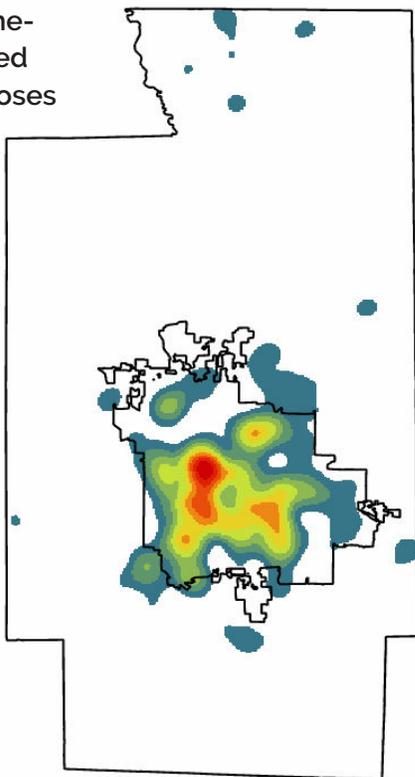
All



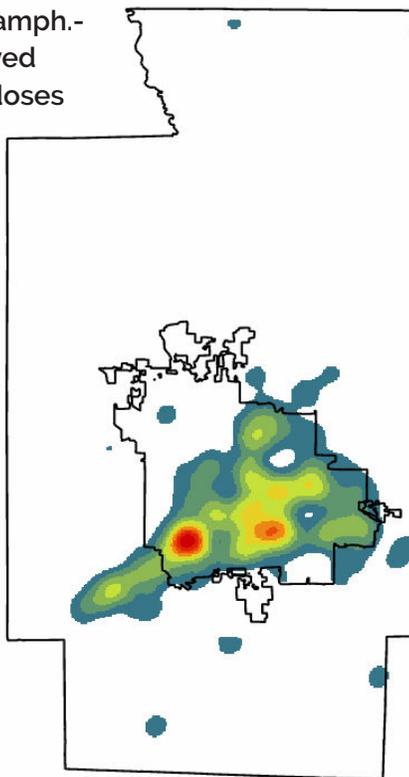
Fentanyl-Involved Overdoses



Cocaine-Involved Overdoses



Methamph.-Involved Overdoses



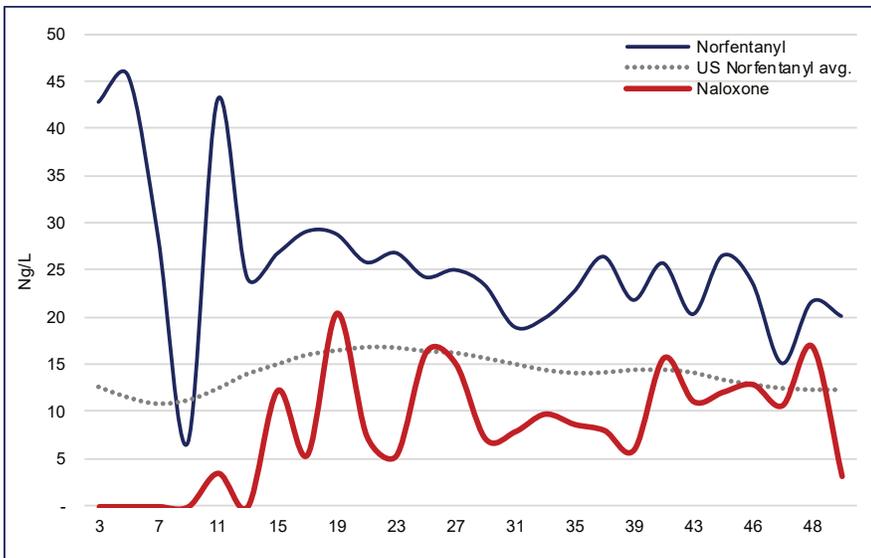
# WASTEWATER MONITORING

Starting in November 2025, Summit County, in partnership with Summit County Public Health, will be working with Biobot Analytics to incorporate wastewater monitoring into the county's broader substance use monitoring efforts.

Wastewater analysis is an emerging public health tool that provides a reliable, anonymous view of population-level drug trends. In combination with emergency room visit monitoring and fatality data from the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office, wastewater monitoring will provide Summit County with a broad array of tools that can help local leaders make more informed decisions.

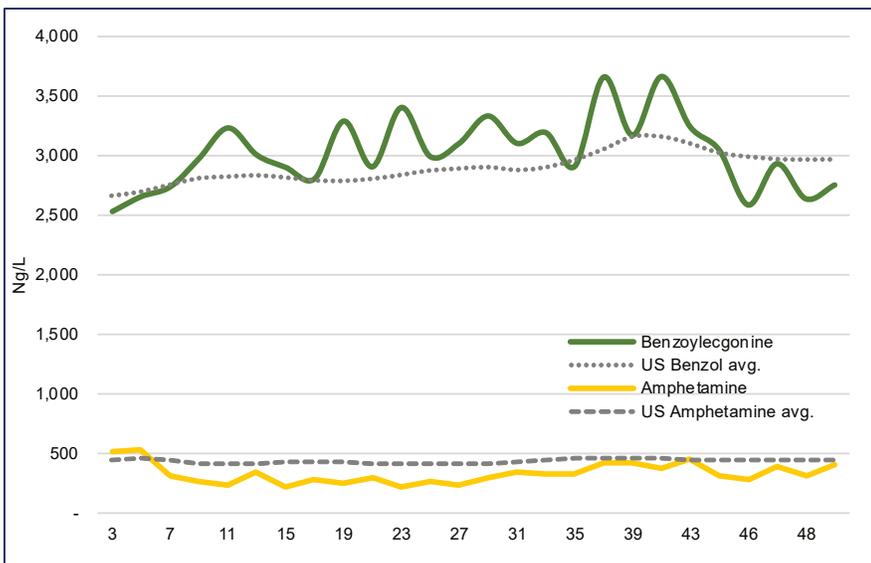
Concentrations of norfentanyl (the metabolized version of fentanyl) started trending downward after weeks of sharp fluctuations during the first few weeks of the year. By week 13, levels stabilized and began a slow decline until week 31 of 2025 (mid-March to mid-July). Norfentanyl levels have fluctuated since then, remaining mostly steady overall since week 37.

Concentrations of benzoylecgonine and amphetamine (cocaine and meth metabolites, respectively) stayed roughly steady since the early weeks of the year. Benzoylecgonine began to decline beginning in about week 41, while amphetamine began declining about two weeks later.



**FIGURE 15:**  
NORFENTANYL  
CONCENTRATIONS IN  
WASTEWATER, 2025

Source: Biobot



**FIGURE 16:**  
BENZOYLECGONINE  
(COCAINE) AND  
AMPHETAMINE (METH)  
CONCENTRATIONS IN  
WASTEWATER, 2025

Source: Biobot

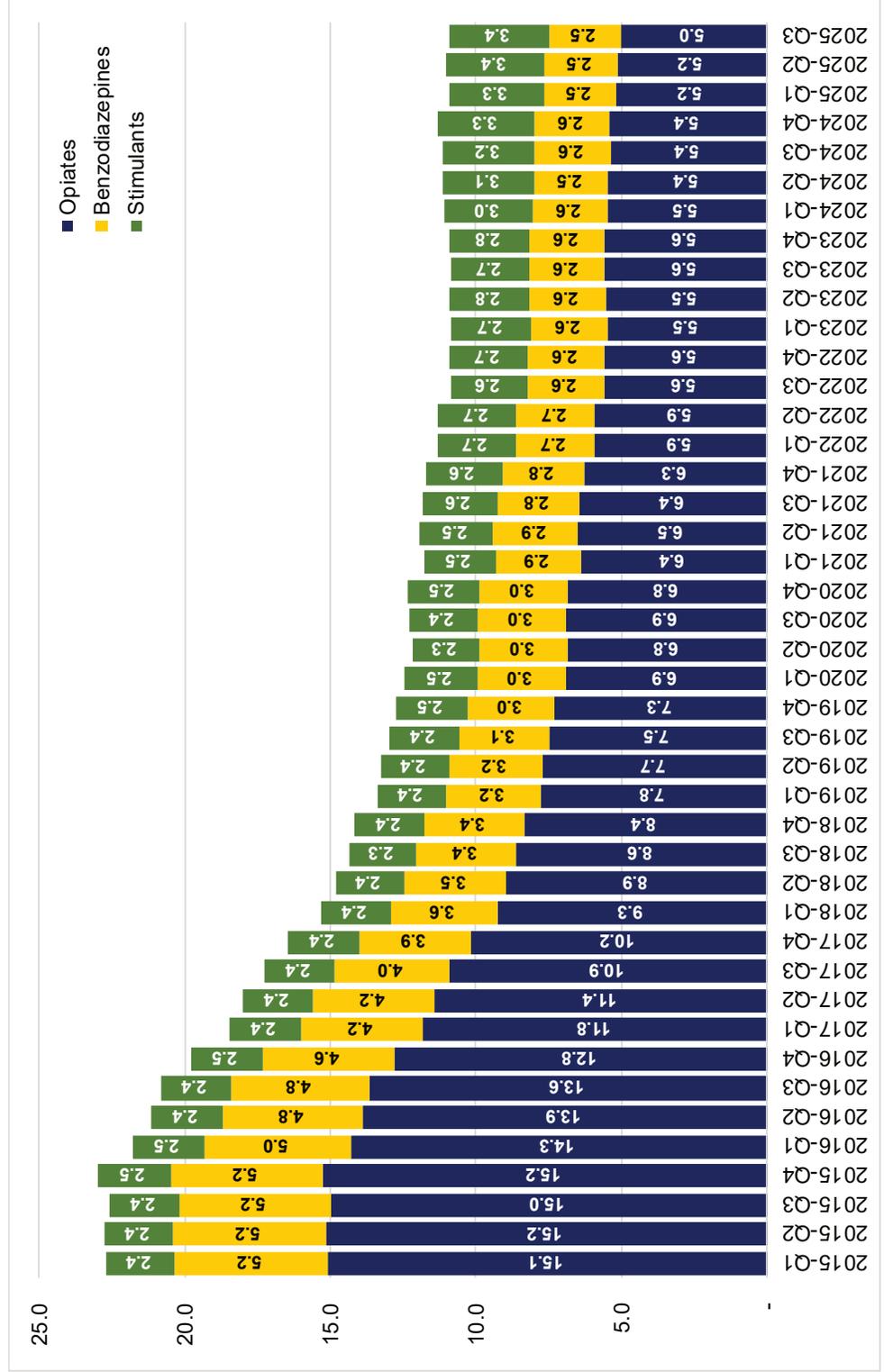
**Notes:** Wastewater monitoring is conducted weekly at the Akron Wastewater Treatment Facility. This facility serves approximately 330,000 Summit County residents in the communities of Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, Springfield, Mogadore, Lakemore, Tallmadge, Fairlawn, Bath and the Montrose commercial district. Testing for naloxone-3-glucuronide (the naloxone metabolite) has only recently begun. Levels of the parent drug are shown instead.

Figure 18 presents the number of doses of the three largest categories of controlled prescription drugs tracked by Ohio's OARRS system per 100,000 population.\* "Doses" includes solid dose equivalents only (tablets, capsules and patches). In the 1st quarter of 2015, Summit County had more than 2 million doses of opiates, benzodiazepines, and stimulants dispensed per 100,000 population. About 1.5 million of those doses were opiates. By the 2nd quarter of 2024, that figure had dropped to just over 1 million doses per 100,000 population, 544,000 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." It is important to note that these figures include doses actually dispensed for all purposes, whether legitimately used or abused.

**FIGURE 18: NUMBER OF DOSES OF EACH TYPE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG AVAILABLE PER CAPITA BY QUARTER**

Source: Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)



# SUMMARY OF DRUG TRENDS IN THE AKRON-CANTON REGION, JANUARY - JUNE 2025

The report relies primarily on input by focus groups made up of drug users, community professionals, service providers, and law enforcement. A summary of the findings for the Akron-Canton region can be found in the table below:

The table below presents data from "Drug Abuse Trends in the Akron-Canton Region, June - December 2024" 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.

Drug	Current availability	Availability change	BCI case incidence change	Most available form	MH Urinalysis test results	GPRA intake - % positive
Powdered cocaine	High	No change	Increase		4.6%	4.1%
Crack cocaine	High	No change	No change		4.6%	2.2%
Heroin (unadulterated)	Low	No change	Increase	Brown powdered	0.1%	2.5%
Fentanyl	High	No change	Increase		2.1%	4.4%
Prescription opioids	Low / moderate	No change	Increase	OxyContin / Percocet	7.9% (Oxy) / 13.8% (other)	1.5%
Buprenorphine	High	No change	No change		NA	NA
Sedative-Hypnotics	Moderate	No change	Xanax (no change) / Klonopin (incr.)	Xanax / Klonopin	9.8% (Benzo)	0.3%
Marijuana	High	Increase	No change		24.5%	19.4%
Methamphetamine	High	No change	Increase		4.0%	13.4%
<b>Other drugs seen in the Akron-Canton region:</b> Gabapentin, LSD, peyote, PCP, psilocybin mushrooms, ketamine, kratom, MDMA, OTC medications, Rx stimulants, promethazine, synthetic marijuana, xylazine.						
<b>Definitions:</b> MH Urinalysis - Percent of tests for each substance conducted by Millennium Health on urine samples that were positive for the named substance						
<b>GPRA Intake</b> - Percent of people entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs that reported using the named substance during the past 30 days before intake						

**FIGURE 19:** SUMMARY OF DRUG TRENDS IN THE AKRON-CANTON REGION, JUNE - DECEMBER 2024

Source: Drug Trends Monitoring Report

The full *Drug Trends Monitoring Report* can be downloaded here: <https://mha.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-and-reports/osam/drug-trend-reports>