

Tuscarawas County Opiate Overdose Report 2016/2017



Tuscarawas County Health Department

Public Health
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Data Sources

Primary and Secondary Data

This report is compiled based on primary and secondary data obtained for the creation of this report. This report will be shared with stakeholders and decision makers and can be used as a guide for informed decision making surrounding public health strategy, policy and programming.

Epi Center

EpiCenter provides public health with data from an electronic database with instant access to up-to-date information. EpiCenter data provides information on an individual basis as persons are admitted into hospital emergency rooms. The significance of this data, as it related to opiate overdoses, is that agencies are able to classify the number of overdoses that are being brought to emergency rooms by the patient's home location. Additional data provided include gender, home zip code and age. Limitations of the data include that data can only be extracted from entities participating in meaningful use. The validity of the data is contingent upon the correct entering of the proper ICD 10 code upon patient discharge. Unfortunately not all patients had a corresponding discharge ICD code, thus the data set provided should be looked at as minimum numbers.

Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse

The Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse is a self-service online tool where anyone can obtain the most recent public health data about Ohio. For the purpose of opiate overdoses information regarding mortality is available based on county of residence. Limitations of the data involve time-gaps meaning that until mid-2017, 2016 mortality data sets are not confirmed or complete. Most

mortality data has at least a 6 month lag time. Additionally, mortality indicators are categorized based on primary cause of death which is often not listed as unintentional drug overdoses.

Direct Mail Surveys to Local First Responders

In May 2017, a survey was sent to all local first responders soliciting opiate overdose data. The survey asked for data from all of 2016 and from April 2017. A total of 33 surveys were mailed with pre-paid postage enveloped enclosed. One follow up reminder letter was sent approximately 3 weeks after the initial letter. For the 2016 data a response rate of 45.4% was obtained while the April 2017 response rate was 48.4%. The survey included questions such as:

- Number of overdoses responded to
- Number of persons transported to the ER due to overdoses
- Number of times naloxone was utilized
- Number of times naloxone successfully reversed an overdose
- Common overdose locations
- Most common type of overdose responded to

2016 Data Summary

Per the Epi Center data there were a total of 32 individuals arriving at an emergency room location due to a classified heroin overdose. 12 additional persons arrived and were classified as having suffered an opiate overdose. There were 2 cocaine overdoses and 8 benzodiazepine overdoses noted. The two categories of interest for the purpose of this report are the heroin and opiate overdoses. When breaking down that data there were a total of 22 males and 22 females. The average age for persons appearing with a heroin overdose was 28, while the average age for an opiate overdose was 36. It should however be noted that the age range for both included ages 19-53. Home address by zip code included Dover – 4 persons, New Philadelphia – 24 persons, Bolivar – 5 persons, Uhrichsville – 6 persons, Strasburg – 2 persons, Sugarcreek – 1 person, Midvale – 1 person, and Dennison 2 persons.

When examining the data provided by the first responders from 2016 it was reported that heroin was the most common substance that they responded to in regards to overdoses. Common overdose locations included the home bathroom, gas stations, Interstate 77, local stores or in vehicles. A total of 147 overdoses were responded to in 2016. 126 persons were transported to an emergency room. 67 times naloxone was utilized the reversal was successful 54 times. An unsuccessful reversal could be due to the fact the person had expired or because the substance was not reactive to naloxone.

The Ohio Public Health Warehouse Database shows that data from 2016, as of August 7, 2017, is incomplete and subject to change. However, in Tuscarawas County in 2016 there were a total of 14 unintentional drug overdose related deaths. 5 of the unintentional drug overdose deaths were attributed to prescription opiates without fentanyl and 5 attributed to prescription opiates with fentanyl. 4 of all overdose deaths for 2016 were classified as heroin related.

April 2017 Data Summary

As of May 2017 when the first responder surveys were mailed out it was concluded that one month would be chosen from 2017 to see a “snapshot” of the current state of crisis for opiates in Tuscarawas County. The total numbers from 2016 were divided by 12 months to determine a monthly average baseline.

Per the Epi Center data from 2016 the average number of persons presenting to the emergency room for heroin overdoses was 2.6, while the monthly average presenting to the ER for opiates was 1. In April 2017, EpiCenter data showed 3 persons presenting with heroin overdoses and 1 person with an opiate overdose. These numbers are fairly consistent with 2016 averages.

When examining first responder data from 2016 it can be averaged that there were 12.25 average overdose responses per month and 5.5 times naloxone was utilized per month. Based on the data provided via survey those numbers increased to 34 total overdose responses in April 2017 with naloxone being provided 28 times in one month. The most common overdose type that first responders reported was consistently heroin.

6 Month Data for 2017 (January – June)

Epi Center data available for January-June 2017 provided that there were a total of 16 individuals arriving at an emergency room location due to a classified heroin overdose. 4 additional persons arrived and were classified as having suffered an opiate overdose. These numbers are almost identically consistent with monthly averages from 2016.

The Ohio Public Health Warehouse Database shows that data from January-June 2017, as of August 7, 2017, is incomplete and subject to change. However, in Tuscarawas County in 2017 there were a total of 9 unintentional drug overdose related deaths. 7 of the unintentional drug overdose deaths were fentanyl related. 6 of all overdose deaths for 2016 were classified as heroin related. It is assumed that mortality counts for unintentional drug overdoses in 2017 for Tuscarawas County will far surpass previous year's numbers.

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