

FAST FACTS

- In 2019, 4,028 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses.
- Fentanyl was involved in the majority of drug overdose deaths among all sex and race/ethnicity groups, ranging from 71.3% among white non-Hispanic females to 83.5% among Hispanic males.
- Black non-Hispanic males had the highest drug overdose death rate in Ohio compared with other sex and race/ethnicity groups.
- From 2018 to 2019, Black non-Hispanic males and females had the largest increases in overdose death rates (30.0% and 21.9%, respectively).

Age and Sex

- In 2019, the highest rates of unintentional overdose deaths were observed among 35-44 year olds, followed by 25-34 year olds.
- From 2018 to 2019, the drug overdose death rate decreased or remained the same for age groups under 35, while the remaining groups experienced increases. Individuals aged 65 and older had the largest rate increase in 2019 (23.0%).
- Males have consistently higher rates of fatal overdose compared with females. From 2018 to 2019, the unintentional drug overdose death rate for males increased 9.4%, while the rate for females increased less than 1.0%.

Figure 1: Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age, Ohio, 2014-2019

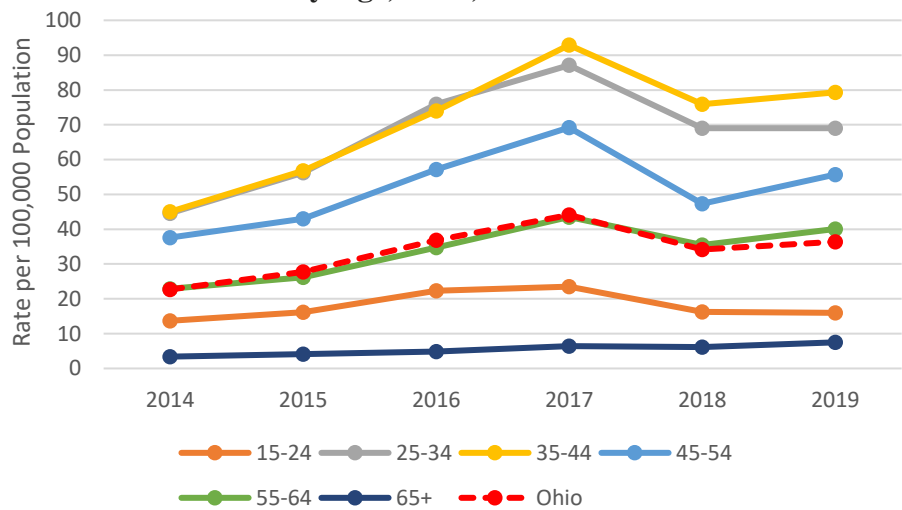
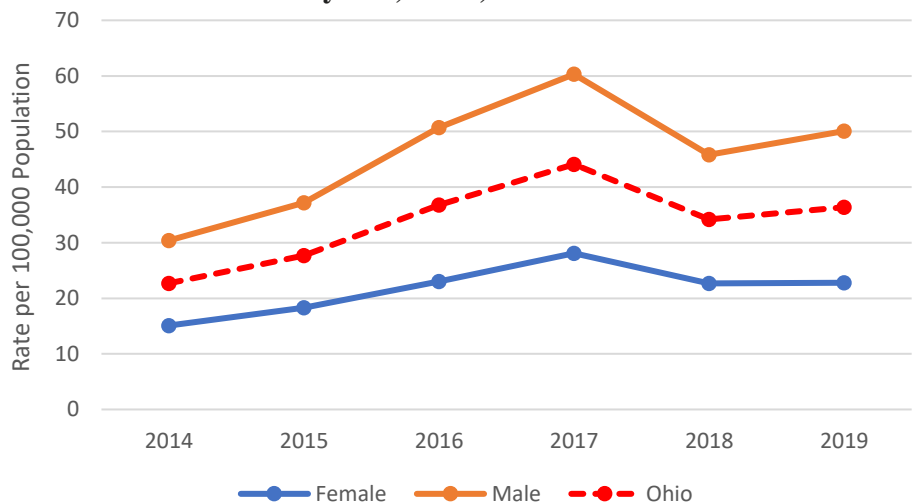
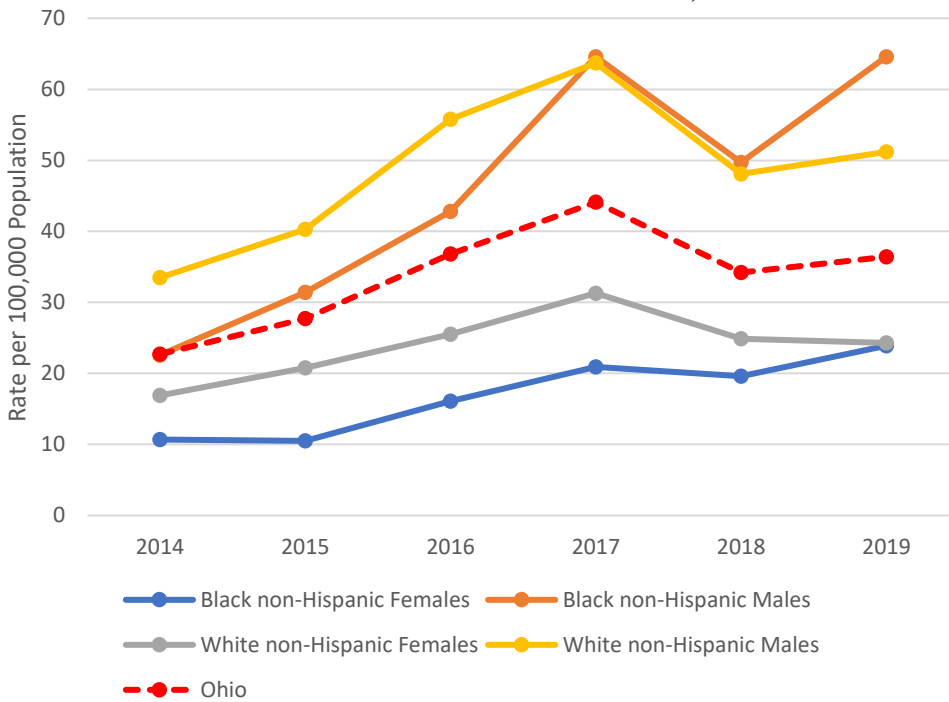


Figure 2: Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex, Ohio, 2014-2019



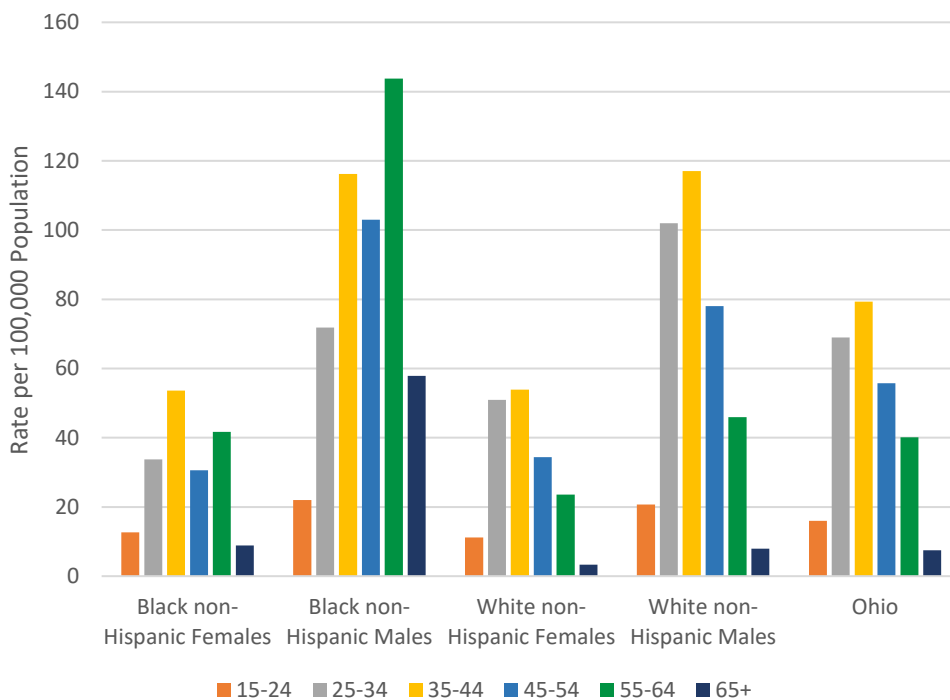
Race/Ethnicity

Figure 3: Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2014-2019



- Since 2017, Black non-Hispanic males have had the highest overdose death rate in Ohio compared with other sex and race/ethnicity groups. Black non-Hispanic females have had the lowest unintentional overdose death rate; however, in 2019, the rate among Black non-Hispanic females was nearly equal to that of white non-Hispanic females (23.9 and 24.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- From 2018 to 2019, Black non-Hispanic males and females had the largest increases in overdose death rates (30.0% and 21.9%, respectively). The rate among white non-Hispanic males increased 6.4%, while the rate among white non-Hispanic females decreased 2.4%.

Figure 4: Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2019



- In 2019, 35-44 year olds had the highest overdose death rate among all sex and race/ethnicity groups with the exception of Black non-Hispanic males. Among Black non-Hispanic males, 55-64 year olds had the highest rate.
- In both 2018 and 2019, the highest rate for Black non-Hispanic females was among those aged 35-44, a shift from previous years when the highest rate was among older age groups (45-54 and 55-64). Substance use disorder among reproductive-aged females (ages 15-44) is of particular concern because fetal exposure to opioids and other substances during pregnancy can result in infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a set of symptoms associated with abrupt withdrawal.

Drug Involvement by Age

- In 2019, illicit fentanyl was involved in the majority of unintentional drug overdose deaths among all age groups; however, the percentage of deaths involving fentanyl tended to decrease as age increased. Fentanyl involvement ranged from 52.9% of overdose deaths among those aged 65 and older to 83.8% of deaths among 25-35 year olds.
- In deaths involving a combination of fentanyl and other drug categories, the highest percentage of deaths among all age groups involved the combination of fentanyl and cocaine. This was followed by fentanyl and psychostimulants for age groups under 55 and fentanyl and heroin for age groups 55 and older.

Figure 5: Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Age, Ohio, 2019

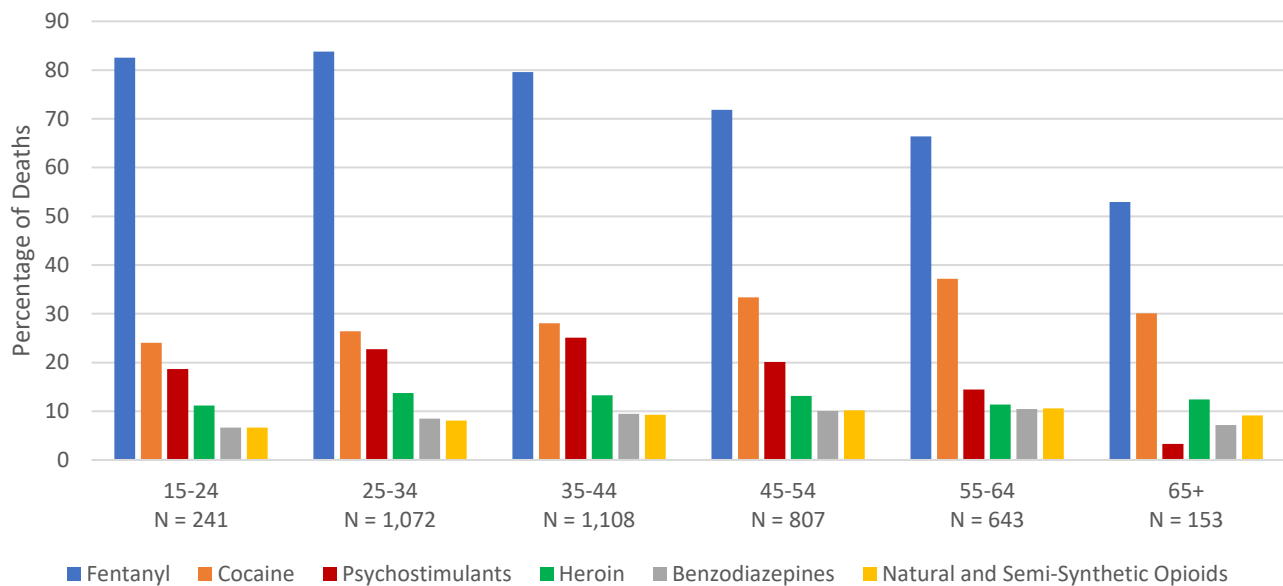
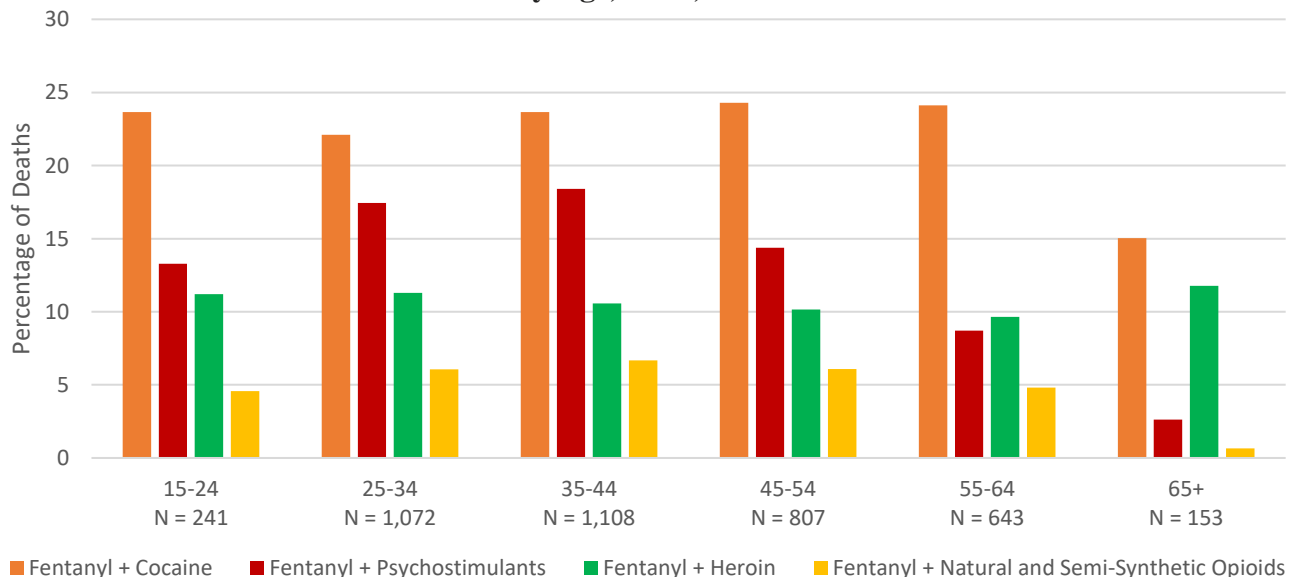


Figure 6: Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drug Combinations by Age, Ohio, 2019



Drug Involvement by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2019, illicit fentanyl was involved in the majority of overdose deaths among all sex and race/ethnicity groups, ranging from 71.3% among white non-Hispanic females to 83.5% among Hispanic males.
- In deaths involving a combination of fentanyl and other drug categories, the highest percentage of deaths among all sex and race/ethnicity groups was related to the combination of fentanyl and cocaine. However, those percentages varied widely by race/ethnicity and were highest among Black non-Hispanic males and females and lowest among white non-Hispanic males and females.

Figure 7: Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2019

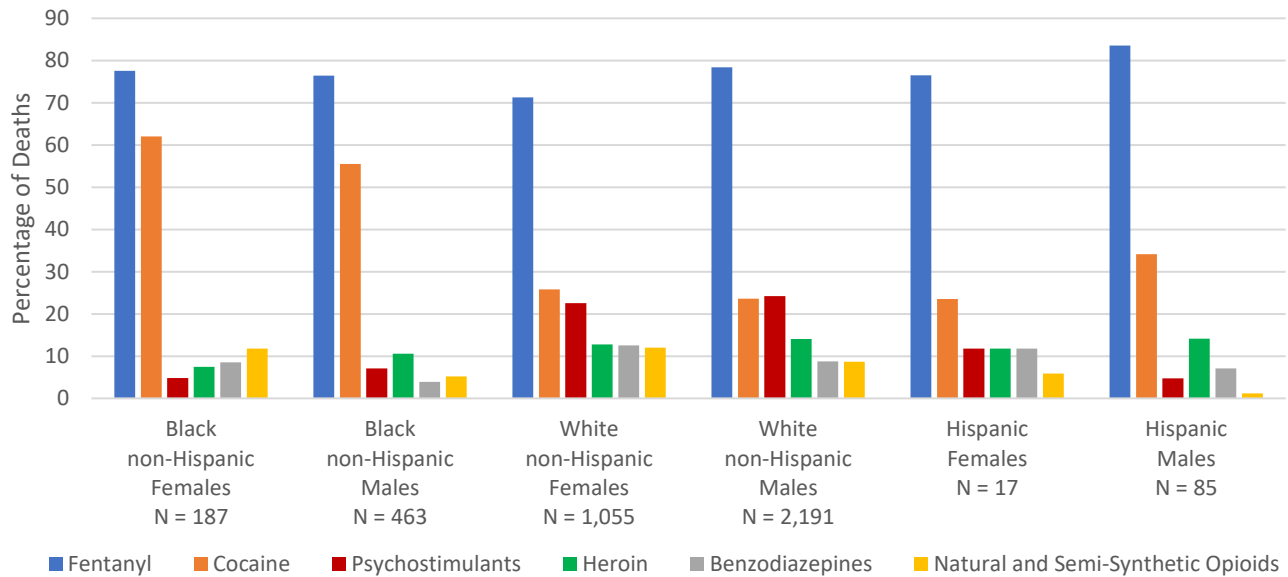
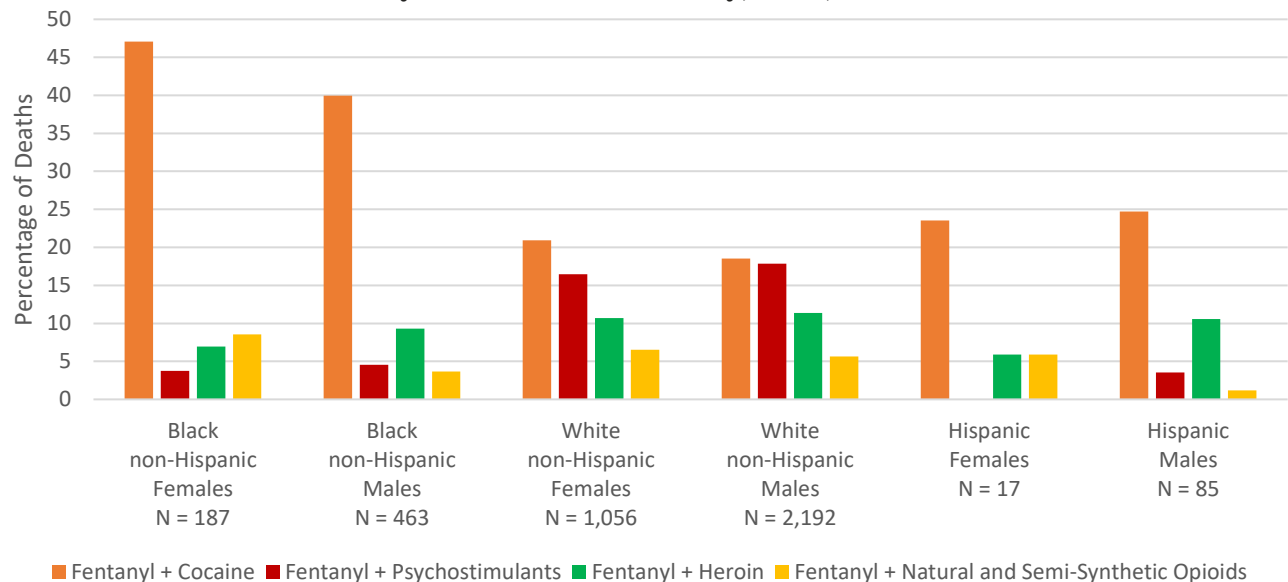


Figure 8: Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drug Combinations by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2019



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category. Other race groups not represented due to small numbers.

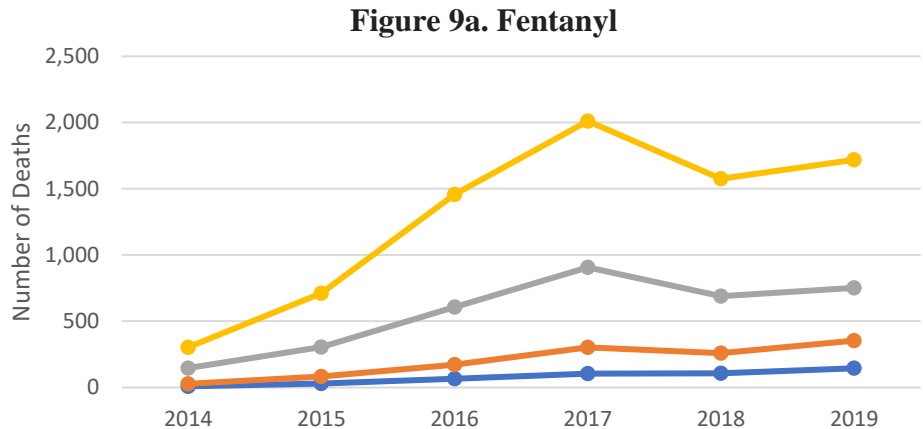
Drug Involvement by Race/Ethnicity: Fentanyl, Psychostimulant, and Cocaine Trends

Figure 9. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl, Cocaine, and Psychostimulants by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2014-2019

● Black non-Hispanic Females ● Black non-Hispanic Males ● White non-Hispanic Females ● White non-Hispanic Males

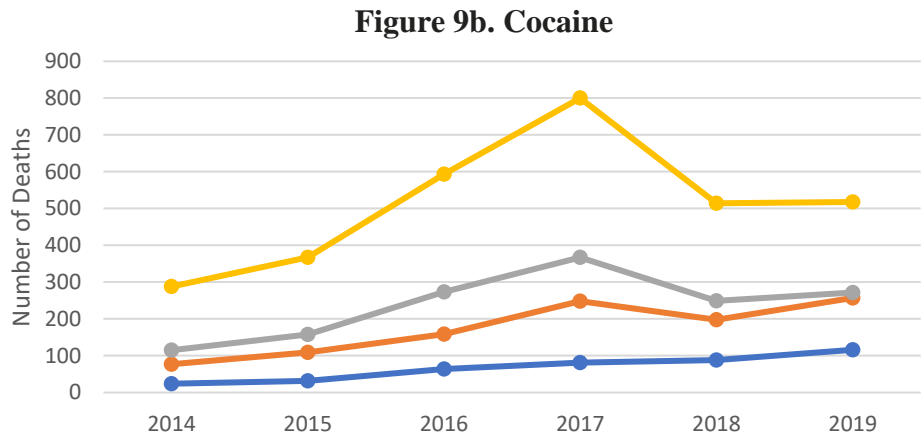
Fentanyl:

- From 2018 to 2019, all sex and race/ethnicity groups experienced increases in the number of fentanyl-related deaths, with the highest increases among Black non-Hispanic males and females (36.2% and 34.3%, respectively).
- Fentanyl-related deaths among white non-Hispanic males and females both increased by 9.0%.



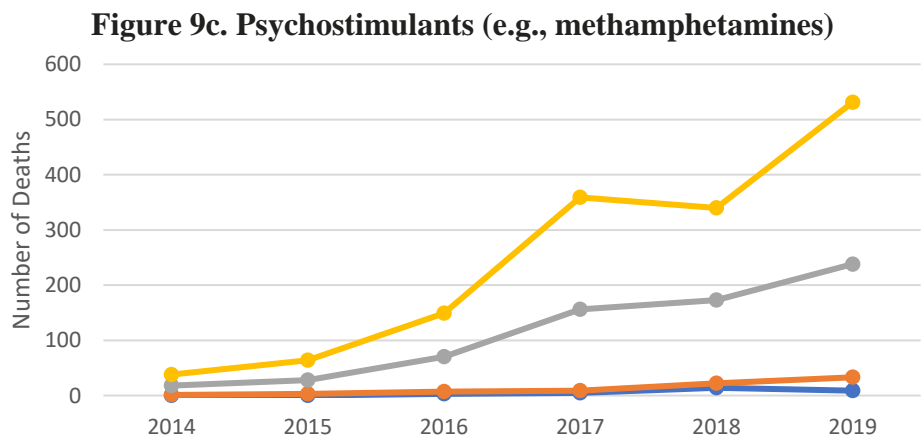
Cocaine:

- From 2018 to 2019, all sex and race/ethnicity groups experienced increases in the number of cocaine-related deaths, with the highest increases among Black non-Hispanic males and females (29.8% and 31.8%, respectively).
- Cocaine-related deaths among white non-Hispanic females increased 9.2%, while deaths among white non-Hispanic males increased less than 1.0%.



Psychostimulants:

- In 2019, males had the highest increase in the number of psychostimulant-related deaths, with a 56.2% increase among white non-Hispanic males, followed by a 50.0% increase among Black non-Hispanic males.
- Psychostimulant-related deaths among white non-Hispanic females increased 37.6%, while deaths among Black non-Hispanic females decreased 35.7%.



2018-2019 Drug Involvement Summary

Table 1: Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2018-2019

	Fentanyl		Cocaine		Psychostimulants		Heroin		Benzodiazepines		Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Race/Ethnicity and Sex¹												
Black non-Hispanic Females	108	145	88	116	14	9	23	14	7	16	11	22
Black non-Hispanic Males	260	354	198	257	22	33	66	49	17	18	30	24
White non-Hispanic Females	690	752	249	272	173	238	180	135	161	132	167	127
White non-Hispanic Males	1,576	1,718	514	518	340	531	416	308	208	192	250	190
Hispanic Females	16	13	7	4	3	2	5	2	3	2	1	1
Hispanic Males	60	71	24	29	3	4	17	12	5	6	9	1
Total²	2,733	3,070	1,092	1,206	564	827	714	520	403	371	471	370

Table 2: Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drug Combinations by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2018-2019

	Fentanyl + Cocaine		Fentanyl + Psychostimulants		Fentanyl + Heroin		Fentanyl + Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Race/Ethnicity and Sex¹								
Black non-Hispanic Females	54	88	13	7	19	13	9	16
Black non-Hispanic Males	130	185	12	21	57	43	22	17
White non-Hispanic Females	189	221	108	174	137	113	74	69
White non-Hispanic Males	405	406	234	391	333	249	146	124
Hispanic Females	3	4	3	0	5	1	0	1
Hispanic Males	18	21	2	3	14	9	7	1
Total²	808	930	379	599	569	428	260	231

Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44). Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanyl). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to code T40.2. Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.

1. Other race groups not represented due to small numbers.

2. Total includes all unintentional drug overdose deaths among Ohio residents.

Demographic Summary

Table 3: Demographic Summary of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths, Ohio, 2014-2019

Demographics	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2014-2019	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Age									
<15	0	2	4	5	4	4	*	19	0.1
15-24	215	253	345	361	247	241	16.0	1,662	18.0
25-34	656	835	1,143	1,330	1,063	1,072	69.0	6,099	67.1
35-44	632	792	1,022	1,283	1,054	1,108	79.3	5,891	70.5
45-54	601	676	886	1,051	703	807	55.7	4,724	51.5
55-64	361	417	557	700	571	643	40.1	3,249	33.8
65+	61	75	93	124	122	153	7.5	628	5.5
Sex									
Female	860	1,017	1,284	1,560	1,250	1,269	22.8	7,240	21.7
Male	1,666	2,033	2,766	3,294	2,514	2,758	50.1	15,031	45.8
Race/Ethnicity									
American Indian, non-Hispanic	2	4	4	16	6	4	*	36	19.3
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	6	4	8	14	11	14	4.0	57	3.0
Black, non-Hispanic	239	298	426	611	512	650	42.9	2,736	30.7
White, non-Hispanic	2,235	2,674	3,538	4,109	3,131	3,247	37.8	18,934	36.3
Hispanic	38	61	69	98	93	102	24.3	461	19.5
Race/Ethnicity and Sex²									
Black non-Hispanic Females	81	81	126	162	155	187	23.9	792	17.0
Black non-Hispanic Males	158	217	300	449	357	463	64.6	1,944	46.2
White non-Hispanic Females	768	915	1,127	1,365	1,069	1,055	24.3	6,299	23.9
White non-Hispanic Males	1,467	1,759	2,411	2,744	2,062	2,191	51.2	12,634	48.7
Hispanic Females	4	15	22	22	20	17	8.1	100	8.6
Hispanic Males	34	46	47	76	73	85	39.7	361	29.8
Total³	2,531	3,050	4,050	4,854	3,764	4,028	36.4	22,277	33.6

Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).

1. The death rates presented for age groups are age-specific. The death rates presented for sex and race/ethnicity are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rate suppressed when fewer than 10 total deaths.
2. Other race groups not represented due to small numbers.
3. Total includes all unintentional drug overdose deaths among Ohio residents.