

This preliminary data summary has been developed to provide recent trends in unintentional drug overdose deaths using preliminary 2020 vital statistics mortality data. Comparisons are made to finalized mortality data from 2010 to 2019. This summary will be updated monthly as additional mortality data for 2020 is received. The previously published [2019 Ohio Drug Overdose Report](#) provides more detailed information about finalized data.

Data Notes

Mortality data in this summary comes from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis was conducted by the ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Data presented below includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug overdose (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).

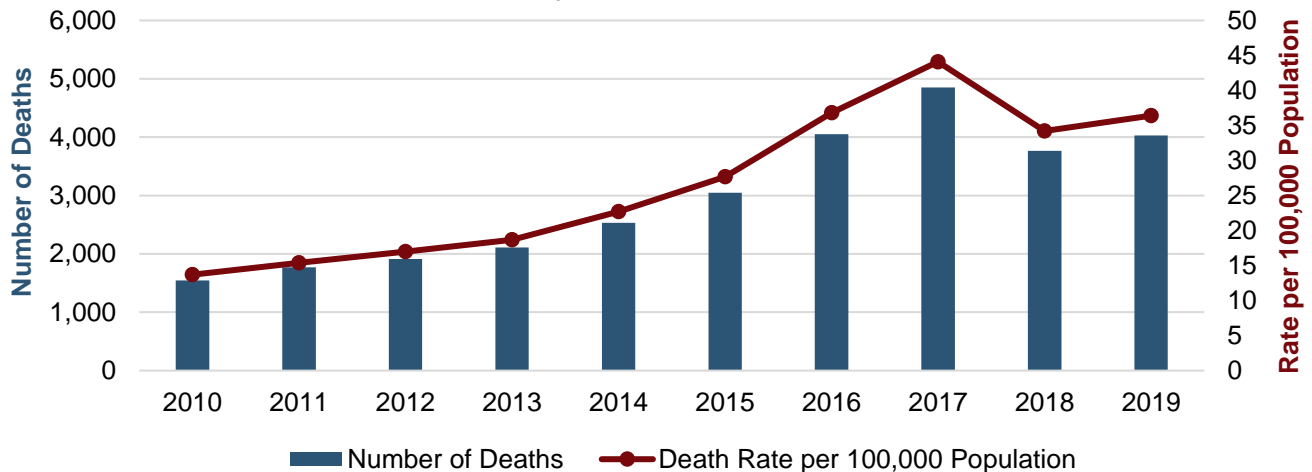
Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Therefore, when classifying deaths according to drug involvement, individual deaths may be reported in more than one drug category (Figures 4-7). Fentanyl includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (e.g., carfentanil). Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other psychostimulants with potential for abuse (ICD-10 code T43.6). Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) correspond to code T40.2.

*2020 preliminary data was updated on July 6, 2021.

Unintentional Drug Overdose

Finalized Data – Historic Trends

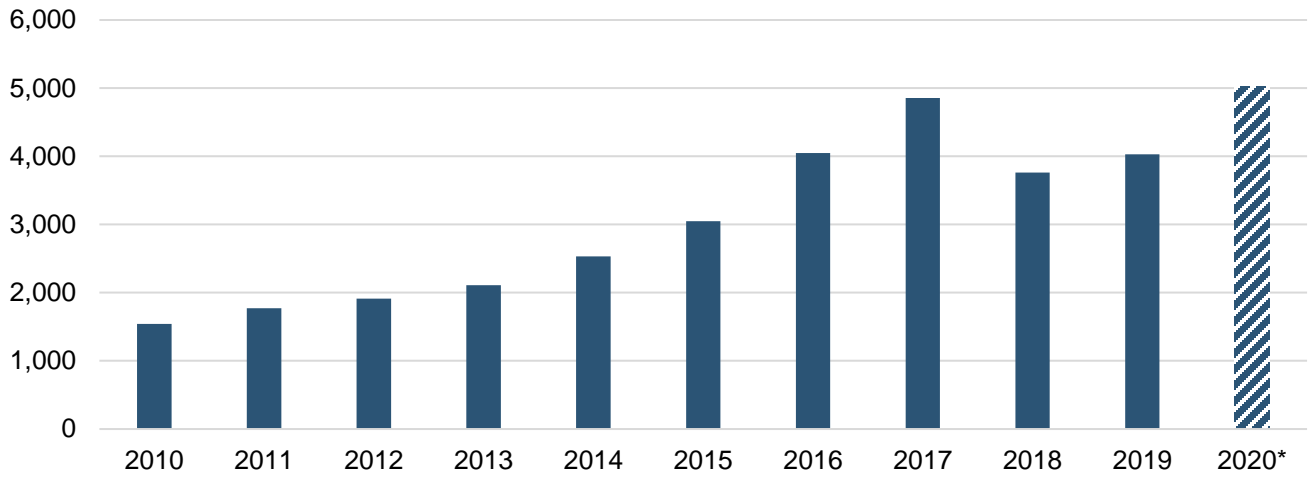
Figure 1. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Year, Ohio, 2010-2019



- In 2019, 4,028 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses, which was a 7% increase over the number of overdose deaths in 2018.
- From 2018 to 2019, the overdose death rate increased by 6% to a rate of 36.4 deaths per 100,000 population, which is similar to the 2016 rate.

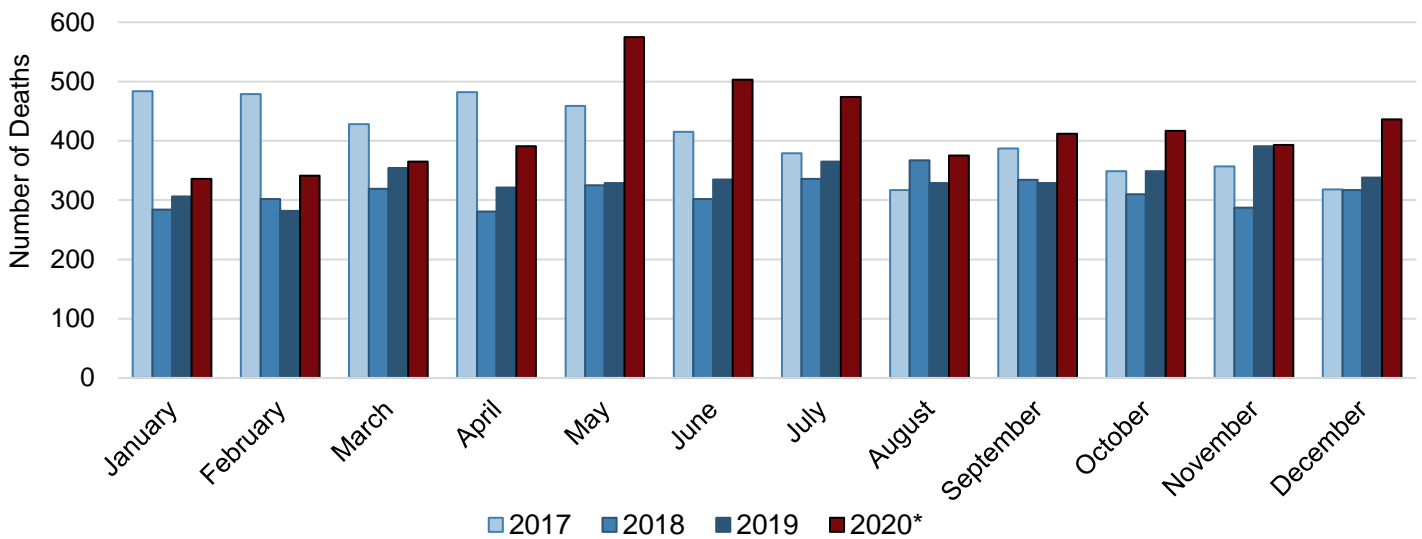
Preliminary Data – Current Trends

Figure 2. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths From January-December by Year, Ohio, 2010-2020*



- As of July 6, 2021, there were 5,018 unintentional drug overdose deaths reported for 2020. This is a 33% increase over 2018 (3,764 deaths) and a 25% increase over 2019 (4,028 deaths).
- 2020 had the highest number of unintentional drug overdose deaths (5,018 deaths), followed by 2017 (4,854 deaths).

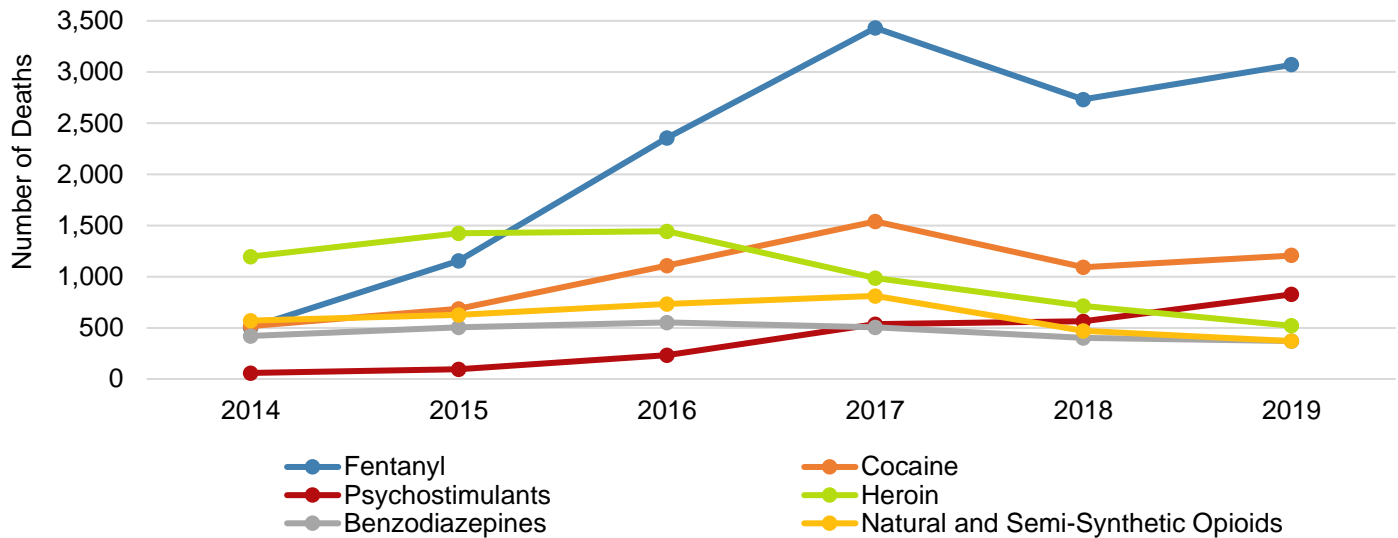
Figure 3. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Month and Year, Ohio, 2017-2020*



- The figure above shows the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths by month and year and illustrates how overdose deaths fluctuate from month to month.
- May 2020 had the highest number of deaths per month ever recorded in Ohio (575 deaths).
- In comparison to the previous years presented, 2020 had the highest number of deaths for the months of May through December. (2017 had the highest number of deaths for the months of January through April.)

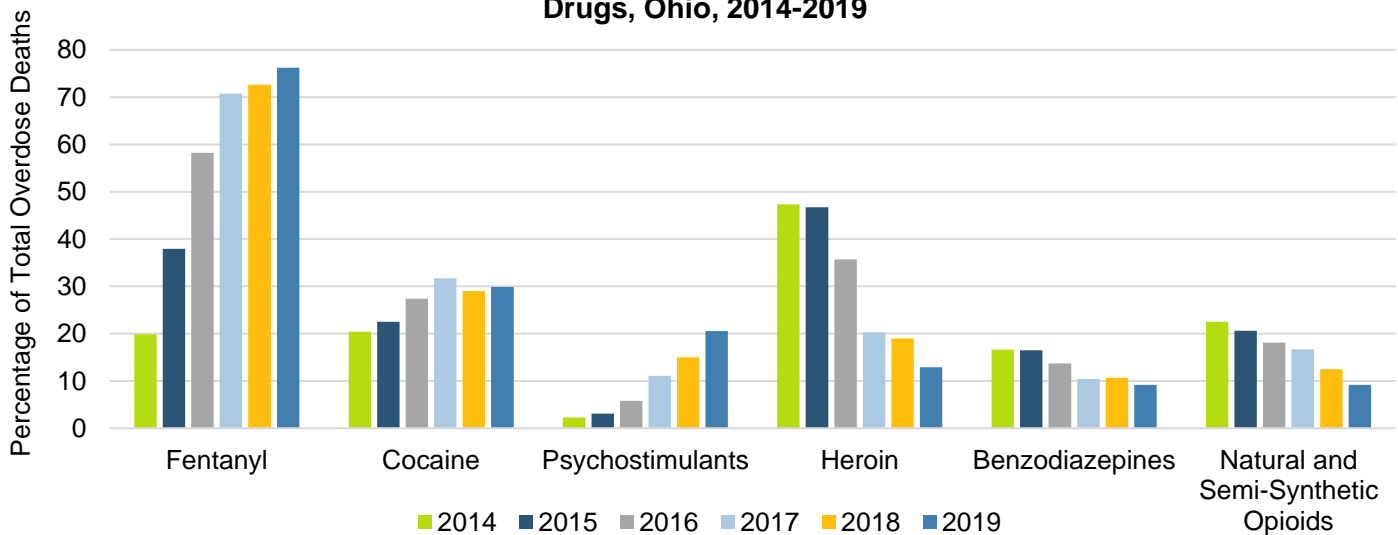
Finalized Data – Historic Trends

Figure 4. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2014-2019



- From 2018 to 2019, the number of psychostimulant-related deaths had the largest increase (46.6%), while heroin-related deaths had the largest decrease (-27.2%).
- In 2019, deaths involving psychostimulants (827) surpassed those involving heroin (520).
- From 2018 to 2019, deaths related to the prescription drug classes of benzodiazepines and natural and semi-synthetic opioids decreased 7.9% and 21.4%, respectively. (It should be noted that, while these drugs are available through prescription, decedents may have obtained them illicitly.)

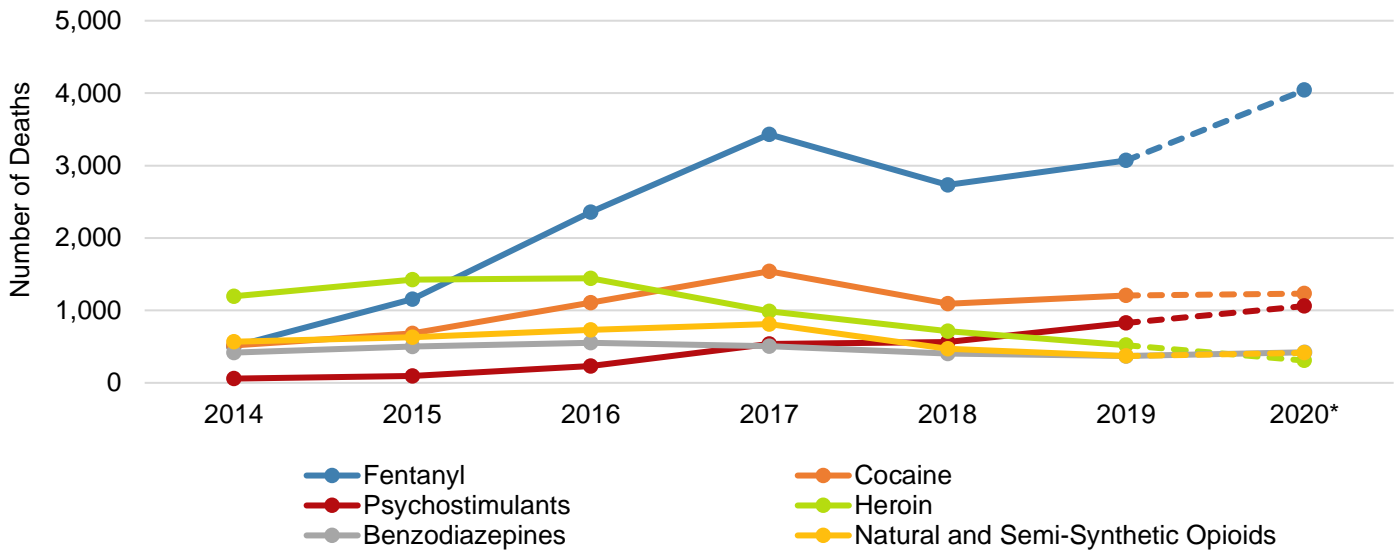
Figure 5. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2014-2019



- The percentage of unintentional drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl has continued to increase. In 2019, 76% of overdose deaths involved fentanyl or fentanyl analogs.
- Deaths related to psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine) also continued to increase in 2019, with psychostimulants contributing to 21% of overdose deaths.
- Deaths related to natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone) continued to decrease and contributed to 9% of overdose deaths in 2019 compared with a high of 28.7% in 2011 (data not shown).

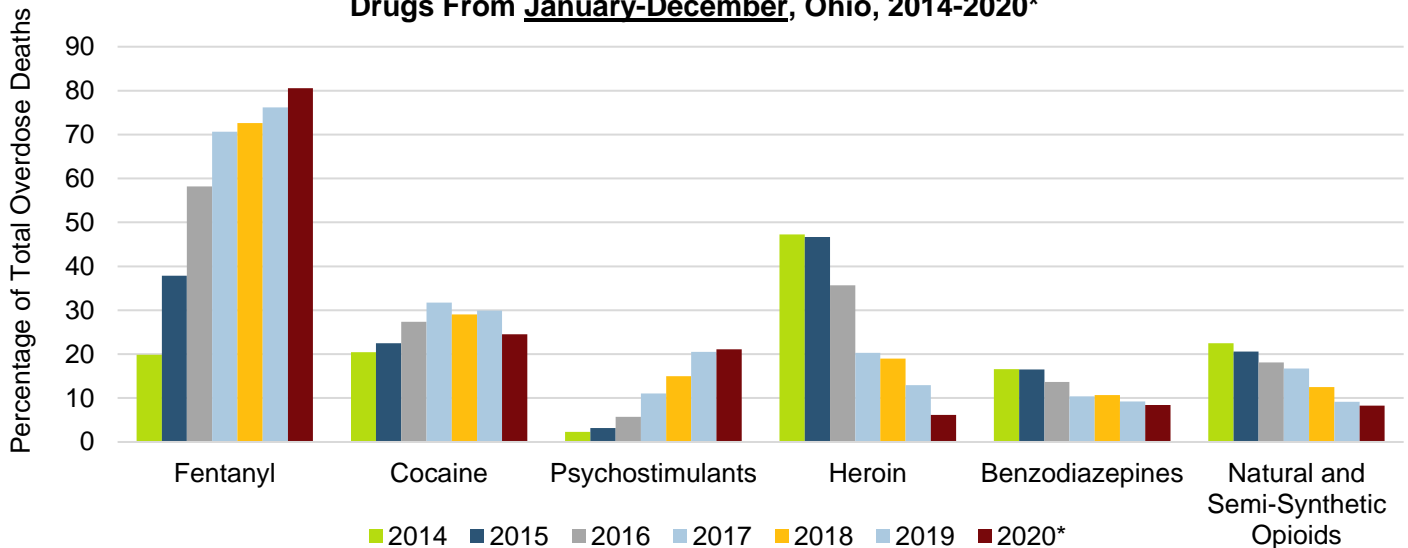
Preliminary Data – Current Trends

Figure 6. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs From January-December, Ohio, 2014-2020*



- In 2020, there were 4,041 deaths related to fentanyl, which was a 32% increase over 2019.
- Deaths related to psychostimulants have increased every year since 2014 and in 2020 had the second largest percentage increase (28%) following deaths related to fentanyl (32%).
- Of the drug categories presented above, heroin was the only drug category with a decrease in the number of related deaths in 2020 (-41%).

Figure 7. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs From January-December, Ohio, 2014-2020*

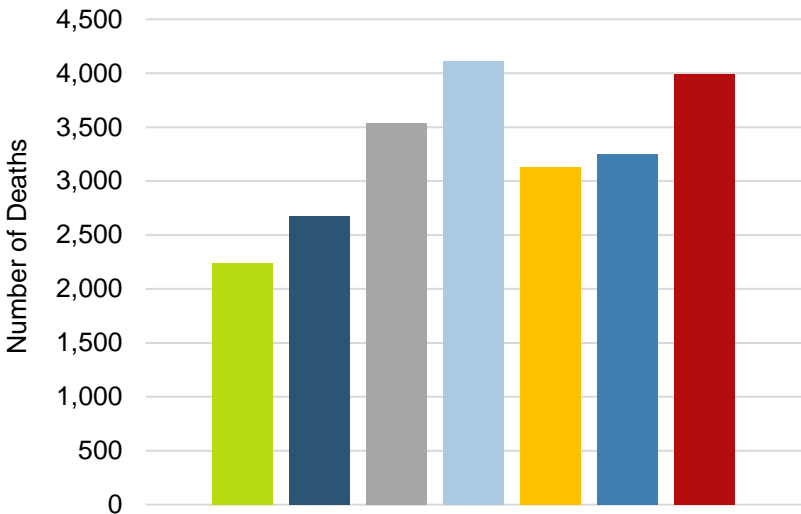


- In 2020, fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio unintentional drug overdose deaths.
- In 2020, cocaine was involved in 25% of unintentional drug overdose deaths compared with 30% of deaths in 2019.
- While heroin was involved in nearly 50% of unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2014 and 2015, only 6% of deaths in 2020 involved heroin.

Figure 8. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths From January-December by Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2014-2020*

■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020*

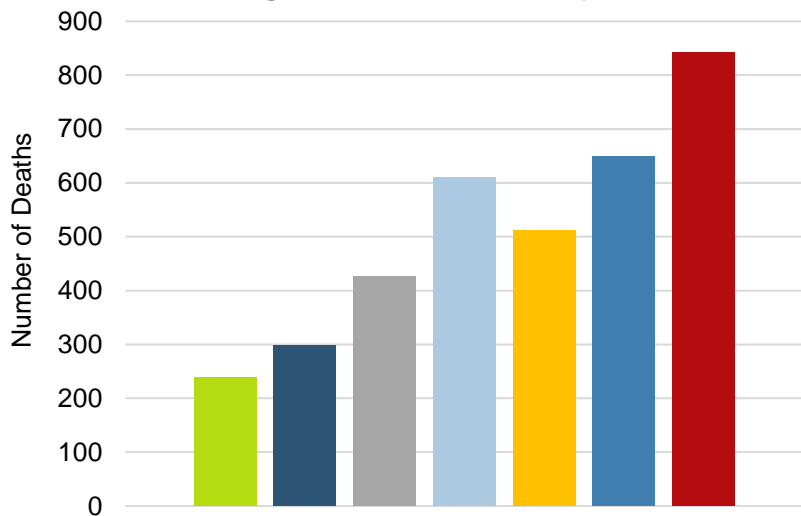
Figure 8a. White non-Hispanic



White non-Hispanic (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among the white non-Hispanic population were highest in 2017 (4,109 deaths) and made up 85% of all Ohio drug overdose deaths in that year.
- In 2020, there were 3,993 deaths among white non-Hispanic Ohioans, which was a 23% increase over 2019 (3,247 deaths). White non-Hispanic individuals made up 80% of Ohio drug overdose deaths in 2020, compared with 79% of the total Ohio population.

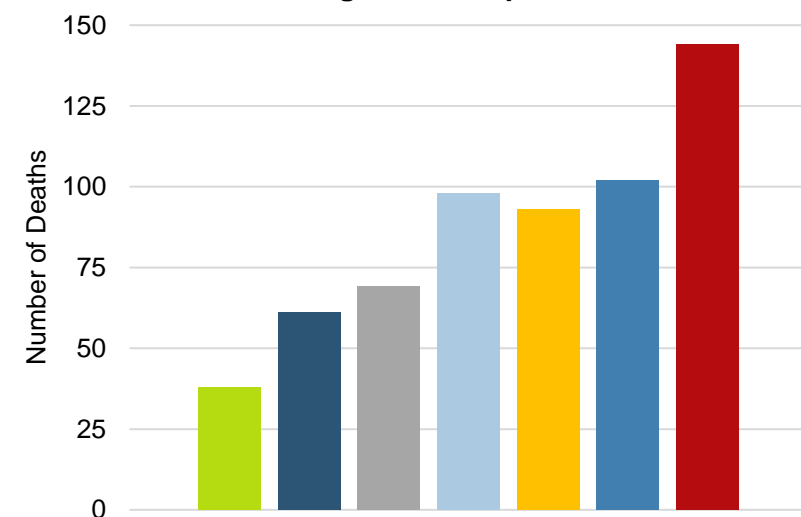
Figure 8b. Black non-Hispanic



Black non-Hispanic (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among the Black non-Hispanic population were highest in 2020 (841 deaths). Black non-Hispanic individuals made up 17% of Ohio drug overdose deaths in 2020, compared with 14% of the total Ohio population.
- From 2019 to 2020, unintentional drug overdose deaths among Black non-Hispanic Ohioans increased 29%.

Figure 8c. Hispanic



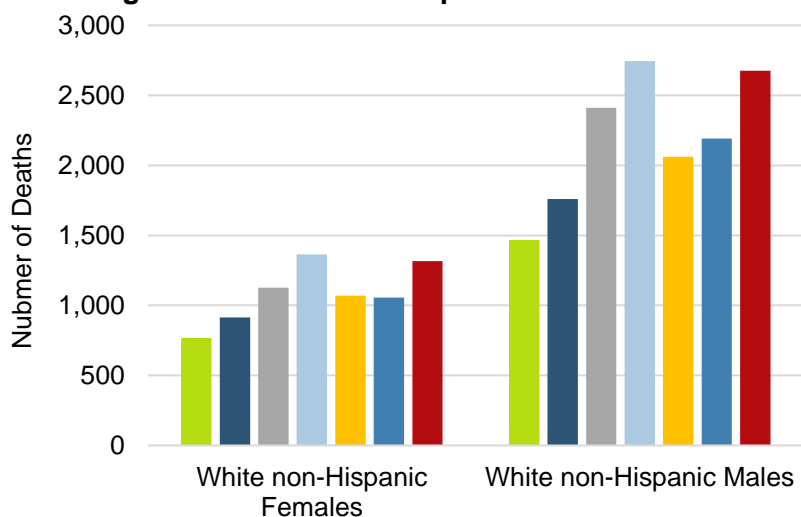
Hispanic (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among the Hispanic population were highest in 2020 (144 deaths). Hispanic individuals made up 3% of Ohio drug overdose deaths in 2020, compared with 4% of the total Ohio population.
- The number of unintentional drug overdose deaths among Hispanic Ohioans remained relatively stable from 2017 to 2019. However, from 2019 to 2020, deaths increased 41%.

Figure 9. Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths From January-December by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2014-2020*

■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020*

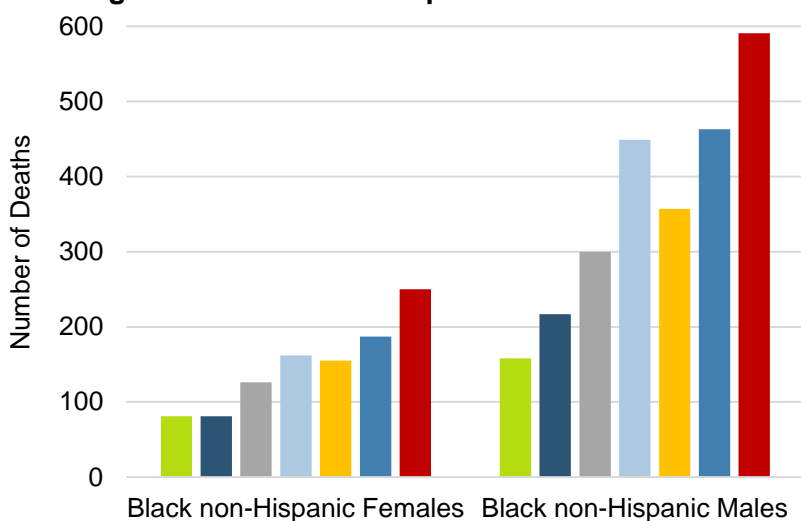
Figure 9a. White non-Hispanic Males and Females



White non-Hispanic Males and Females (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among white non-Hispanic males and females were highest in 2017 (2,744 and 1,365 deaths, respectively).
- From 2019 to 2020, unintentional drug overdose deaths among white non-Hispanic males and females increased 22% and 25%, respectively.

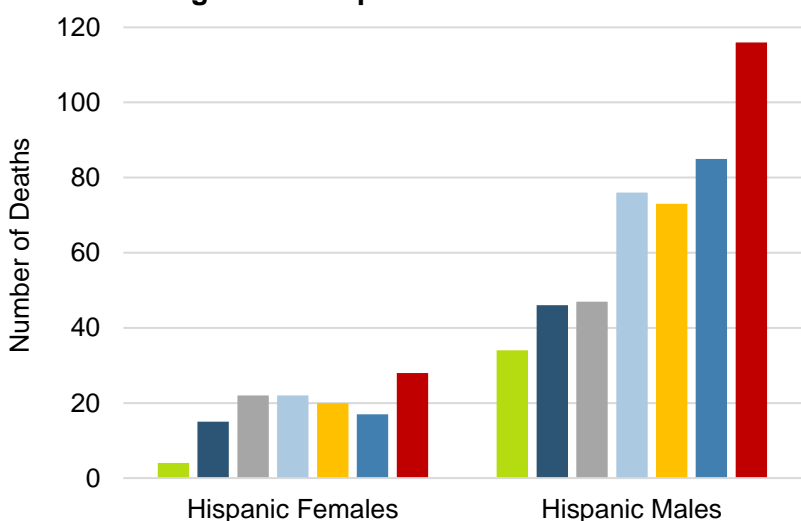
Figure 9b. Black non-Hispanic Males and Females



Black non-Hispanic Males and Females (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among Black non-Hispanic males and females were highest in 2020 (591 and 250 deaths, respectively).
- From 2019 to 2020, unintentional drug overdose deaths among Black non-Hispanic males and females increased 28% and 34%, respectively.

Figure 9c. Hispanic Males and Females



Hispanic Males and Females (January-December):

- Unintentional drug overdose deaths among Hispanic males and females were highest in 2020 (116 and 28 deaths, respectively).
- From 2019 to 2020, unintentional drug overdose deaths among Hispanic males and females increased 36% and 65%, respectively.