



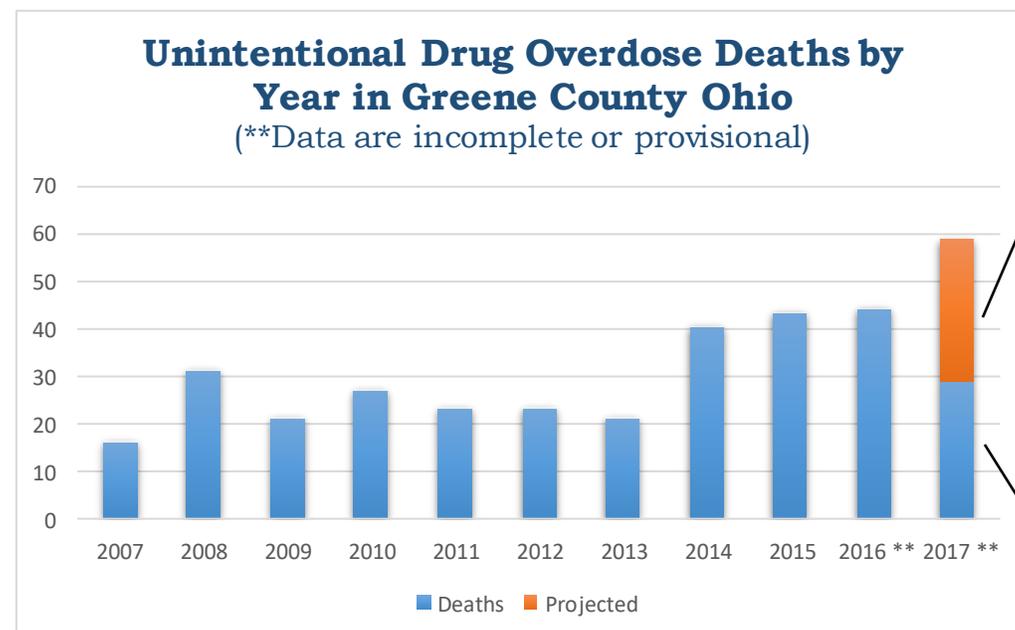
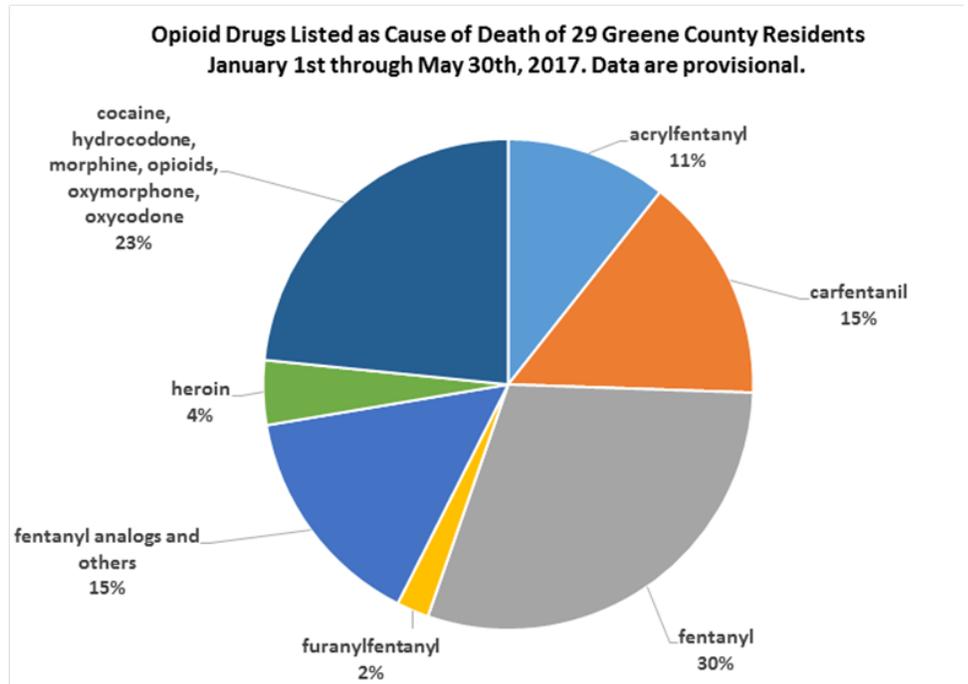
OPIOID OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

DATA BRIEF JULY 2017

Focus on Community Health Improvement: Lifestyle & Behavioral Health: Strategic Issue #2

Background

Greene County is in the midst of an opioid overdose epidemic. The number of unintentional drug overdose deaths across Ohio has increased steadily over the past ten years. This is partially due to the overprescribing of opioid pills (codeine, hydrocodone, morphine, oxycodone, etc.) for pain management. As Ohio cracked down on “pill mills” and the overprescribing of opioids 2011, the supply of prescription opioids was drastically reduced, but heroin emerged as a cheap, highly potent alternative that produced a similar high to prescription pain pills. The increase in overdose deaths from 2014 to 2017 has been driven by a significant rise in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. Data in the table above suggest that nearly three-quarters of such deaths are the result of illegally produced and trafficked fentanyl, which is more potent than heroin. Heroin and fentanyl are typically injected intravenously, creating an increased risk for diseases like Hepatitis C and HIV as well as overdose death because dosing and potency is inconsistent. In Public Health, we work to reduce the risk and prevalence of disease and death, the heroin epidemic is a major public health concern.



Jan - May 2017 Provisional Greene County Opioid Death Data

Place of Death*	Total
Beavercreek	6
Bellbrook	1
Fairborn	12
Spring Valley	1
Xenia	9

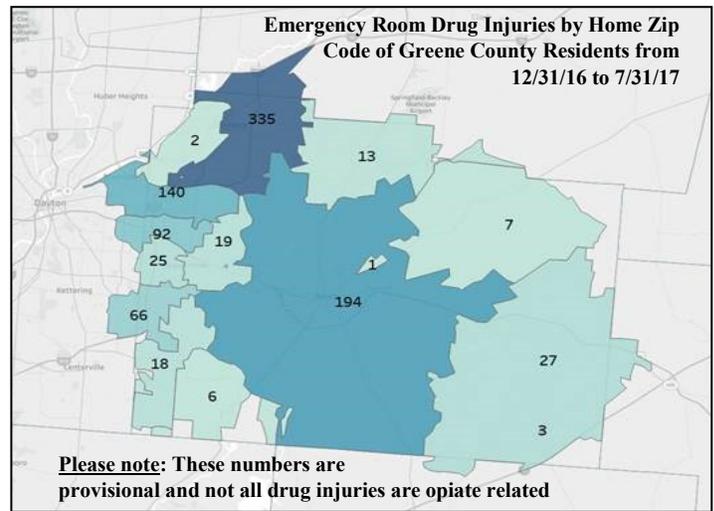
*Includes Townships



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Greene County **Community Impact**

Because many people who overdose will be revived by naloxone, the public health department tracks ER utilization to find the areas most impacted by unintentional overdoses. While no region of the county is unaffected, the map at left suggest that Fairborn, Beavercreek and Xenia are the areas most impacted by drug injuries and these communities may benefit from additional resources and interventions.



Call to Action

As a community we must be informed about the magnitude and the scope of the opioid epidemic. In Greene County, work is being done across the prevention spectrum, from preventing the initiation of drug use, to harm reduction efforts for current substance users and treatment programs to assist those in recovery. There is also a movement underway to destigmatize addiction and encourage individuals and families to recognize the signs of addiction and seek help. In Greene County, the Drug Coalition and partners such as the Mental Health and Recovery Board, Greene County Public Health, Job & Family Services and the Greene ESC have all been active in fighting the opiate epidemic.

Start Talking! Preventing Youth Drug Use Before It Starts - Governor Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich launched the Start Talking! statewide youth drug prevention initiative to give parents, guardians, educators and community leaders the tools needed to help prevent drug use before it starts.

Visit: www.starttalking.ohio.gov



Encouraging Appropriate Use and Availability of Opioid Pain Medications – Because prescribers of opioid pain medications are on the front lines of fighting opiate abuse in Ohio, the governor’s office has released opioid prescribing guidelines for doctors. Given the fact that 73 percent of overdose deaths in 2015 had a history in the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), the opioid prescribing guidelines also encourage prescribers to check OARRS before prescribing an opioid to see what other controlled medications a patient might already be taking.

Expanding Availability and Use of Opiate Overdose Reversal Drug Naloxone –Naloxone (trade name: narcan) is a life-saving drug that can be administered as nasal spray and has the potential to reverse overdoses caused by opiates. Greene County Public Health has assisted with efforts to make naloxone available at no cost to police officers in Beavercreek, Cedarville, Fairborn, Xenia and Yellow Springs. Naloxone is also available over the counter or through Project DAWN at TCN Behavioral Health. The Ohio Department of Health is placing billboards in targeted communities to address Overdoses by Knowing the Signs and Carrying Naloxone. More information can be found at: www.stopoverdoses.ohio.gov



Creating Pathways to Addiction Treatment and Recovery – A specialty docket court program in Fairborn has been created to provide addiction treatment, including medication-assisted treatment, to non-violent adult offenders with a dependence on opioids, alcohol, or both.

Harm Reduction and Syringe Services Program – The use of needles to inject drugs has exploded across Ohio, putting those who inject drugs at increased risk for HIV, Hepatitis C, and various infections. In June 2015 the Ohio State Legislature authorized local boards of health to operate bloodborne infectious disease prevention program (ORC 3707.57) to exchange syringes and control the spread of infectious diseases.