Wayne County Health Department

2016 Drug Overdose Data Wayne County:
General Findings

Wayne County Overdose Death Rate Close to Ohio Rate for 2016

Wayne County’s drug overdose death rate has climbed almost 10 fold from 3.7 in 2013 to 35.3 in 2016. As the opioid epidemic continues to impact the entire state of Ohio, we see that the state of Ohio actually had a death rate decrease from 2015 to 2016, whereas Wayne County continues to climb almost to the same death rate as the State (1). See Figure 1

Figure 1
Age Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rates for Ohio and Wayne County

The range of ages of overdose deaths in Wayne County ranged from 21 to 62. Almost three times as many men (28) than women (10) died in 2016. Males aged 35-44 are the
dominant gender and age group to die due to an overdose. This group accounted for roughly 25% (9 of 37) of all drug overdose deaths in Wayne County during 2016. See Figure 2.

Figure 2.
Overdose Deaths by Age and Gender

Source: Wayne County Health Department Vital Statistics Unit

Fentanyl and Related Drugs Account For Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths in 2016

Wayne County also has seen a similar trend to the entire state and the nation with an increase of stronger drugs(2). Fentanyl and it’s much more powerful related opiate, carfentanil accounted for significant portion in opiate deaths. Illegally manufactured fentanyl can be hundreds times stronger than heroin(3). Carfentanil, the most common fentanyl analog found in the deceased, can be 10,000 stronger than Morphine (4). From 2015 to 2016, the increase in deaths from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids is expected to increase from 3,105 to 20,000 (5). This number will account approximately one-third of deaths in the nation related to drug overdoses. The state of Ohio and Wayne County’s percentage for 2016 fentanyl and related drug deaths are significantly higher (1). According to the Ohio Department of Health, fentanyl and related opiates accounted for 58.2% of the unintentional drug overdose deaths in the state of Ohio for 2016. In Wayne County, fentanyl and related drugs accounted for 55.3% of drug overdoses.
overdose deaths. Prescription opioids were found in 17 of the decedents. Many of these victims having both a fentanyl or related drug and a prescription opiate. A vast majority of overdose deaths, 27, involved multiple drugs. Figure 3 has a breakdown of drugs found in decedents’ systems.

**Figure 3.**
**Drug Category Involvement in Overdose Deaths**

![Drug Category Involvement in Overdose Deaths](image)

Source: Wayne County Health Department Vital Statistics Unit

**References**