

Overdose Prevention Program

2024 Report

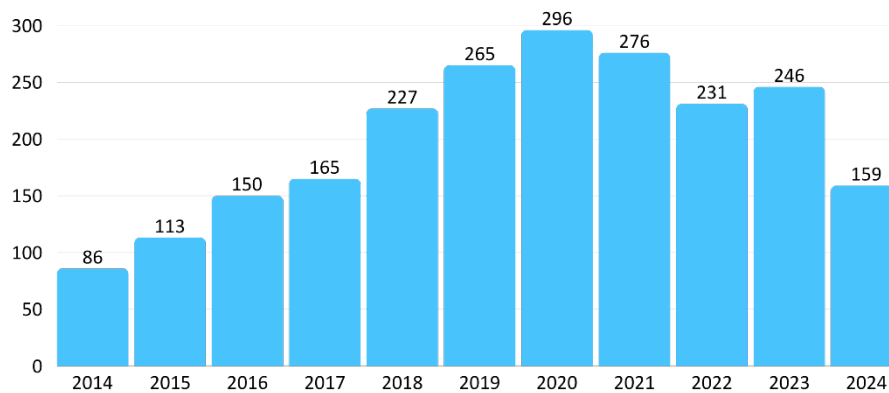
LUCAS COUNTY OVERVIEW

Substance use and overdose are serious concerns in Ohio, which has historically faced significant challenges with high rates of drug overdose, driven by the misuse of prescription pills aimed at reducing pain, heroin, and fentanyl. Synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyl, are a major contributor to overdose deaths. Many overdoses in Ohio involve a mix of drugs, such as fentanyl combined with stimulants like cocaine or methamphetamine, increasing the complexity of the crisis.



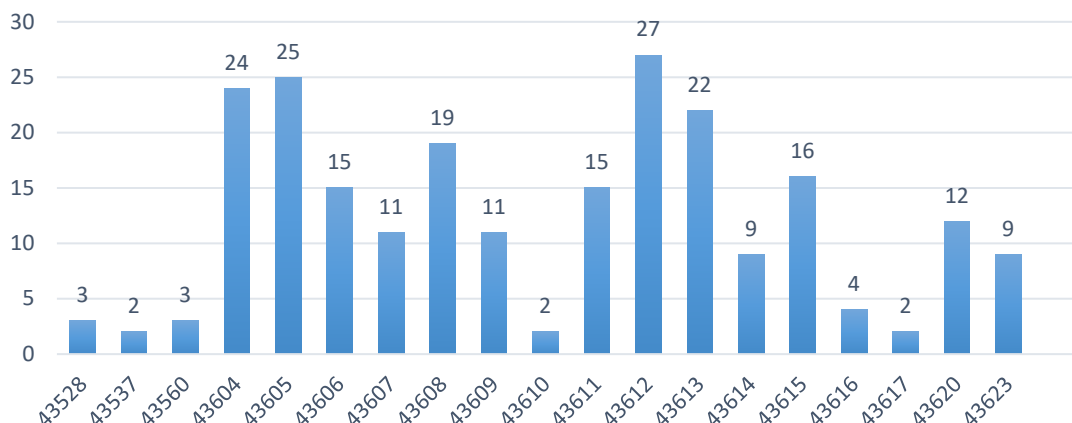
TLCHD partners with the Lucas County Coroner's Office to review overdose fatalities that have occurred within the county. In 2024, Lucas County saw 159 opioid-related overdose fatalities. Fentanyl is responsible for roughly 88% of fatal opioid-related overdoses in Lucas County.

Opioid Related Fatalities Occurring in Lucas County 2014-2024



Data Source: Lucas County Coroner's Office

2023 Opioid Related Fatalities by Zip Code



Overdose Prevention Program

NALOXONE PROGRAM

Naloxone, a medication that reverses an opioid overdose, is available at no cost to the public through the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. Anyone can receive naloxone by appointment, walk-in, or mail order. Fentanyl Test Strips are also available and are a tool that people can use to test a variety of drugs for the presence of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid.

TLCHD works with community partners, called service entities, to assist in distributing naloxone and educating the community on overdose prevention. TLCHD oversees 30 service entities, including partners such as EMS and Law Enforcement, Treatment and Clinical Services, and other community agencies and organizations.

Health Educators can do scheduled overdose prevention education trainings to any agency, business, or community organization that requests a training. Topics covered can include local overdose statistics, anti-stigma training, naloxone training and distribution, an overview of the opioid epidemic, and more.

Trainings can be requested through the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department website. In 2024, the TLCHD Overdose Prevention team did a total of 297 overdose prevention education trainings.

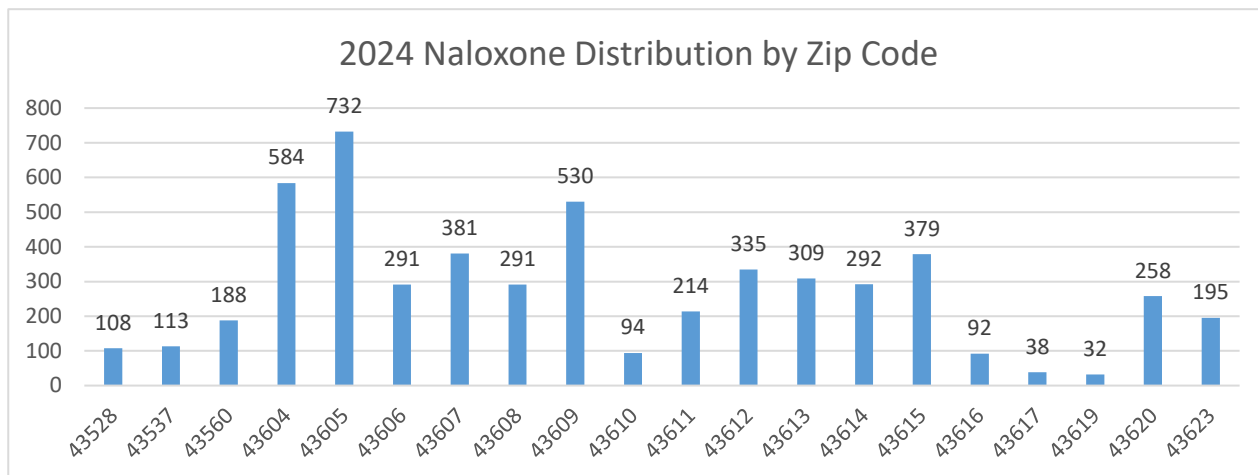
Mail order naloxone is available to anyone in NW Ohio or SE Michigan. Individuals can request up to 2 naloxone kits and 10 fentanyl test strips and will be mailed to them at no cost.

2024 Stats

Total Number of Naloxone Kits Distributed: 18,886

Total Number of Service Encounters: 8,152

Total Number of Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed: 35,064



Northwest Ohio Safe Services (NOSS)

WHAT IS A SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM?

NOSS is a bloodborne pathogen prevention program that helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis and promotes safety, harm reduction, health, and wellness by offering services and care to people who use drugs or friends and family of people who use drugs.

Syringe services programs are proven to save lives, help those with substance use disorders get needed support, prevent overdose deaths, and reduce the impact of drug use in a community.

SSPs are associated with an estimated 50% reduction in HIV and HCV infections. Transmission is reduced by over two-thirds when combined with MOUD.

New SSP users are 5x more likely to enter drug treatment and 3x more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use the program.

SSPs protect first responders and the public by providing safe needle disposal. A study by the CDC found the more syringes distributed per the number of people who inject drugs, the more likely used syringes are disposed of safely.

Studies in Baltimore and New York City found that crime rates did not change if an area had SSPs or not.

OUR MISSION

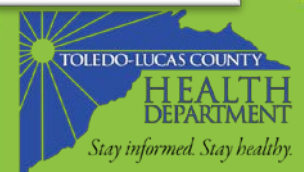
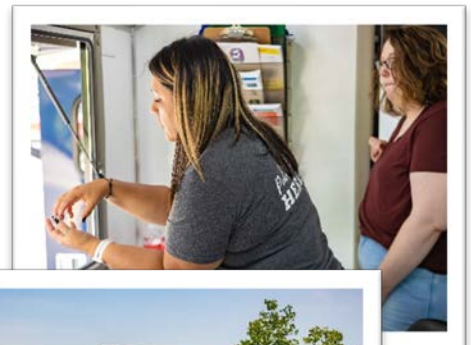
At NOSS, our goal is to help people who use drugs stay healthy. We provide syringes and other sterile drug use equipment, as well as overdose prevention tools, in a nonjudgemental, confidential, and supportive setting. Our knowledgeable staff can help provide linkages and referrals to care and other resources, including medical, housing, basic needs, treatment and recovery support, and more. We also provide HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing on-site and referrals to treatment.

SERVICES OFFERED

NOSS is a needs-based harm reduction program. NOSS staff are educated to help you determine what supplies, services, and resources are right for you based on your needs with little to no limitations. Picking up supplies for other people is allowed.

NOSS helps prevent overdose deaths by teaching people who use drugs, as well as their friends and family members:

- How to prevent overdose
- How to recognize, respond to, and reverse an overdose
- How to use naloxone, a medication that reverses an overdose



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

THE FACTS

Substance use is an issue in Lucas County.

In 2024, 159 opioid-related overdose fatalities were reviewed. Fentanyl is responsible for roughly 88% of fatal opioid-related overdoses occurring in Lucas County.

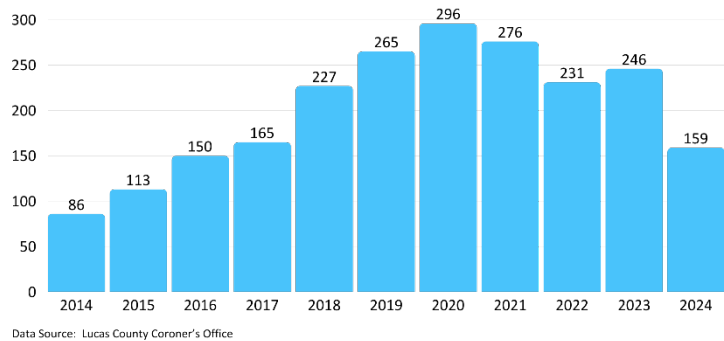
THE IMPACT OF HARM REDUCTION

NOSS has knowledgeable staff, including a Linkage Navigator, Registered Nurse, and Harm Reduction Health Educator, who help provide connections and referrals to care and other resources, including medical, housing, basic needs, treatment, recovery support, and more. HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing are also provided on-site, as well as referrals to treatment and prevention. In addition to safe drug use equipment NOSS provides overdose reversal and prevention tools such as fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdose, hygiene kits, and basic needs such as blankets, flashlights, socks, and hats.

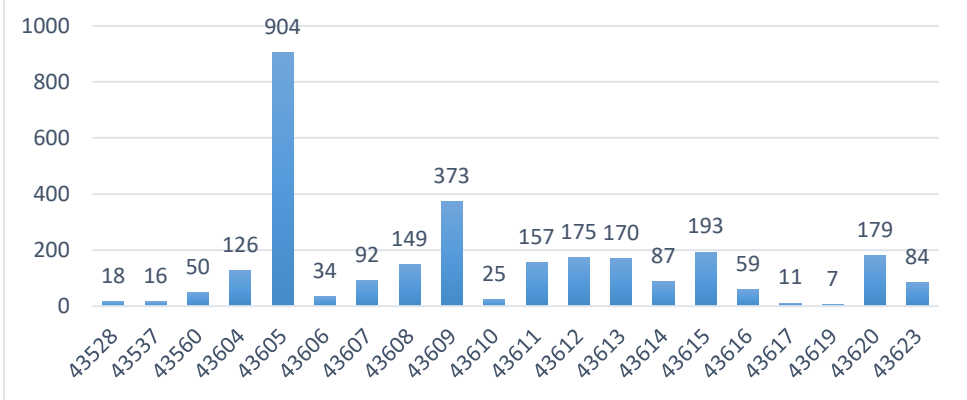
NOSS began in August 2017. That year NOSS had 94 visits. In 2024, NOSS celebrated 3,129 total service encounters, offering harm reduction services at 5 different clinic locations: Talbot (East Toledo), St. Paul’s United Methodist (Downtown Toledo), the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (Downtown Toledo), the Zepf Center (Downtown Toledo), and Toledo Treatment (West Toledo). NOSS staff collect data to help inform programmatic decisions and track outcomes. NOSS is proud to be a driving factor for why overdoses have decreased, particularly in high-risk areas like 43605, where over 30% of participants reside and overdoses have decreased at steeper rates compared to Lucas County overall.

NOSS attracts participants from all of NW Ohio, serving individuals from 86 different zip codes, 8 different states, and 21 Ohio Counties in 2024. The graph below shows the top Toledo zip codes represented by participants.

Opioid Related Fatalities Occurring in Lucas County 2014-2024



2024 NOSS Participation by Zip Code of Residence

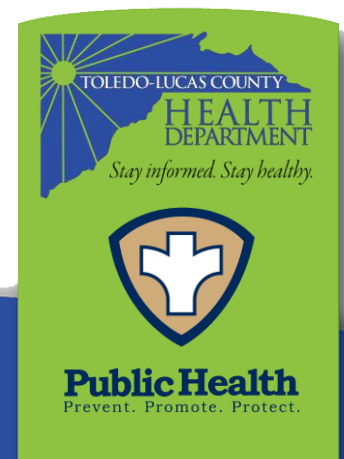


2024 Overdose Fatalities

Lucas County Coroner's Office

Drug Related Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties							629	626	604	577	422, 26.85% ↓
Lucas Only							344	306	259	309	223, 27.83% ↓
Opioid Related Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties	145	215	288	342	433	501	556	552	506	472	397, 15.89% ↓
Lucas Only	86	113	150	165	227	265	296	276	231	246	159, 35.37% ↓
Fentanyl Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties							461	481	462	445	364, 18.20% ↓
Lucas Only							278	249	215	236	140, 40.68% ↓
Frequency of Common Drugs of Positive Findings – ALL COUNTIES											
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fentanyl	45	100	196	187	282	372	502	481	458	456	317, 30.48% ↓
Morphine	186	175	244	119	127	100	61	44	28	41	54
Oxycodone	75	103	108	98	67	44	43	62	41	67	67
Hydrocodone	66	43	64	67	33	18	21	22	19	43	32
6 MAM	146	150	152	83	85	50	41	22	12	5	15, 200% ↑
Methadone	23	28	23	12	9	20	23	18	17	25	26
Cocaine	90	104	160	132	96	120	212	261	258	354	243, 31.36% ↓
Amphet/Methamphetamine							72	120	136	192	281, 46.35% ↑
MDMA/MDA									1	2	2
Ethanol	240	252	311	382	315	368	419	465	488	487	436, 10.47% ↓
Carfentanil			7	38	4	11	3	1			2
Mitragynine				3	1	5	4	3	8	2	5
Acetyl Fentanyl						35	37	20	13	17	2, 88.24% ↓
Parafluorofentanyl							1	44	43	8	10
Etizolam						1	1		1		
Xylazine						1			3	4	2

*Note that the Lucas County Coroner's Office oversees a 22 County region in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan



2024 Overdose Fatalities

Lucas County Coroner's Office

Frequency of Common Drugs of Positive Findings Guide:

6-MAM

6-Monoacetylmorphine is an opioid and one of three active metabolites of heroin. Morphine is also an active metabolite of heroin.

Carfentanil

Carfentanil is an extremely potent opioid analgesic used in veterinary medicine to anesthetize large animals such as elephants and rhinoceroses.

Mitragynine

Mitragynine is one of two major psychoactive ingredients in Kratom. Kratom is mostly used orally in the form of a tablet, capsule, or extract. Low doses of Kratom produce stimulant effects. At high doses, users experience sedative effects.

Acetyl Fentanyl and Parafluorofentanyl

Fentanyl analogs

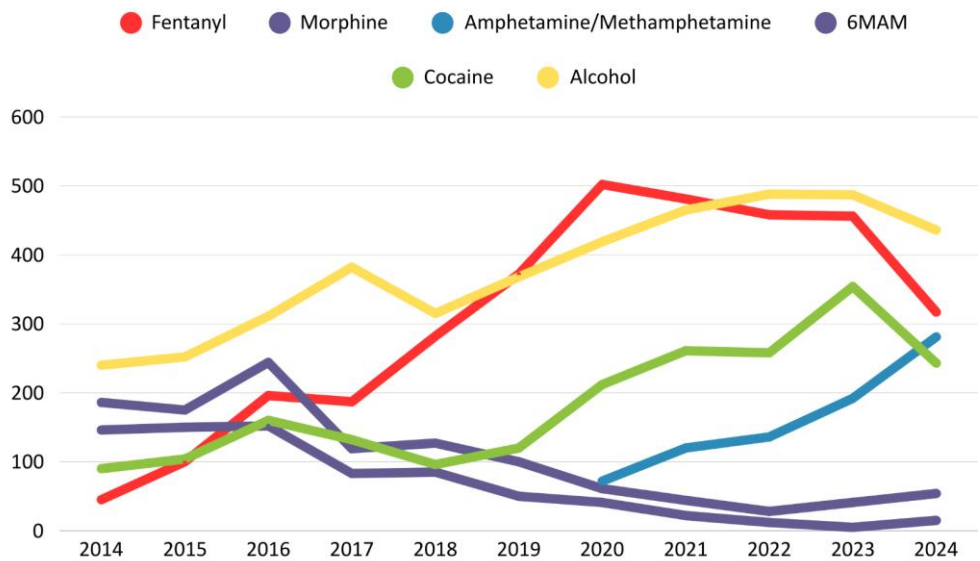
Acetyl Fentanyl is an opioid estimated to be 15 times more potent than morphine.

Parafluorofentanyl is an opioid estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

Xylazine

Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that has been found in some illicit drug supplies. Xylazine can slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. Overdose reversal medications do not reverse the effects of xylazine. Experts recommend that people give opioid overdose reversal medications to those experiencing symptoms of an overdose with suspected xylazine exposure, since opioids are often present with xylazine. In addition to risk for overdose, repeated xylazine use is associated with skin wounds, such as open sores (ulcers) and abscesses.

Drug Positivity Trends in Northwest Ohio 2014-2024



Data Source: Lucas County Coroner's Office