

# Eaton County Overdose Fatality Review Team

2024-2025 Annual Report



Barry-Eaton District Health Department

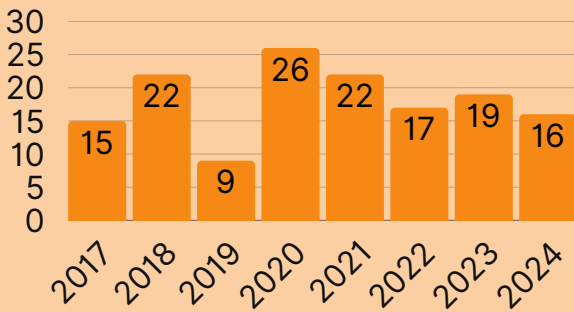
Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

## Overview

During fiscal year (FY) 2025, the Eaton OFR team met for three meetings and successfully conducted four case reviews. Findings and recommendations come directly from the Eaton County Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) from November 13, 2024 – July 16, 2025.

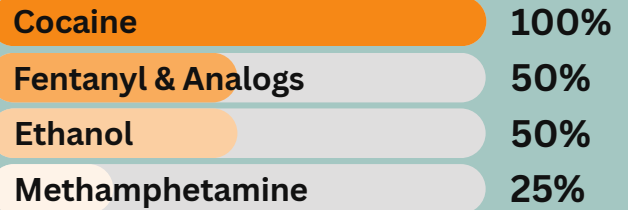
## Number of Fatal Drug Overdoses

by Year: 2018-2024



## Among the 4 Deaths Reviewed,

% of Deaths Involving Each Drug:



- **Fentanyl analogs:** Drugs chemically similar to fentanyl and can be equally or more potent.
- **Ethanol:** Alcohol found in beer, wine, and liquor.

## Manner of Death

**Accidental** 100%

- 100% of deaths reviewed were accidental.

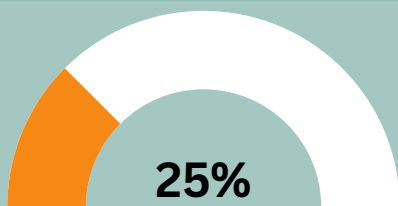
## Substance Involvement

**Polysubstance** 75%

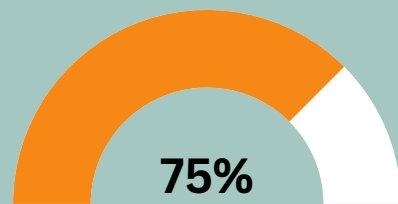
- Most deaths reviewed (75%) involved more than one substance (*polysubstance*).

# Characteristics of Deaths Reviewed

## Race/Ethnicity



Black Non-Hispanic



White Non-Hispanic

- Most deaths reviewed involved White, non-Hispanic individuals (75%), with 25% involving Black, non-Hispanic individuals.

## Age

41-50 yrs 51-60 yrs 61-70 yrs



- Half of the deaths reviewed were individuals aged 41-50 years.

## Gender

Male Female



- Deaths reviewed were evenly split between males and females.

# Recommendations

Developed by the Eaton OFR to address identified gaps & improve community response efforts.

## LINKAGE TO CARE

- Expand street outreach and case management to reach people where they are, including motels.
- Increase staff and peer presence in the community to proactively connect people to support.
- Use mobile units and offices to connect residents to treatment, insurance, and support.
- Improve follow-up after nonfatal overdoses and brief contacts with systems like emergency departments, urgent care, and jails.
- Focus on early outreach and support before problems become more serious and harder to address.

## HARM REDUCTION

- Increase access to naloxone and harm reduction resources following encounters with law enforcement, such as through leave-behind programs.
- Expand outreach-based harm reduction services in locations where people already spend time, such as libraries, motels, and emergency departments.
- Use peer-informed approaches to guide programs and services, reflecting what people wish they had known while using substances.

## CLINICAL BEST PRACTICES

- Improve follow-up and support, including through hospital programs like Project ASSERT, even during brief emergency room visits.
- Support compassionate, ongoing follow-up, even when people first say no to services.
- Improve coordination between health care, behavioral health, and jail services to reduce missed chances for care.

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

- Increase awareness of resources using signs, billboards, and social media.
- Use clear messages that work for different reading levels and learning styles.
- Use short videos and visuals in waiting rooms, laundromats, motels, and other community spaces.
- Host community events in public places with navigators to help people connect to resources.

## TEAM MEMBERS

The Eaton County OFR team has representation from disciplines in the following agencies: Medical Examiner's Office, Public Health, Education, Prevention, Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Providers, Persons with Lived Experience, Behavioral Health, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medicine and other Public Safety, Local Charities, Health Care Provider, Community Corrections, and Recovery Support Services.

## CONCLUSIONS

The Eaton OFR team remains committed to understanding the complex factors contributing to overdose deaths in Eaton County. Through collaborative case reviews and data-informed recommendations, the team continues to identify opportunities for prevention, intervention, and systems improvement. As overdose trends evolve, the OFR team will adapt its approach to ensure that community responses remain effective, compassionate, and grounded in local realities.

## ACTION STEPS

The Eaton County Substance Use Action Team (SUAT) reviews overdose prevention recommendations from Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) meetings and translates them into actionable steps. At the close of FY 2025, the Eaton County SUAT convened to begin strategic planning for FY 2026, identifying shared goals, strategies, and actions for collaborative implementation. Building a multidisciplinary action team and developing a coordinated strategic plan has been a core goal of the OFR process from the beginning. The team has now completed over one year of sustained collaboration and continues to meet regularly to address the evolving substance use needs of the county.