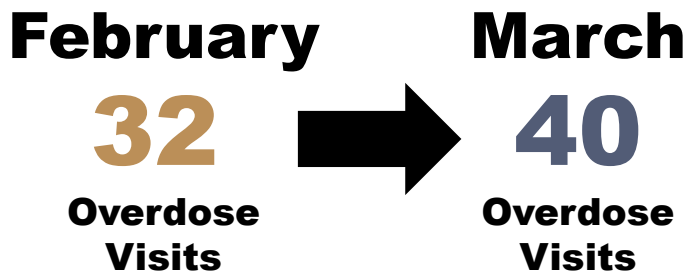


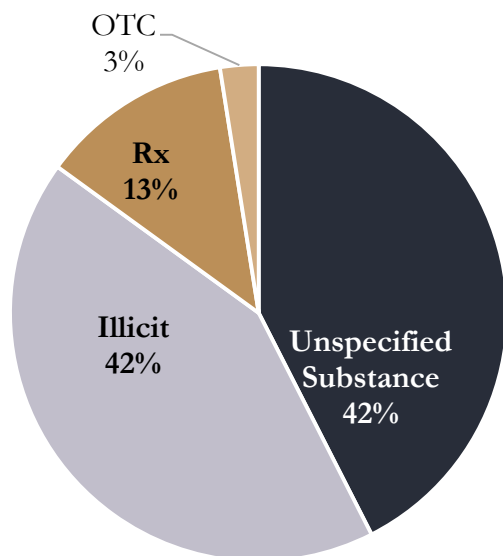
# Drug Overdose Surveillance Report Lake County, Ohio: March 2021

The following report outlines emergency department (ED) and urgent care (UC) drug overdose events by Lake County residents during the month of March. During this timeframe, a total of 40 recorded drug overdose ED/UC events met the inclusion criteria listed below. This represents an increase from the previous month's 32 drug overdose ED/UC visits. No fatalities were reported among those reporting to ED/UCs for overdose during the month of March.

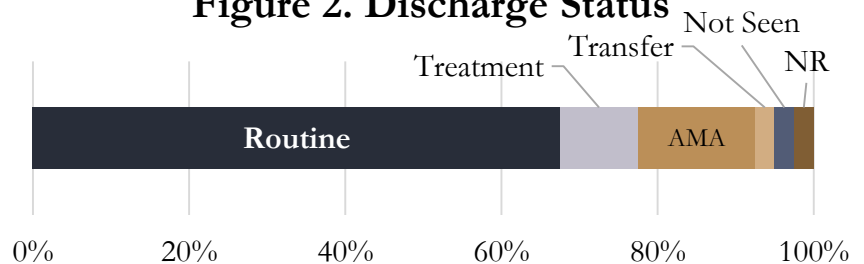


In March, Lake County drug overdose ED/UC admissions occurred among individuals ranging from two (2) to 66 years of age. Seventeen events involved an illicit substance, five involved a prescription (Rx) medication, one involved an Over the Counter (OTC) medication, and 17 involved an unspecified substance (Figure 1). Moreover, 27 ED/UC visits resulted in routine discharge, while six left against medical advice (AMA), four were discharged to treatment, one was transferred to another hospital, one left without being seen, and one lacked reported discharge information (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. Overdoses by Type**



**Figure 2. Discharge Status**

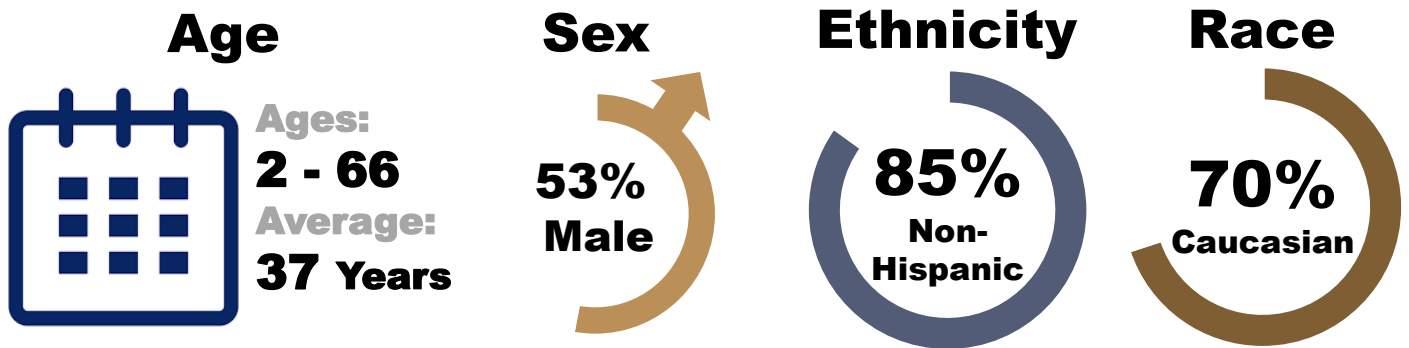


## Inclusion Criteria:

The data presented in this report was retrieved from Ohio ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics), which replaced EpiCenter as Ohio's Syndromic Surveillance System in January 2021. Data is extracted using the Chief Complaint and Differential Diagnosis Category "CDC All Drug v1." Data prior to 2021 was retrieved from EpiCenter using the "Ohio Opioid-Related Suspected Drug Overdose" classifier, and prior to August 2019, the "Traumatic Injury: Drugs" classifier. This report contains information about Lake County residents, regardless of ED/UC location, and drug-related cases include all ED/UC admits specifying overdose or poisoning. Admits without supporting information, or otherwise indicative of a suicide attempt, intentional overdose, or accidental insulin overdose were excluded from this analysis, as were cases presenting for detox, withdrawal symptoms, or evaluation for admission to a treatment program absent an overdose. In many cases, the drug responsible for the overdose is not indicated. As such, the included figures are not limited to opioid-related events.

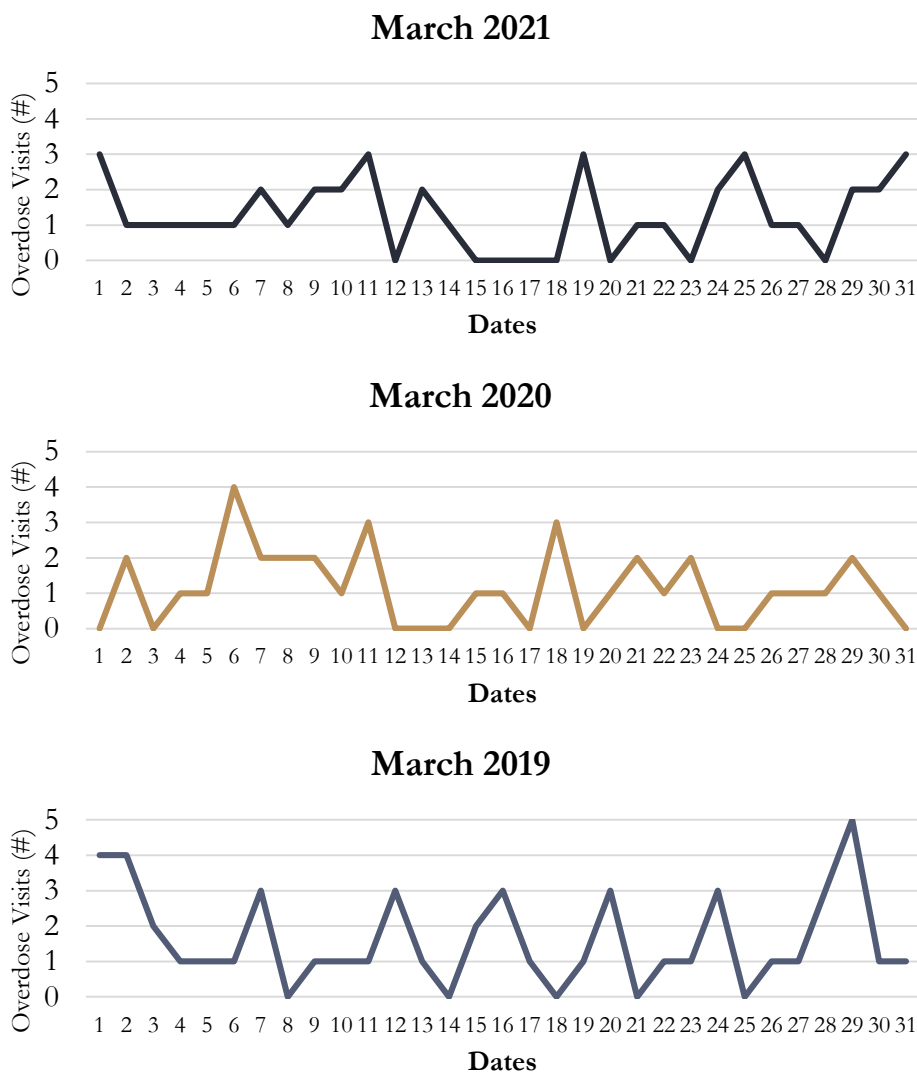


Characteristics of Individuals who Overdosed



How does this compare with past years?

Figure 3. March Drug Overdose Daily Frequencies, 2019-2021



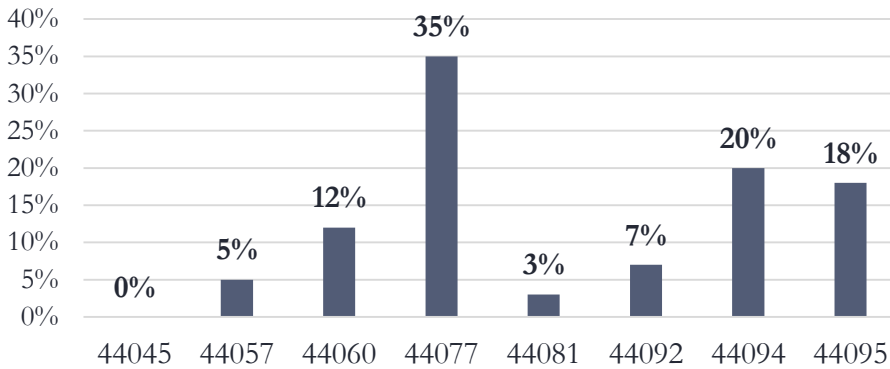
In order to provide for comparisons of daily ED/UC overdose event frequency, March events by day are illustrated for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (Figure 3). The daily maximum of three for March of 2021 is 40% lower than the daily maximum of five reported in 2020, and 25% lower than the daily maximum of four in 2019. Mean daily ED/UC overdose event frequency for March of 2021 (1.3) is higher than the rate for 2020 (1.1), but lower than the rate in 2019 (1.6).

A total of eight days with no ED/UC overdose events were observed during March of 2021, as compared to 10 days in March of 2020, and five in March of 2019. March 2021 overdose events peaked on March 1, 11, 19, 25, and 31, as compared to the 2020 peak, which occurred on March 6, and the 2019 peak, which occurred on March 29.

## Geographical Distribution

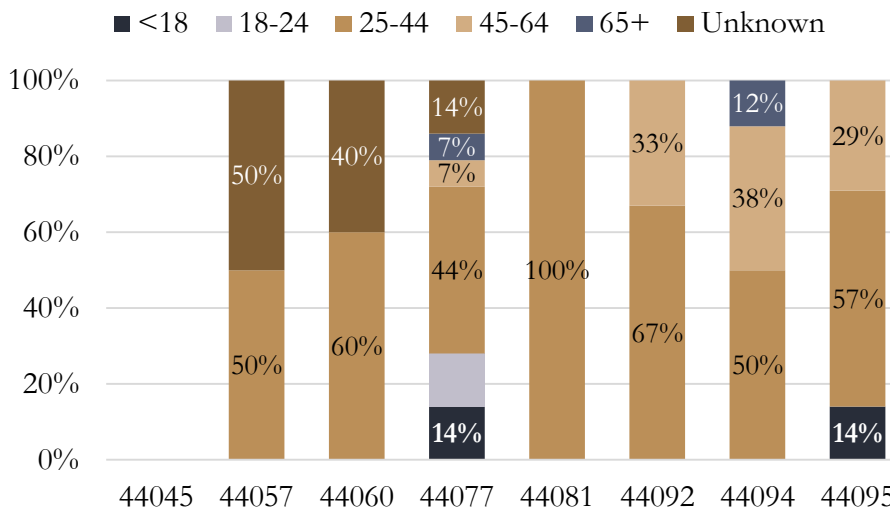
### In what areas were overdoses most prevalent?

Figure 4. Overdose Occurrences by Zip Code of Residence



In March, the greatest frequency of ED/UC overdose events occurred amongst those residing in zip code 44077 (Figure 4). ED/UC overdose events increased in 44077 (13%), 44081 (3%), and 44095 (5%), and decreased in 44057 (1%), 44060 (7%), 44092 (12%), and 44094 (2%). For the 18th consecutive month, no overdose visits were observed among residents of 44045.

Figure 5. Overdose Ages by Zip Code of Residence



ED/UC overdose events varied by age across each of the reported zip codes (Figure 5). Overdose event frequency was highest among those 25 to 44 years of age (53%), followed by those 45 to 64 years of age (20%), less than 18 years (7%), 18 to 24 years of age (5%), and 65 years or older (3%). Twelve percent of March 2021 overdose events in Lake County did not have any associated age information.

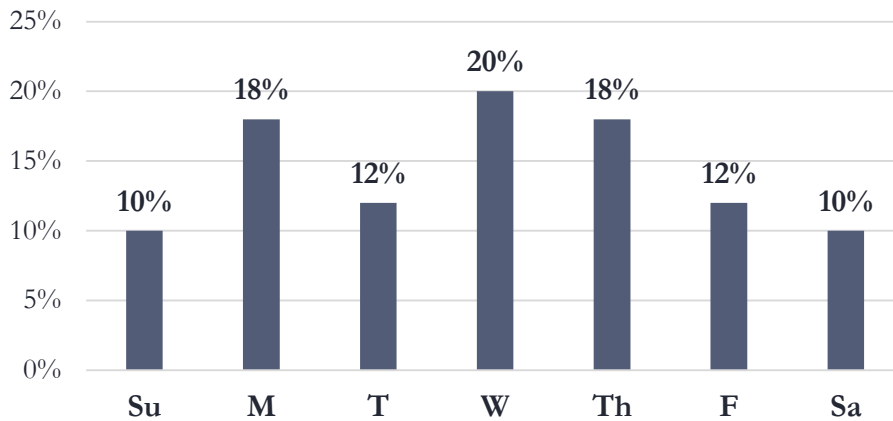
### At which Lake County facilities did overdose events present?

Table 1. Overdose Reporting Facility

Facility	N	(%)
Madison Campus	0	0
TriPoint Medical Center	12	30
West Medical Center	20	50
Outside of County	8	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

During the month of March, the highest proportion of Lake County residents who presented to ERs/UCs for suspected drug overdoses presented to West Medical Center (50%), followed by TriPoint (30%) and facilities outside of Lake County (20%). No overdose events were reported for Madison Campus in March.

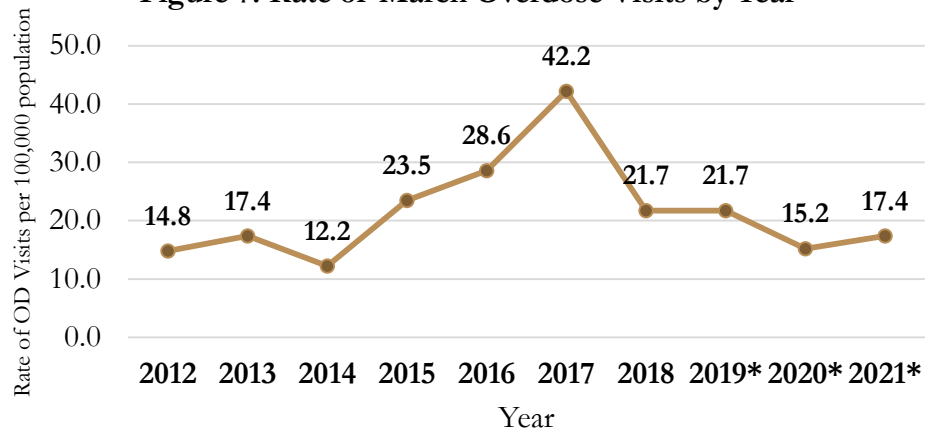
Figure 6. Overdose Occurrences by Day of Week



When organized by day of week, the frequency of ED/UC overdose events was highest on Wednesday (20%; Figure 6). Mondays and Thursdays experienced the second highest frequency of overdose events (18% each), followed by Tuesdays and Fridays (12 % each). Rates of ED/UC visits for overdose events were lowest on weekends, with 10% observed on both Saturdays and Sundays.

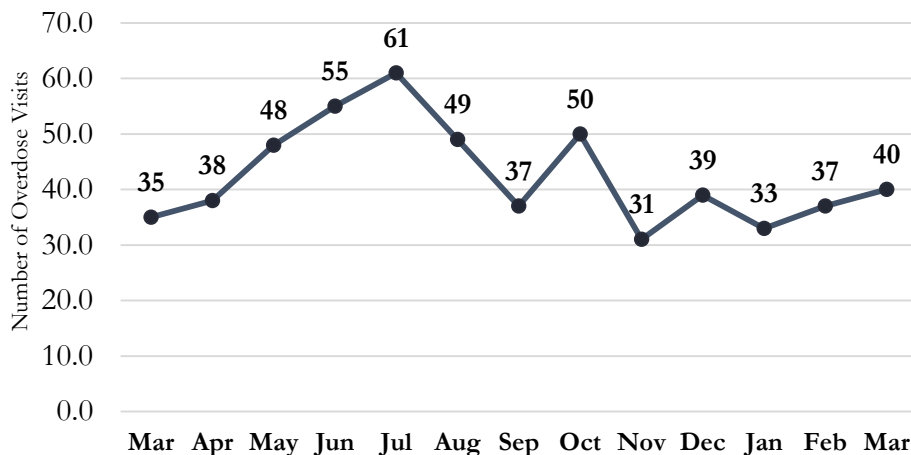
The March 2021 Lake County ED/UC overdose event rate per 100,000 population is consistent with 2012, and is the fourth lowest rate observed for March in the past 10 years (Figure 7). It is 14% higher than the rate for March 2020, 59% lower than the highest rate of 42.2 observed in March 2017, and 43% higher than the lowest rate of 12.2 observed in March 2013.

Figure 7. Rate of March Overdose Visits by Year



\*Rates based on most current available annual population estimates, as obtained from data.census.gov; 2019-2021 rates are based on 2019 population estimates.

Figure 8. Overdose Counts – Past 12 Months



When organized by month, ED/UC overdose events increased 74% from March to July 2020, decreased 39% from July to September, increased 35% from September to October, decreased 38% from October to November, increased 26% from November to December, decreased 15% from December 2020 to January 2021, and increased 21% from January to March (Figure 8). A total of 110 ED/UC visits for drug-related overdose events have been observed thus far in 2021, as compared to 117 in the same period for 2020, representing a 6% decrease.

# Lake County General Health District Resources



## Project DAWN Naloxone Clinics

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19 and response efforts, all in-person Project DAWN Clinics have been canceled until further notice.

Training and registration to receive a naloxone kit is available on our website for residents of Lake County, as well as other counties in Ohio without an active Project DAWN Program.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.lcghd.org/naloxone-distribution/>.

## Pharmaceutical Disposal Instructions

Before disposing of pharmaceuticals at one of the drop-off locations, be sure to remove or black-out identifiable information on the pharmacy label. Disposable items suitable for drop-off include:

- Unused or expired medications
- Prescriptions, non-prescription pills, syrups, and creams
- Pain and mood altering medications
- Pain relievers, over-the-counter cold and flu medication, vitamins, and pet medications

## Pharmaceutical Drug Collection and Disposal Locations

Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Note: No Sunday Hours at Lakeland*

### **Eastlake Police Department**

35150 Lakeshore Boulevard

Eastlake, OH 44095

### **Madison Township Police Department**

2065 Hubbard Road

Madison, OH 44057

### **Mentor Police Department**

8500 Civic Center Boulevard

Mentor, OH 44060

### **Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Department**

5860 Andrews Road

Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060

### **Lake County Sheriff's Office**

104 East Erie Street

Painesville, OH 44077

### **Willoughby Police Department**

36700 Euclid Avenue

Willoughby, OH 44094

### **Willoughby Hills Police Department**

35405 Chardon Road

Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

### **Lakeland Comm. College Police Department**

7700 Clocktower Drive, Building A, Lower Level

Kirtland, OH 44094

REV: 5/21/2021



**Lake County  
General Health District**

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

