Drug Overdose Surveillance Report Lake County, Ohio: March 2022

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 31 recorded drug overdose ED/UC events met the inclusion criteria listed below, accounting for 0.45% of all March ED/UC visits among Lake County residents. This represents a decrease from the previous month's 32 drug overdose ED/UC visits. No fatalities were reported among those reporting to ED/UCs during the month of March.

In March, Lake County drug overdose ED/UC admissions occurred among individuals ranging from 8 to 88 years of age. Five events involved prescription (Rx) medication, two involved illicit drugs, one involved alcohol, and twenty-three involved an unspecified substance (Figure 1). Moreover, seven ED/UC visits resulted in routine discharge, one was admitted, two were transferred to another hospital or other location, zero left against medical advice, and 21 lacked reported discharge information.

February

32

Overdose Visits

March

31

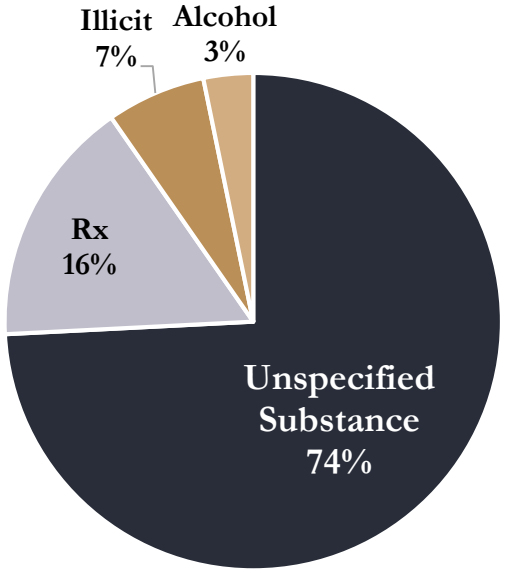
Overdose Visits

Ages:
8 to 88
Average:
41 Years

79%
Caucasian

59%
Male

Figure 1. Overdoses by Type



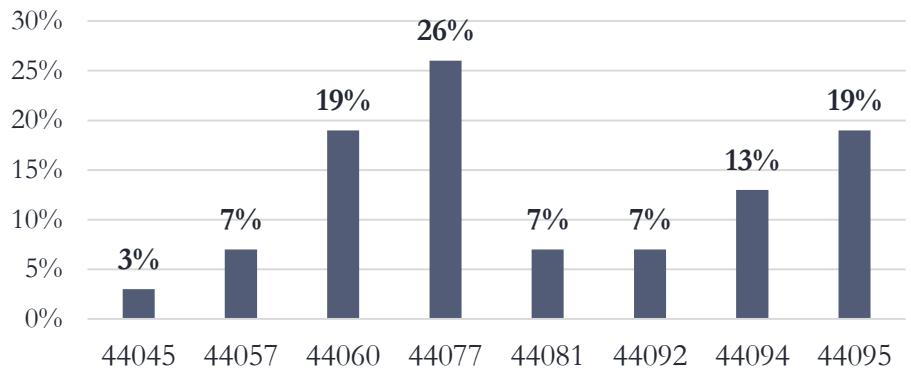
Inclusion Criteria:

The data presented in this report was retrieved from Ohio's EpiCenter Health Monitoring System, as identified by the "Ohio Opioid-Related: Suspected Drug Overdose" classifier. Data prior to August 2019 was identified using 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 or withdrawal symptoms. In most cases, the drug responsible for the overdose is not indicated. As such, the included figures are not limited to opioid-related events.

Geographical Distribution

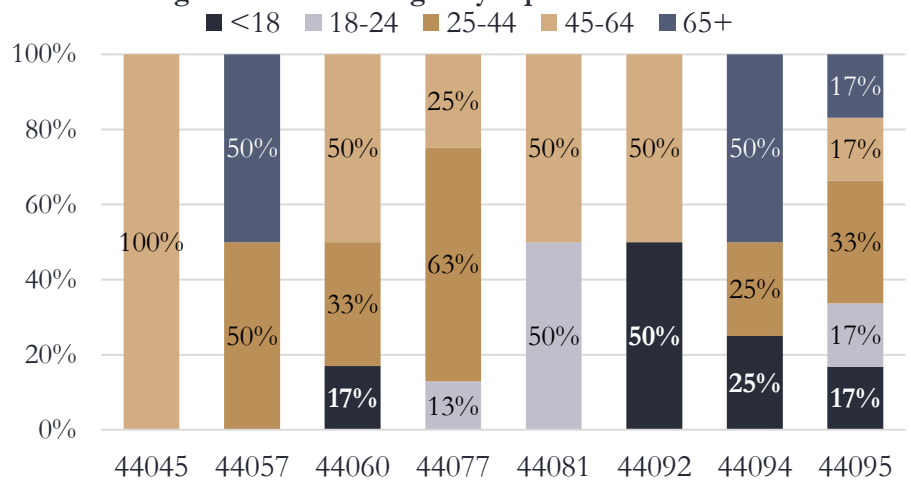
In what areas were overdoses most prevalent?

Figure 2. 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 2). ED/UC overdose events increased in 44045 (3%), 44060 (6%), 44077 (7%), 44081 (7%), 44095 (6%), and decreased in 44057 (9%), 44092 (6%), and 44094 (15%). This is the first time an overdose visit has been recorded for a resident of 44045 since September 2019.

Figure 3. Overdose Ages by Zip Code of Residence



ED/UC overdose events varied by age across each of the reported zip codes (Figure 3). Overdose event frequency was highest among those 25 to 44 years of age (35%), followed by 45 to 64 years of age (29%), under 18 years of age (13%), 65 years or older (13%), and followed by those 18 to 24 years of age (10%).

At which Lake County facilities did overdose events present?

Table 1. *Overdose Reporting Facility*

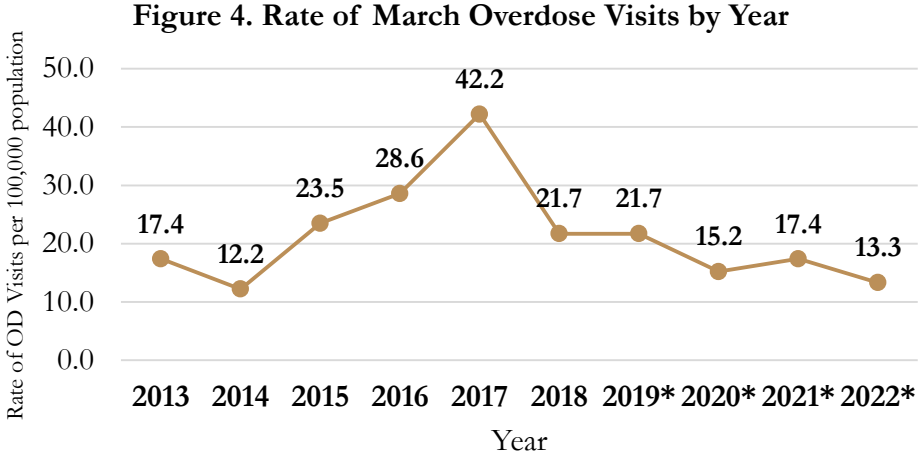
Facility	N	(%)
Madison Campus	0	0
TriPoint Medical Center	6	19
West Medical Center	10	32
Outside of County	15	48
Total	**31**	**100.0**

During the month of March, the highest proportion of Lake County residents who presented to ERs/UCs for suspected drug overdoses presented to facilities outside of Lake County (48%), West Medical Center (32%), TriPoint Medical Center (19%), followed by and Madison Campus (0%). It should be noted that the ER at Madison Campus has been temporarily closed since 12/31/21.

How does this compare with past years?

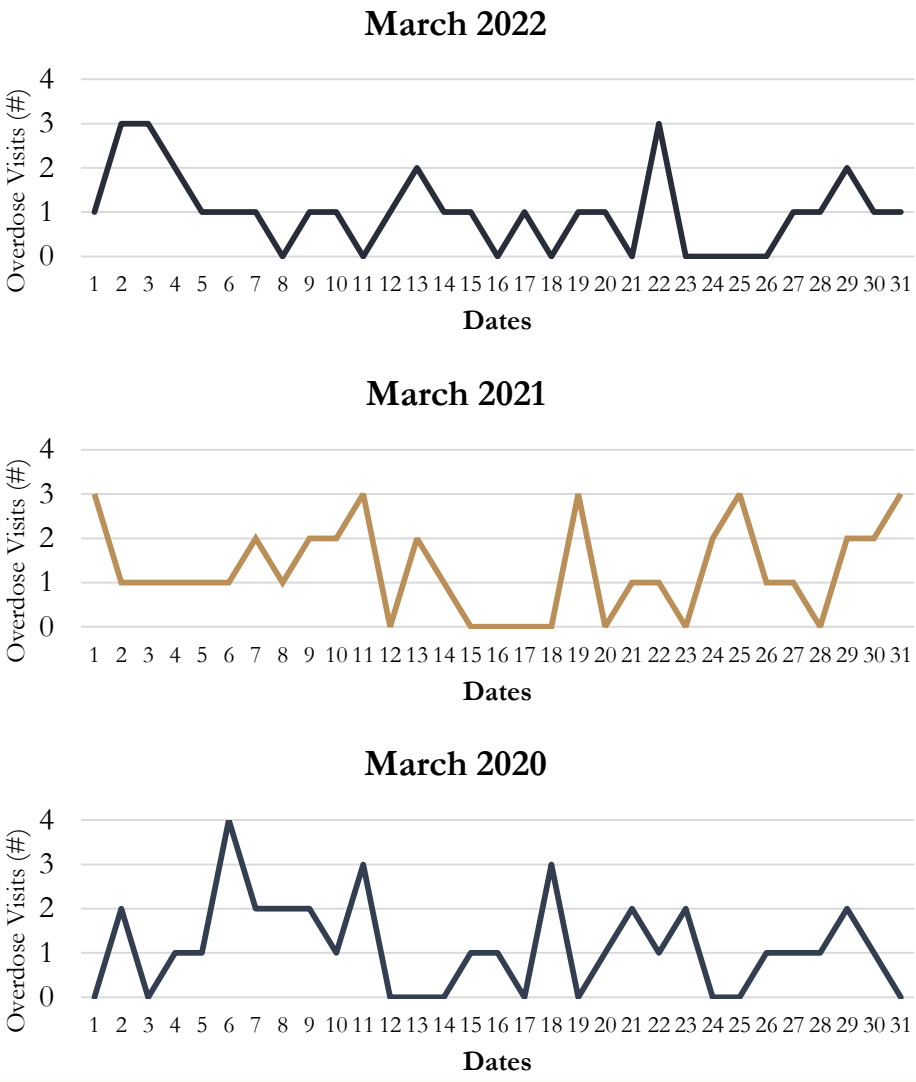
The March 2022 Lake County ED/UC overdose event rate per 100,000 population is the second lowest rate observed for March in the past 10 years (Figure 4). It is 9% higher than the lowest rate of 12.2 observed in March 2014, and 68% lower than the peak rate of 42.2 observed in March 2017.

Figure 4. Rate of March Overdose Visits by Year



*Rates based on most current available annual population estimates, as obtained from data.census.gov; 2021-2022 rates are based on the 2020 Decennial Census.

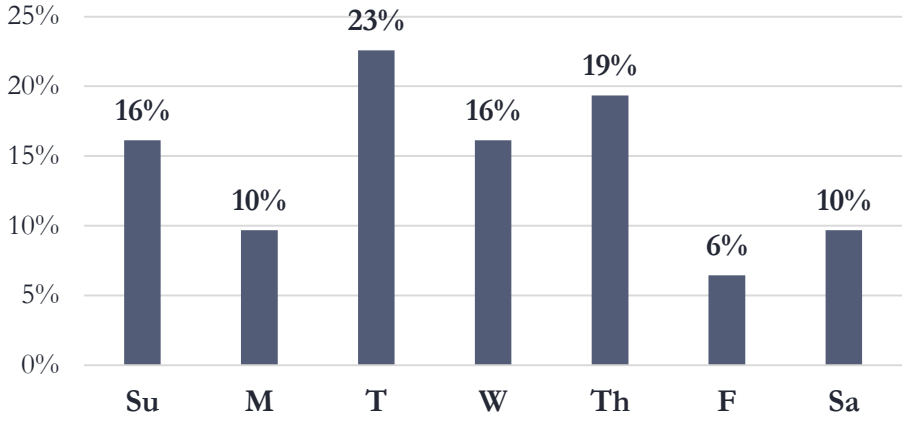
Figure 5. March Drug Overdose Daily Frequencies, 2020-2022



In order to provide for comparisons of daily ED/UC overdose event frequency, March events by day are illustrated for 2020, 2021, and 2022 (Figure 5). The daily maximum of three for March of 2022 is equal to the daily maximum of three in 2021 and 25% lower than the daily maximum of four reported in 2020. Moreover, mean daily ED/UC overdose event frequency for March of 2022 (1), is lower than the rate observed in March of 2021 (1.3), and lower than March of 2020 (1.1).

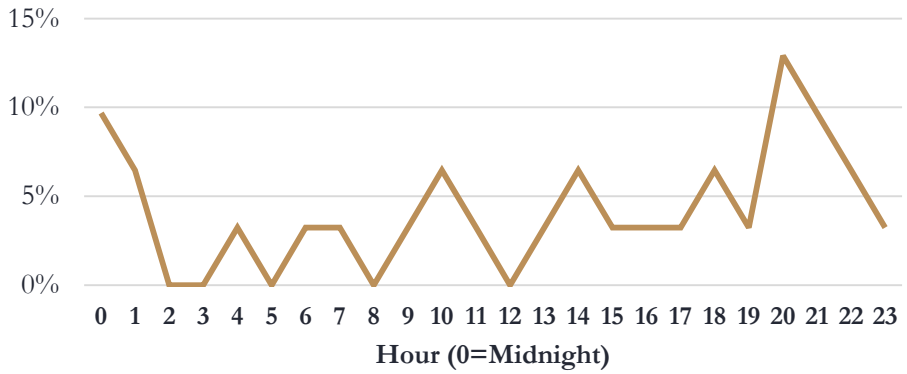
A total of nine days with no ED/UC overdose events were observed during March of 2022, as compared to eight days in March of 2021 and ten in March of 2020. March overdose events peaked on March 2, 3, and 22, as compared to the 2021 peak, which occurred on March 1, 11, 19, 25, and 31, and the 2019 peak, which occurred on March 4.

Figure 6. Overdose Occurrences by Day of Week



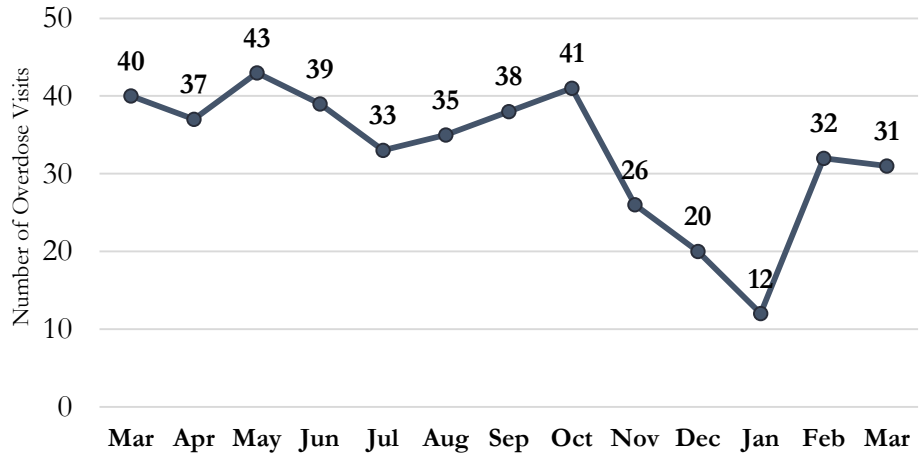
When organized by day of week, the frequency of March ED/UC overdose events was highest on Tuesdays (23%; Figure 6). Thursday experienced the next highest frequency of overdose events (19%), followed by Sunday and Wednesday (16%, respectively), Monday and Saturday (10%, respectively). Friday had the lowest frequency of overdose events (6%).

Figure 7. Overdose Occurrences by Hour of Day



March ED/UC overdose events were most prominent around 8:00 pm (Figure 7). No overdose events presented to ED/UCs during the hours of 2:00 am, 3:00 am, 5:00 am, 8:00 am, and 12:00 pm during the month of March.

Figure 8. Overdose Counts – Past 12 Months



When organized by month, ED/UC overdose events increased 8% from decreased 8% from March to April, increased 16% from April to May, decreased 23% from May to July, increased 24% from July to October, decreased 68% from October to January, increased 167% from January to February, and decreased 3% February to March (Figure 8). A total of 75 ED/UC visits for drug-related overdose events have been observed thus far in 2022, as compared to 110 in the same period for 2021.

Lake County General Health District Resources

Project DAWN Naloxone Clinics

Project DAWN clinics are available by appointment. Please call (440) 350-2844 to register.

Training and registration to receive a naloxone kit is always 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
- **No needles or liquids**

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: 4/14/2022

Lake County General Health District
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.