

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602

Present: Jack Tany - Committee Chair, Christopher Boyd, Lisa Coney, Denny Harris, Dennis Krafft, Gerald Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark Piotrowski, Tracey Slodowski, Rich Spitzer, Michael Webster

Others: Mary Catherine Hannah, Dave Gilbert, Bill Smith, Randy Pfau, Stella Kohlholf, Jamie Furbush, Eric McCafferty, Roxanne Steinhoff, Lydia Walker, Chuck Stadler, Jana Barry, Kelley Severs, Suzy Koepplinger, and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to order ---**Vice-Chair Little at 4:00 p.m.**
- II. Welcome
- III. Public comment ---**None**
- IV. Agenda

1. Randy Pfau and Stella Kohlholf from Medical Examiner's Office re: Opioid presentation
 - ***OFR – Overdose Fatality Review. Discussion of data provided: Saginaw County is ranked 30th out of 83 counties; be aware of resources; Medical Examiner's office will be asking for opioid settlement funds later this year; highest group aged 40-49; presentation attached.***
2. Jamie Furbush re: Frankenmuth CVB Management Agreement
 - ***Discussion was held regarding amendment of the Separate Management Agreement in order to grow the Saginaw County tax base through the tourism economy and to level up the power of room tax resources to impact greater growth through sustainable Destination Development projects, with amendment objectives of:***
 - ***Creating a designated growth path (Phase 2) after successfully operating a Separate Management Agreement for a designated period of time;***
 - ***Grow the responsibility and purpose from primarily marketing, sales and visitor services to also include leading destination development and growth projects;***
 - ***Add the ability to bond/borrow against the room tax for approved tourism development projects; and***
 - ***Clean up verbiage – change Controller to Administrator throughout.***
 - ***Further discussion was held regarding the timing and process for amendments and Jamie provided an update on the Sports Complex Project.***
3. Jana Barry and Kelley Severs, Treasurer's Office, re: Land Bank discussion/questions
 - ***Discussion was held, with Chair Little noting there is not a lot of communication between the Land Bank and the public; When do they meet? How can one purchase property? There needs to be education in the process. Per Jana and Kelly, meetings should be held in May, August, and November. Verda Burns, Sue Seibel, and Tom Miller are the paid staff who manage the Land Bank.***

- *Mary Catherine Hannah, County Administrator – conversations were held during the budget process. Used to have 5,000 properties now 1,800 - mostly empty lots. Treasurer oversees and transfers title to the Land Bank. When it was first created, it was used for demolition, to control blight and clean up parcels. Covenant’s “Walk to Work” program.*
- *Commissioner Coney is concerned with the lack of meetings. Is there a process where one of the board members can call a meeting? (No)*
- *Chairman Tany – Genesee County Land Bank is very robust; Saginaw County is stuck in quicksand. Its last meeting was January 2024.*
- *Commissioner Boyd wants information from Tom Miller before he retires.*
- *Commissioner Kaczynski – Strategic plan? No. Wants report broken down by zip code and again by residential, industrial, and commercial.*
- *Commissioner Slodowski – Can local units buy parcels? Yes. They have the first right of refusal.*
- *Commissioner Webster – How can we go from \$1,800 to 0?*
- *Administrator Hannah – foreclosure avoidance process, what are other communities doing? Reduce number of foreclosures. Washtenaw County has social worker.*
- *Chairman Tany – of 1,800 how many have water/sewer?*
- **Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee meeting is scheduled.*
- *Commissioner Matthews – Spaulding Township is building tiny homes on smaller properties.*
- **Agenda item in 6 months – Bylaws of Land Bank Authority.*

4. Other Issues of Interest/Concern – Board of Commissioners---***None***

V. Miscellaneous---***None***

VI. Adjournment---***Moved by Coney, seconded by Harris, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 5:39 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerald Little, Committee Chair
Suzy Koepplinger, Committee Clerk

Note: Upon completion of discussion, only motions to refer to an organized committee or to postpone indefinitely shall be allowed - Article IX, Section 9.5, 2024 Board Rules.

Saginaw County Medical Examiner's Office

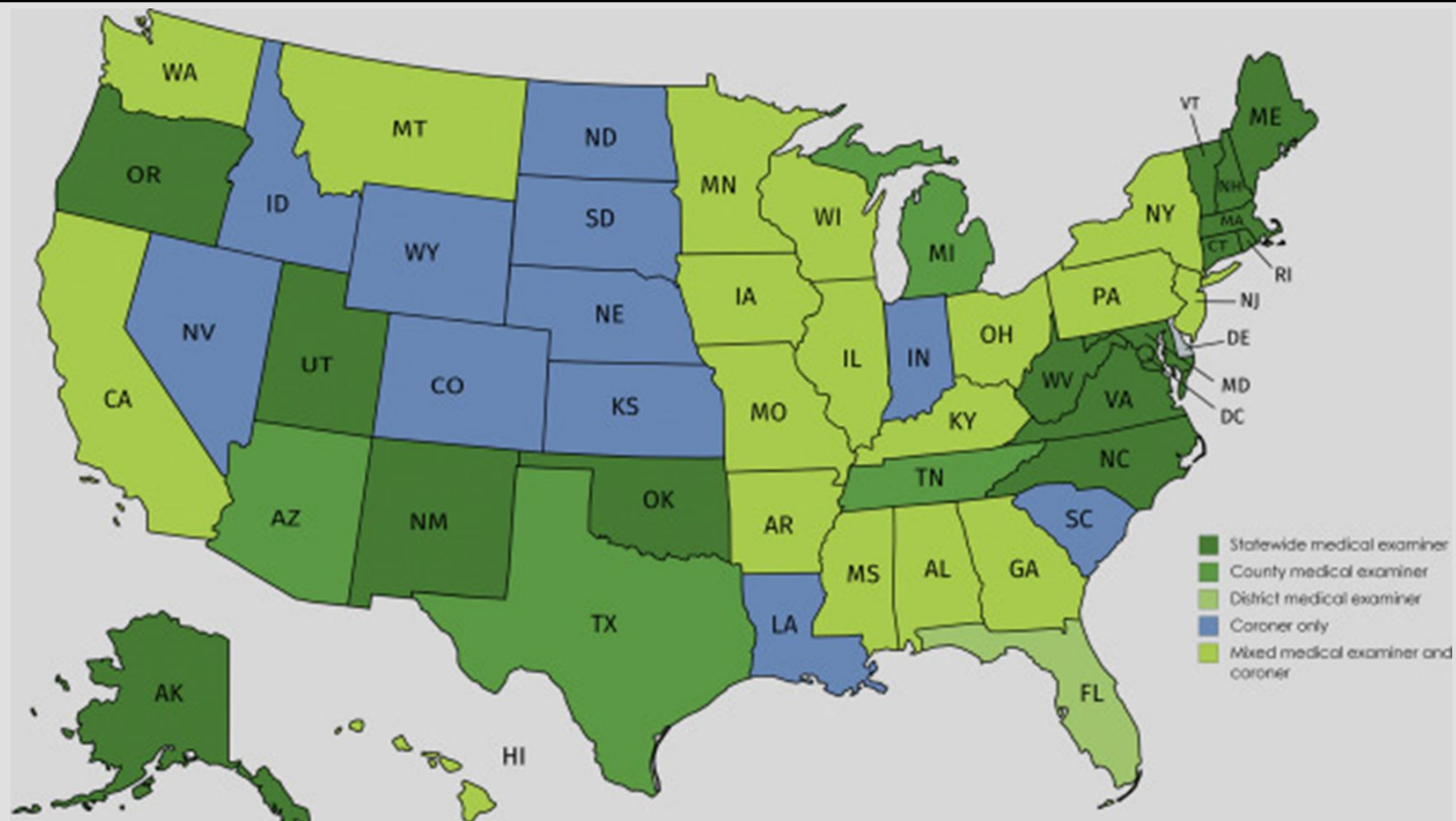
Randy Pfau and Stella Kohlhoff

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the Medical Examiner's Office
3. Saginaw County Data
4. Overdose Fatalities in Saginaw
5. Drug Trends in Michigan
6. Overdose Fatality Prevention and Resources

Index & Content

- Medical Examiner: Licensed physician, usually with specialized training in forensic pathology, who is appointed based on expertise/credentials and has the authority to perform autopsies and provide expert testimony
- Coroner: Not required to have a medical degree, but typically has a background in criminal justice, law, or related fields and is elected by the community. Coroners must coordinate with medical experts for an autopsy to be conducted

What is a Medical Examiner?



Saginaw County Medical Examiner's Office



Who We Are

Chief ME

Dr. Daniel Spitz



Deputy ME

Dr. Russell Bush



Director

Randy Pfau



Investigators (MEIs) 13 total

Dennis, Beth, Tracy, Ryan,
Stella, Jaime, Bobby, Mike,
Mya, Laura, La'Key, James,
Steven

Respond to Death Scene

Perform an external examination of the body, with photographs

Gather facts/data necessary to determine ME jurisdiction, communicate/coordinate with all parties involved in the investigation and disposition of the body

Coordinate the release, removal, and transport of the body

MEI Role

Review the circumstances surrounding death and relevant medical history to determine the necessity of an autopsy

Conduct/facilitate autopsies

Author and certify autopsy reports and death certificates, approve cremation permits

Testify in legal proceedings when necessary

ME Role

Natural: External forces do not directly cause death; may be expected or unexpected, sudden or prolonged

Accidental: Unexpected deaths due to variety of causes (MVA, falls, poisoning, drowning, fire, overdoses, etc.

Homicide: Death of an individual caused by another person; can be premeditated

Suicide: Causing one's own death, intentionally

Indeterminate/Undetermined Deaths

Death recorded when there is not enough evidence to reach a firm conclusion (i.e., decomposition, skeletonization, etc.)

Undetermined deaths include deaths where the ME can determine the *cause* of death but is unable to determine the *manner* of death

Manners of Death

Saginaw County ME Data

January

- 66 ME Cases
- 90 Non ME Cases
- 19 Autopsies
- 195 Cremation Permits

February

- 58 ME cases
- 81 Non ME Cases
- 17 Autopsies
- 172 Cremation Permits

March

- 64 ME Cases
- 57 Non ME Cases
- 21 Autopsies
- 142 Cremation Permits

April

- 9 ME Cases
- 9 Non-ME Cases
- 4 Autopsies
- 26 Cremation Permits

2025 Deaths

Overdose Deaths

2022

61 Overdose Deaths

- 19 Female
- 42 Male

2023

66 Overdose Deaths

- 25 Female
- 41 Male

2024

49 Overdose Deaths

- 11 Female
- 38 Male

2025

5 Confirmed Overdose
Deaths (YTD)

- 4 Female
- 1 Male

Over the Years



COD: Intoxication by Fentanyl



COD: Intoxication by alcohol, cocaine, fentanyl & multiple prescriptions



COD: Intoxication by Fentanyl and Cocaine



COD: Intoxication of Fentanyl and Methamphetamines

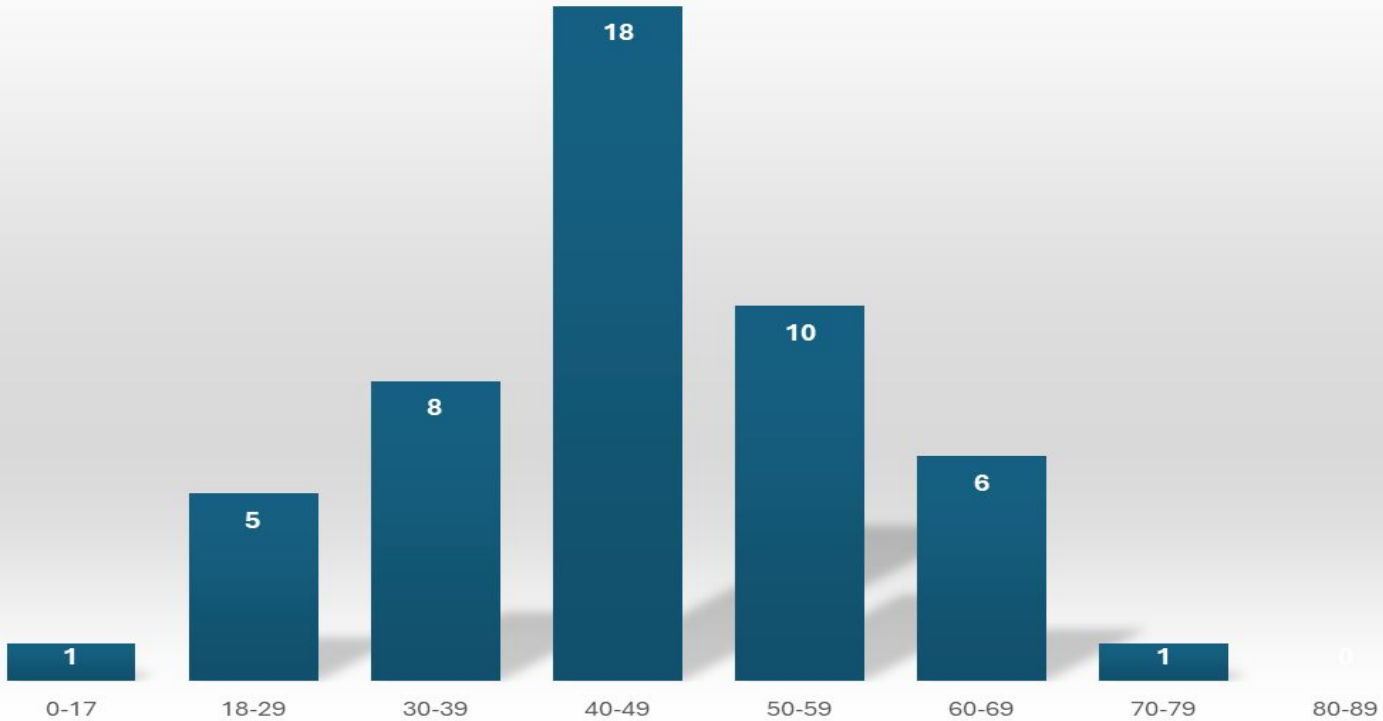


COD: Intoxication by Fentanyl and Cocaine

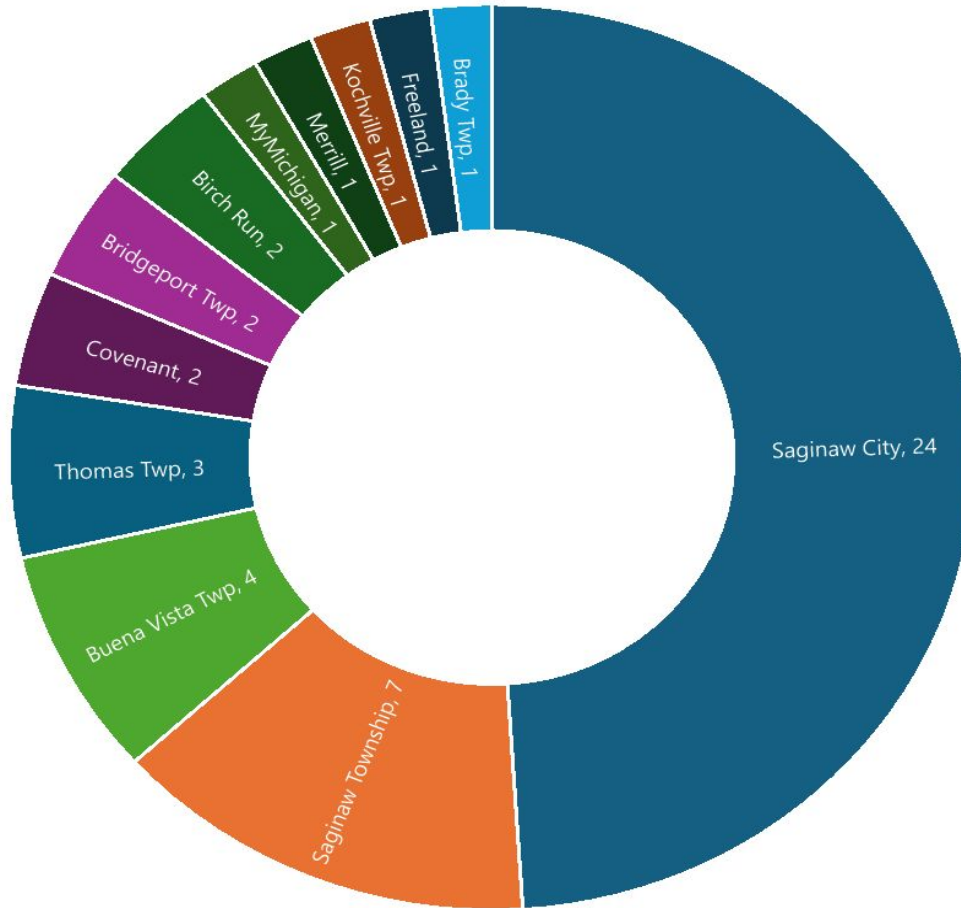


COD: Intoxication by Fentanyl, Xylazine, Methadone, and Cocaine

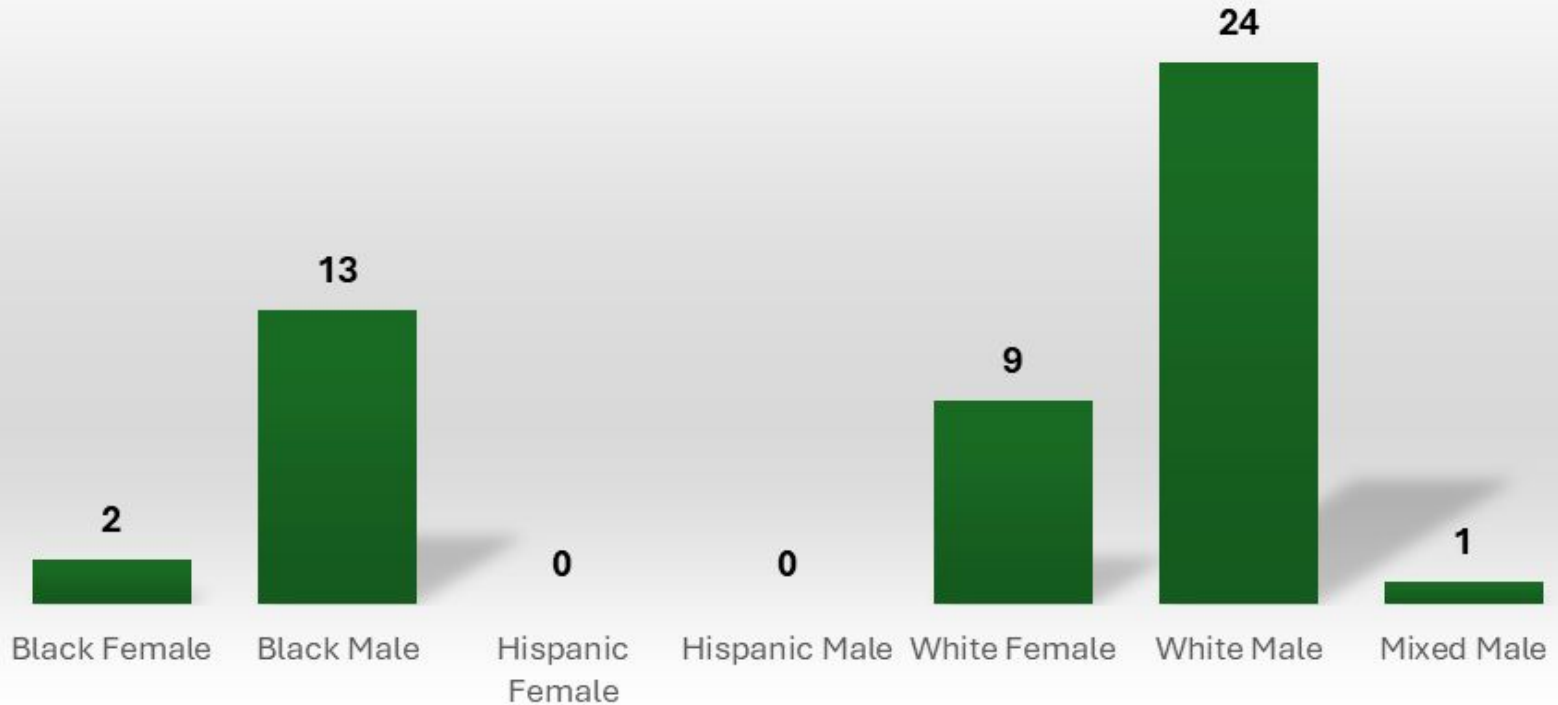
Overdose Fatality Ages



Overdose Locations 2024



Overdose Fatality Race/Sex



Fentanyl with Cocaine

- 15 overdose deaths

Fentanyl

- 7 overdose deaths

Cocaine

- 5 overdose deaths

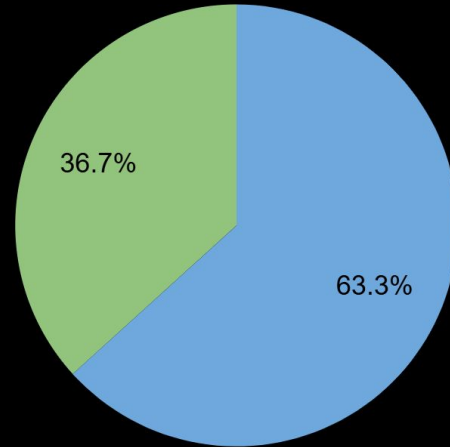
Mixed Combinations

- Cocaine, Fentanyl & Methamphetamines: 3 deaths
- Methamphetamines & Fentanyl: 3 deaths
- Fentanyl & other: 2 deaths
- Methamphetamines: 1 death
- Cocaine & Methamphetamines: 2 deaths
- Fentanyl & Xylazine: 1 death
- Other: 10 deaths

Most Common Overdose Substances 2024

Deaths Due to Fentanyl

● Fentanyl Detected ● Fentanyl Not Detected



2025

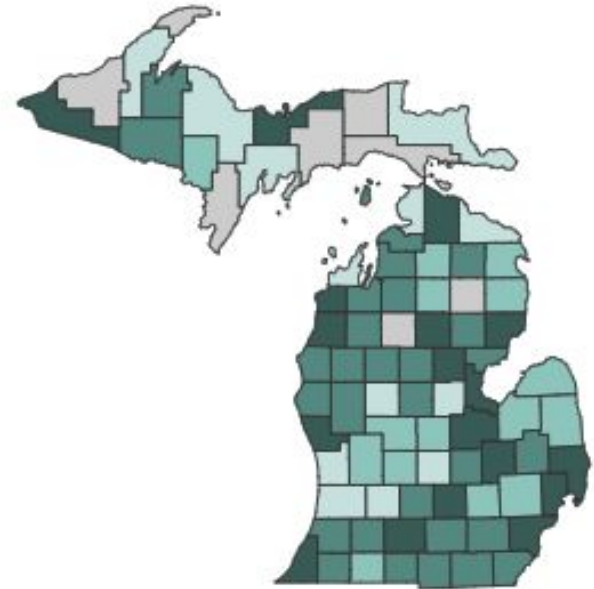
- Fentanyl & Cocaine: 2 deaths
- Fentanyl: 1 death
- Cocaine, Fentanyl, & Xylazine: 1 death
- Other: 1 death

Saginaw vs. Other Counties

- There are 83 counties in Michigan
- Saginaw is ranked 30th for overdose deaths
- Top 10 Counties:
 1. Genesee
 2. Wayne
 3. Ingham
 4. Muskegon
 5. Calhoun
 6. Manistee
 7. Roscommon
 8. Alger
 9. Bay
 10. Cheboygan
- Data unavailable for 8 counties

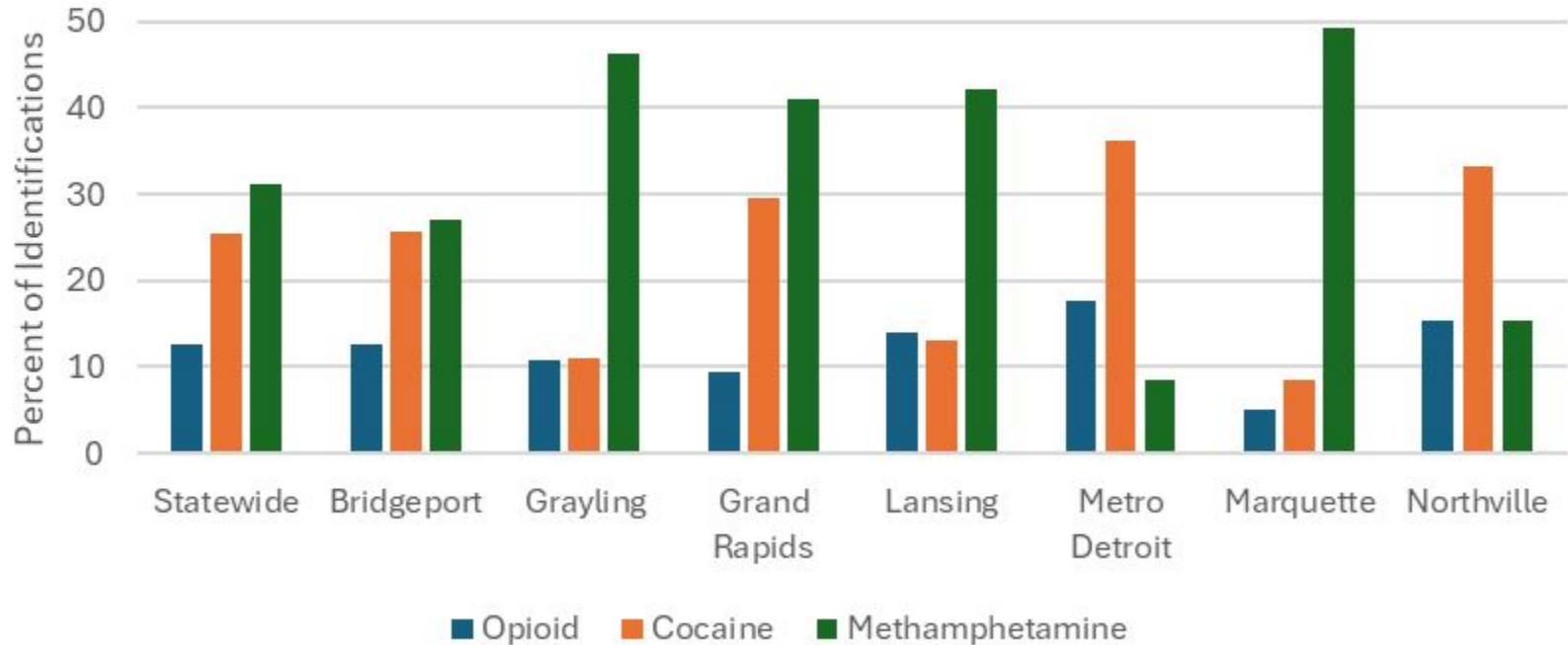
Provisional 3-Year Avg. Overdose Death Rate per 100,000, Q1 2021 - Q4 2023

0-14 15-19 20-29 30+ Suppressed

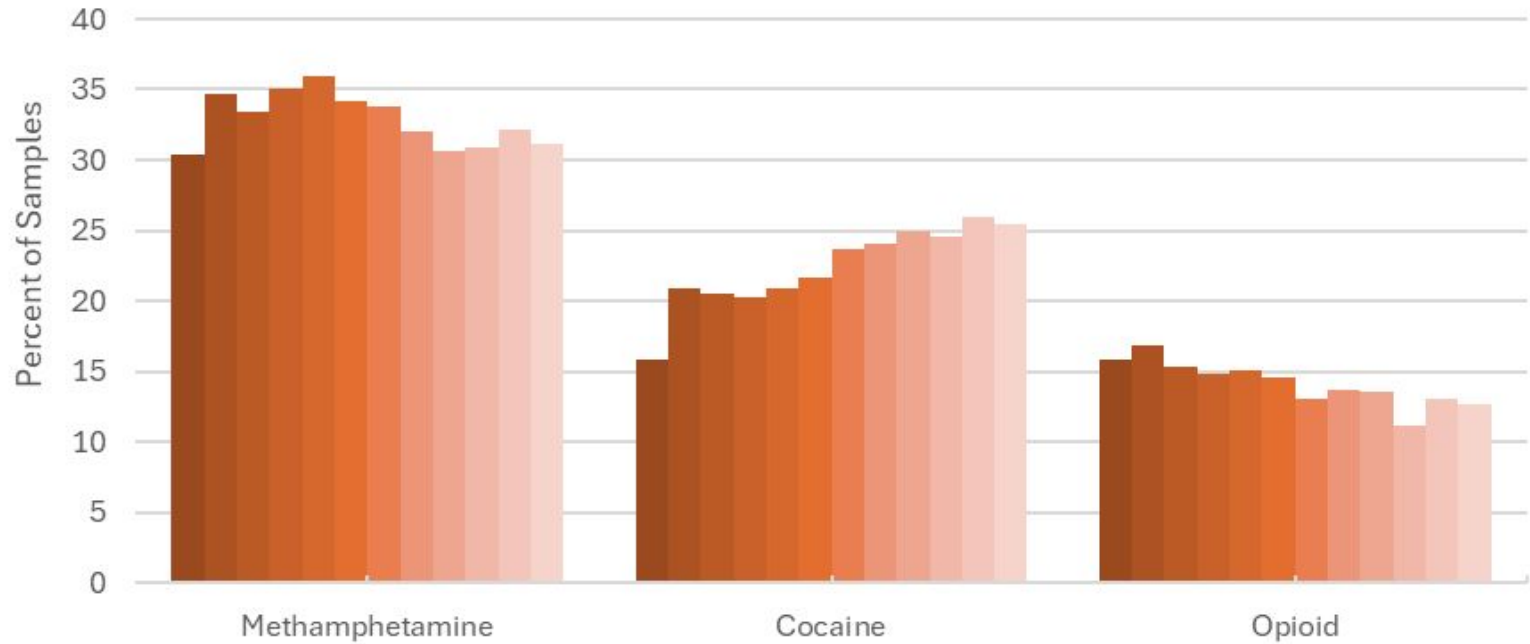


2024 Sample Identification by Laboratory

13,830 Samples Analyzed

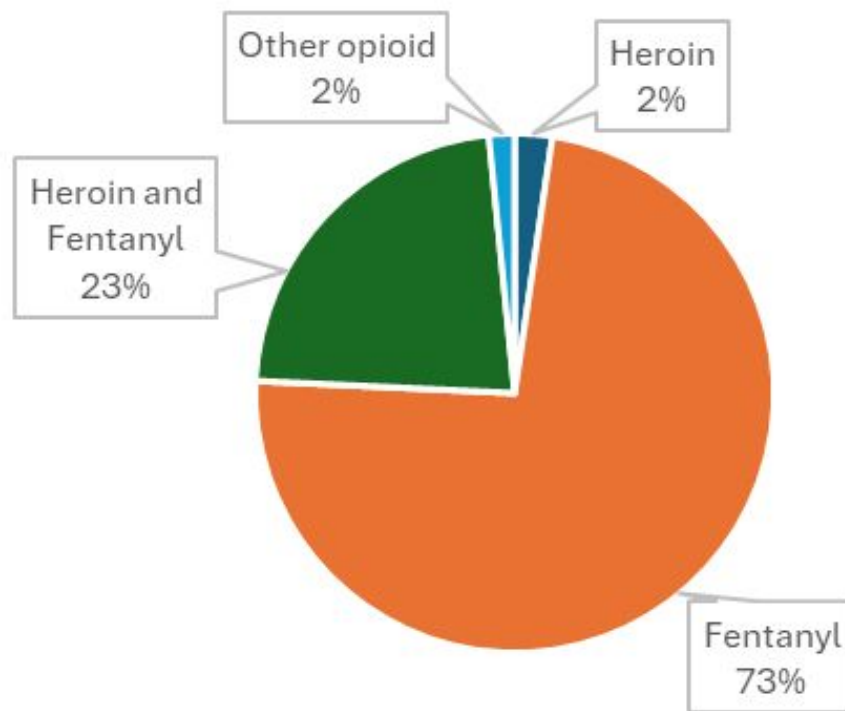


Statewide Change Over Time



Q1 2022 through Q4 2024

2024 Opioid Sample Composition



What is Xylazine?

- Non-opioid sedative/tranquilizer
- Approved for use in veterinary medicine
- Also known as “tranq” or “zombie drug”
- Central nervous system depressant: slows brain activity, relaxes muscles, slows heart rate & breathing
- From 2019-2022, Xylazine detection more than doubled in 30 states (NIDA)
- Can be injected, snorted, swallowed, or inhaled



Xylazine- An Emerging Drug

Harm Reduction Services

- Syringe Services Program
- Safer Snorting or Smoking Supplies
- Naloxone Vending Machine
- Fentanyl and Xylazine Testing Strips

Overdose Fatality Review

- Created in 2024
- Reviews the circumstances surrounding overdose deaths to identify ways to prevent future deaths

Continued Prevention

- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Opioid Settlement Funds
 - \$11.3 Million over 18 years

Saginaw County Action

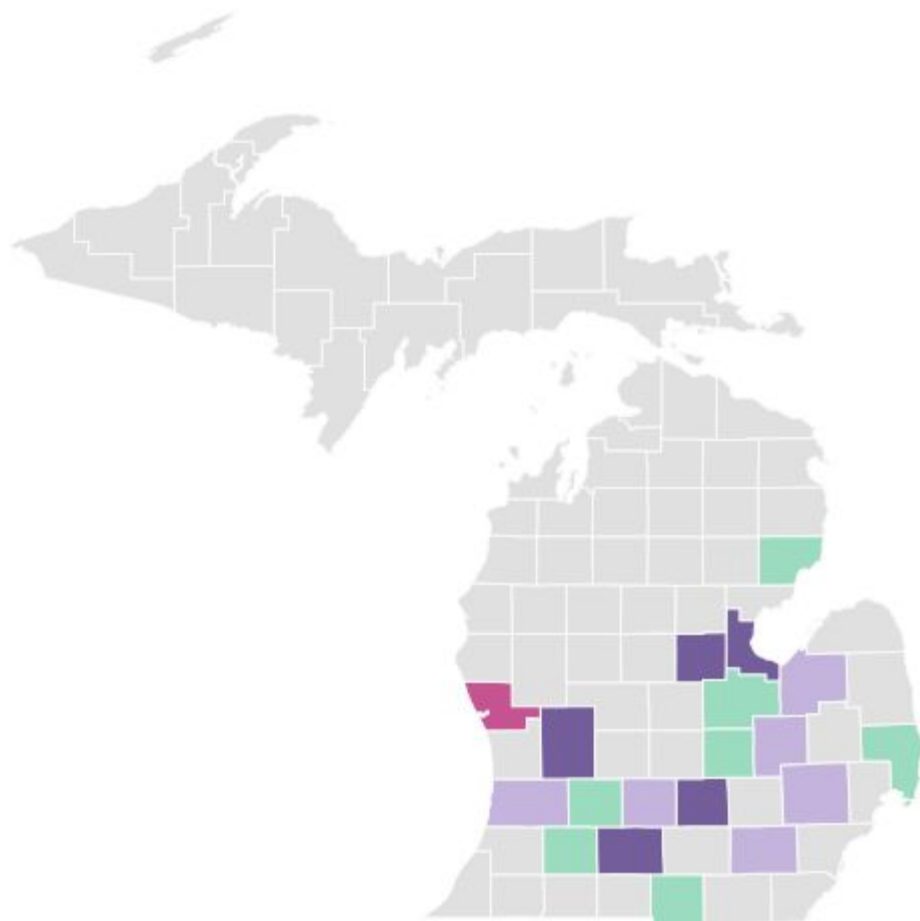
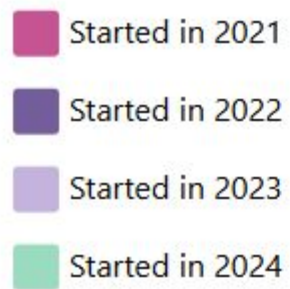
- Prevents overdose deaths by examining case-specific underlying circumstances involved, actively seeking feedback from those with lived experience, increasing connections between professionals serving individuals and families affected by substance use, and providing data-driven recommendations to stakeholders
- Began in 2024

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)

- Increase access to Narcan in rural parts of the community
- Educate the community about Quick Response Teams
- Educate the community about how to access local services and resources
- Ensure first responders are leaving behind substance use disorder resources at the scene of an overdose
- Provide sober community event opportunities in rural parts of the community
- Secure funding to support recovery support services, such as recovery meetings, in rural parts of the community

Recommendations

Active Michigan OFR Site Map



Questions?

Thank you!