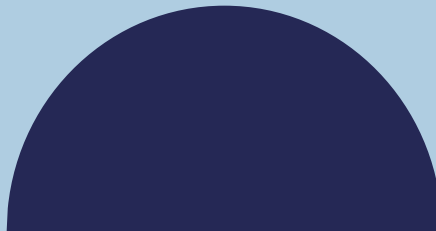


Plenary Session

Leveraging Overdose Fatality Review Data to Bring Multilevel Changes in Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Moderator: Melissa Heinen, Institute for
Intergovernmental Research

Speakers: Vaishali Deo, MD, MPH, The Begun Center for
Violence Prevention Research and Education, and
Manreet Bhullar, MPH, Cuyahoga County Medical
Examiner's Office



Disclaimer



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Site Information



- **County:** Cuyahoga
- **City, state:** Cleveland, Ohio
- **Year OFR started:** 2013
- **Estimated number of overdose deaths per year:** 600
- **Size of jurisdiction:** 1.2 million
- **Funding sources:** Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP); Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)-LOCAL



Our Journey



Overview



- Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Coordination and Structure
- Social Determinants of Substance Use
- Recommendation #1
- Recommendation #2
- Recommendation #3
- Conclusion

OFR Leadership Team



Cuyahoga County
Board of Health
(CCBH)

Cuyahoga County
Medical Examiner's
Office (CCMEO)

Cuyahoga County Alcohol,
Drug Addiction and Mental
Health Services Board
(ADAMHS Board)

The Begun Center for
Violence Prevention
Research and Education,
Case Western Reserve
University (Begun Center)

OFR Structure



- OFR is co-coordinated by CCBH and CCMEO
 - Agendas, meeting logistics, and recommendation tracking
 - Annual reports
 - Case selection
 - Data requests, data compilation, and data analysis
 - Subject-matter expertise



OFR Structure



- The Begun Center (research and evaluation partner)
 - Timelines
 - Information on criminal records
 - Evaluation of OFR
 - Data analysis
- ADAMHS Board
 - Next-of-kin (NOK) interviews



OFR Members



Board of Health

Medical
Examiner's Office

Child and Family
Services

Common Pleas
Court/Drug Court

Alcohol, Drug
Addiction and
Mental Health
Services Board

Academic
Institutions

Public Hospital
System

Prescription Drug
Monitoring
Programs

Law Enforcement

Nonprofit
Agencies

Veterans
Administration

People With Lived
Experience

Role of Members



Obtain and share
case information

Attend meetings
and provide input
on systems gaps
and prevention
strategies

Commit to
implementing
recommendations
that are within the
agency's purview

OFR Process



- **Committee Review Meetings (2019–Present)**
 - Review three cases bimonthly (n=87)
- **Desk Review Meetings (2024–Present)**
 - Review six cases bimonthly (n=42)
- **Quarterly Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Report aggregate trends and systems gaps
 - Facilitate identification of interventions and policy recommendations
 - Identify champions



Recommendations



1. NaloxBoxes

2. Fentanyl Test Strips

3. Infographic Posters



Recommendation #1: Support the implementation of a NaloxBox program and facilitate naloxone training in Cuyahoga County, 2022

Data Informing Intervention



- CCMEO mortality data from 2020 and 2021 showed a marked increase in overall overdose deaths 553 → 675
 - Increase driven by illicit fentanyl 416 → 490
- COVID-19-related stay-at-home orders could have contributed to substance use habits and overdose risk, including increased isolation*



*Source: A Timeline of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Impact on Overdose Incidents in 2020

Lead Agency: ADAMHS Board and MetroHealth System Office of Opioid Safety (OOS)



- Increase access to naloxone at the community level
- Install NaloxBoxes across the county, at locations such as public buildings, hunger centers, homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers, etc.



Implementation



- The ADAMHS Board worked with OOS to install more than 100 NaloxBoxes in different locations
- First 25 locations selected were based on highest needs
- NaloxBoxes were also installed at the outdoor locations



Measuring Success



- OOS developed a virtual training on naloxone administration as well as the opioid overdose response as part of OOS's Rapid Response Lay Responder Narcan[®] distribution protocol
- NaloxBoxes had a QR code to access the training
- Individuals who completed the training were asked to complete a survey



Post-Test Survey Results



- 1,645 respondents completed the survey*
- 92% reported increased understanding after viewing the training video

*Unsure how many viewed the video and completed the survey from NaloxBoxes QR code.





Recommendation #2: Support outreach/grassroots efforts for making fentanyl test strips (FTS) available within local communities and targeted hot spots

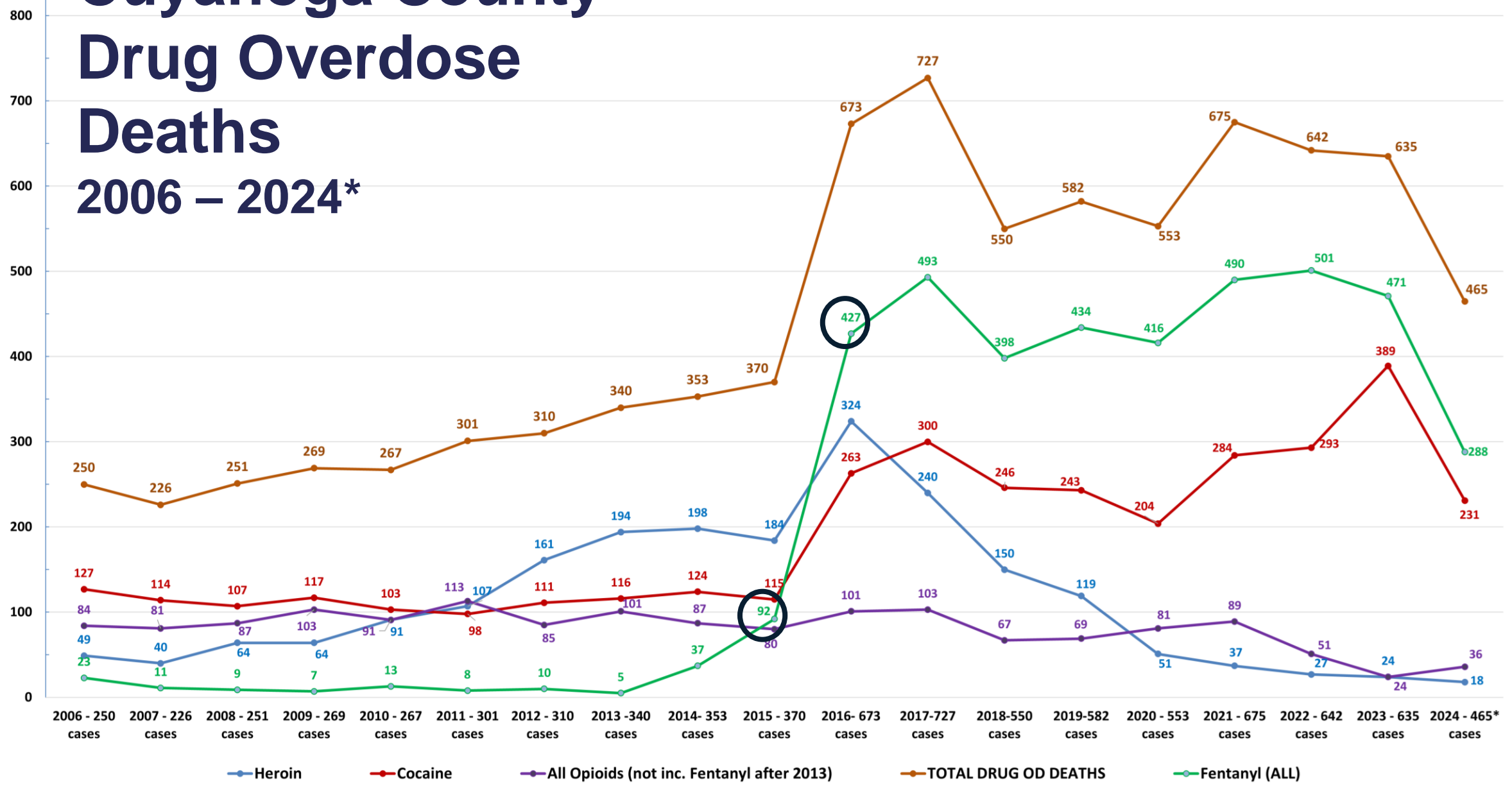
Data Informing Intervention



- Cuyahoga County Mortality Data—significant increase in fentanyl related overdose deaths since 2016
 - 70% of all cocaine overdose deaths also involved fentanyl [249 (cocaine + fentanyl)/358 (total cocaine overdoses in 2023)]
- OFR Data—41% (29/71) OFR cases from 2019–2023 had both fentanyl and cocaine contributing to their cause of death



Cuyahoga County Drug Overdose Deaths 2006 – 2024*



Lead Agency: Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH)

- Distribute FTS to organizations that provide resources in the community
- Provide information on community resources for individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorder (SUD)



Implementation



- From October 2023 to August 2024, CCBH distributed 11664 FTS to different organizations.
- 1006 “bookmarks” containing information on local resources were distributed among various organizations and events.



Bookmarks

#EndOverdose

Talking
About Drug
Use and
Overdose
Prevention
Can Save
Lives

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH



drughelp.care

24-hr Mental Health and
Addiction Crisis Hotline
216.623.6888

Never Use Alone Hotline
1.800.484.3731

Cuyahoga County Diversion Center
24-hr access to treatment/detox
216.762.1237

Peer support/Linkage to treatment
Thrive 24-hr Warm Line
440.886.5950

Project White Butterfly
216.727.8725

Project SOAR Peer Support
440.502.0020

Naloxone and immediate support
Project DAWN @ MetroHealth
216.778.5677

Syringe Exchange/MAT/
Harm Reduction
Circle Health Services
216.325.9355





Month/YR	Distribution Setting	Amount
Oct-23	Bedford City School District	100
Oct-23	Northern Ohio Recovery Association	2200
Oct-23	CCBH Career Fair For Culinary and Food Service Professionals	100
Oct-23	Thrive 4 Change	2000
Nov-23	CMS Treatment/Recovery Agency	100
Jan-24	Bedford SEALES	100
Jan-24	CCBH Nursing (Parma/Warrensville)	200
Mar-24	University Hospitals	3000
Mar-24	Thrive 4 Change	3000
Apr-24	Community Medical Services	100
Apr-24	University Hospitals	300
May-24	CCBH	20
May-24	ServSafe	25
May-24	CCBH	25
May-24	Word Church Event	45
Jun-24	Community Medical Services	100
Jun-24	Neighborhood Pets and Outreach Health	37
Jul-24	ATOC Professional Services	12
Aug-24	Community Medical Services	200

FTS Distribution

October 2023 – August 2024
N=11,664





Month/YR	Organization	Amount
Oct-23	Garfield Hts Police Dept	48
Oct-23	Bedford City School District	25
Oct-23	Northern Ohio Recovery Association	100
Oct-23	CCBH Career Fair for Culinary and Food Service Professionals	30
Nov-23	Broadview Hts Police Dept	30
Nov-23	CMS Treatment/Recovery agency	100
Jan-24	Bedford SEALES	50
Feb-24	Euclid Police Dept	25
Feb-24	Asurgent Health	25
Feb-24	Strongsville Police Dept	25
Mar-24	Berea-Midpark Schools	25
Mar-24	HUMADAOP	200
Apr-24	Pepper Pike Police Dept	50
Apr-24	PIC	15
May-24	ServeSafe	30
May-24	Loomis Companies	25
May-24	Word Church Event	10
Jun-24	Stafford Park MPHT Event	25

Bookmarks

October 2023 – August 2024

N=1006

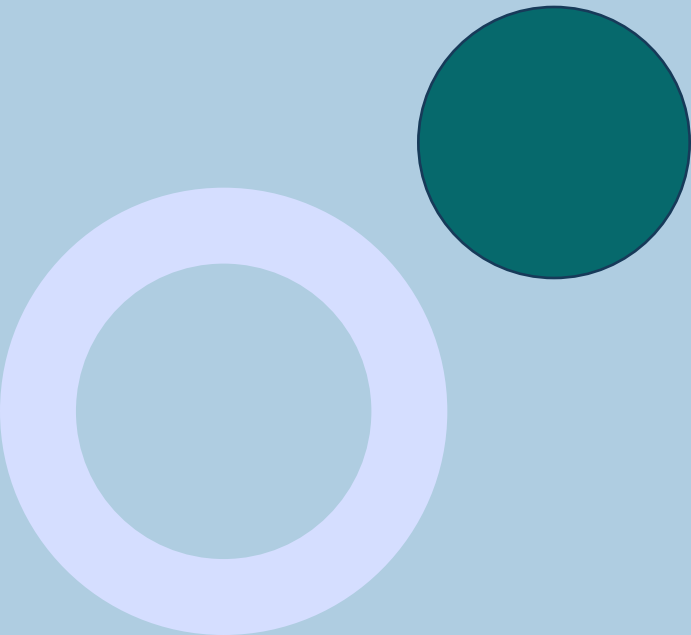


Month/YR	Organization	Amount
Jun-24	Neighborhood Pets and Outreach Health	3
Jul-24	ATOC Professional Services	25
Jul-24	Catholic Charities - Job/Career Training	25
Aug-24	Lakewood Area Collaborative event	10
Aug-24	My Sisters Keeper Cleveland	10
Aug-24	Norman Noble Health Fair Highland Heights	10
Aug-24	Black Men's Wellness Fair Wade Oval	10
Aug-24	Stella Maris Overdose Awareness Day- Public Square	75

Bookmarks

October 2023 – August 2024
N=1006

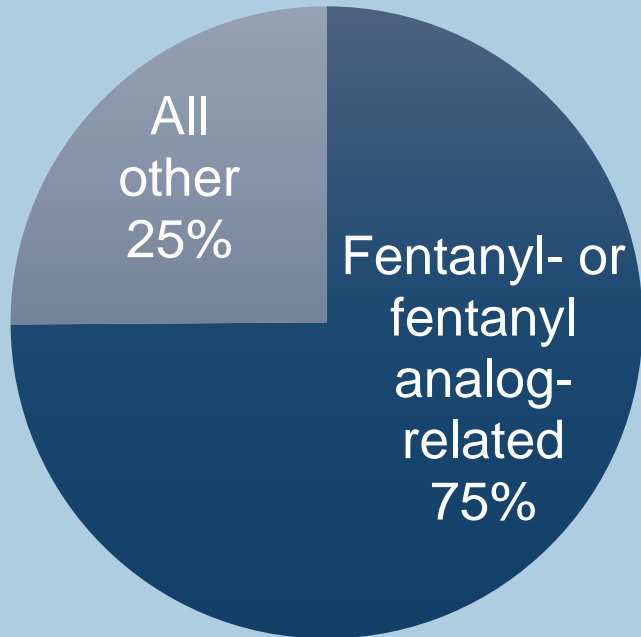




Recommendation #3: Creation of an infographic for the county jail to communicate the risks of drug use after incarceration and/or any period of abstinence, 2024

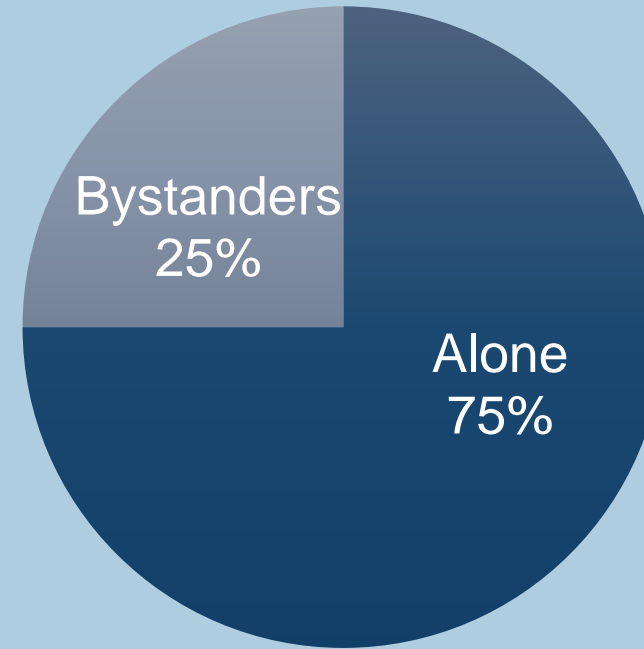
Data Informing Intervention

Deaths: Toxicology



- 75% (2,312/3,087) of all overdose fatalities involved fentanyl or a fentanyl analog between 2019 and 2023

Deaths



- 75% of all overdose deaths occurred while the decedent was using drugs while alone (Deo et al., 2023)

Data Informing Intervention



OFR Cases (2019–2023)	Number (n=108)	Percent (%)
Any <u>Law Enforcement</u> Touchpoints in Lifetime	108	100%
<u>Jail</u> Touchpoints in Lifetime	61	58%

Lead Agency: MetroHealth System Office of Opioid Safety (OOS)



- OOS, which hosts a jail-based team focused on opioid use disorder treatment, worked alongside CCMEO to modify the communication to an infographic that could be distributed as a 1-pager or hung as a poster.



Implementation



- Internal reviewers at OOS used a patient-centered approach:
 - Health literacy levels
 - Using lay terms
- Eight posters were printed for dissemination in the jail in both English and Spanish.
- Distribution and printing of the infographic was done through OOS.



Measuring Success



- Buy-in across multiple sectors, including the county sheriff's and warden's offices
 - This allowed for the infographic to be displayed directly in the jail
- Existing partnership with an advisory council of community stakeholders:
 - Patient-centered input
 - Available in both English and Spanish
 - Appropriate health literacy levels of the population



SAFE DRUG USE TIPS



A National Association of Medical Examiner's (N.A.M.E.) accredited office



MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
Thomas P. Gilson, M.D.
11801 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

KNOW THE FACTS



Many people are dying from fentanyl mixed in other drugs like cocaine, meth, and fake pills.



You cannot safely use the same amount you were using prior to going to jail.



You are more likely to die when you combine drugs, alcohol, and other substances.



Know what to do in case of an emergency. Street drugs of any amount are not safe.



Find safe use supplies, test strips, and naloxone at your local harm reduction program.

BE SAFE



Test your drugs with fentanyl test strips each time, the amount of fentanyl present can be unevenly scattered.



Sit upright while using. Don't leave someone alone when they use. Use small amounts. Have naloxone ready.



Be honest with your care team about your use. Scan the QR code below for resources.



Call 911, carry naloxone. **Do NOT use alone.**



SCAN QR CODE FOR RESOURCES!

DO NOT USE ALONE & CARRY NALOXONE

Phone: (216) 721-5610 · Fax: (216) 721-2559 · Ohio Relay Service (TTY) 1-800-750-0750

<http://www.onecuyahoga.com/> * <http://medicalexaminer.cuyahogacounty.us>

CONSEJOS PARA EL USO SEGURO DE DROGAS



Una oficina acreditada por la Asociación Nacional de Examinadores Médicos (National Association of Medical Examiner's, N.A.M.E.)



OFICINA DEL EXAMINADOR MEDICO
Thomas P. Gilson, M.D.
11801 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

CONOZCA LOS HECHOS



Muchas personas están muriendo debido al fentanilo mezclado con otras drogas como cocaína, metanfetamina y pastillas falsas.



No es seguro consumir la misma cantidad que consumía antes de ir a la cárcel



Es más probable morir cuando se combinan drogas, alcohol y otras sustancias.



Sepa qué hacer en caso de emergencia. Las drogas callejeras, en cualquier cantidad, no son seguras.

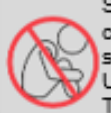


Encuentre suministros de uso seguro, tiras de prueba y naloxona en su programa local de reducción de daños.

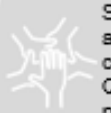
MANTÉNGASE SEGURO



Pruebe sus drogas con tiras de prueba de fentanilo en cada uso, la cantidad de fentanilo presente puede estar distribuida de manera desigual.



Siéntese derecho mientras esté consumiendo. No deje a alguien solo mientras esté consumiendo. Use pequeñas cantidades. Tenga naloxona lista.



Sea honesto con su equipo de atención médica sobre su consumo. Escanee el código QR que aparece a continuación para obtener recursos.



Llame al 911, lleve naloxona. **NO consuma solo.**



¡ESCANEE EL CÓDIGO QR PARA OBTENER RECURSOS!

NO CONSUMA SOLO Y LLEVE NALOXONA

Teléfono: (216) 721-5610 · Fax: (216) 721-2559 · Servicio de Retransmisión de Ohio (TTY) 1-800-750-0750

<http://www.onecuyahoga.com/> * <http://medicalexaminer.cuyahogacounty.us>

Conclusion



- Education and awareness about overdose and naloxone can help reduce overdose deaths
- Interdisciplinary collaboration is required for successful implementation of OFR recommendations



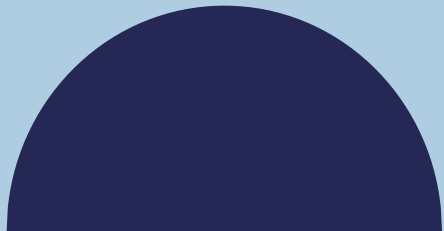
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Q&A

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www.OFRTTools.org