



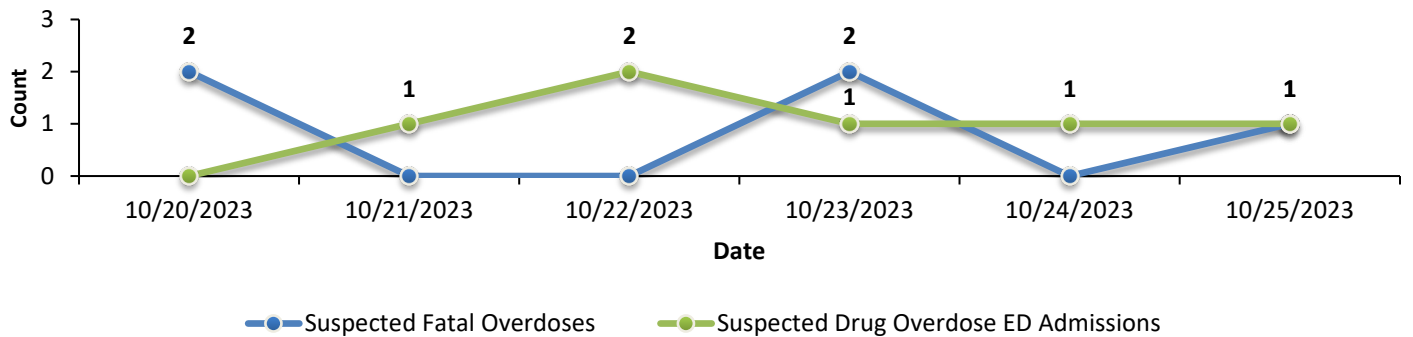
# Butler County General Health District Fatal Drug Overdose Spike Investigation

10/26/2023

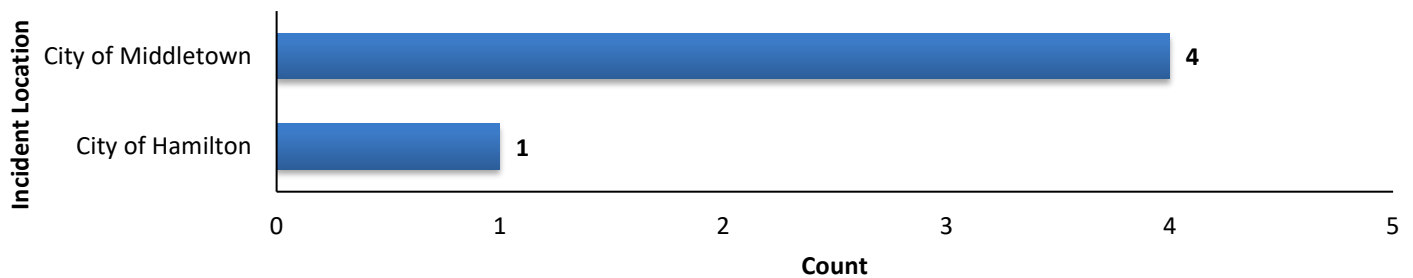
**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

According to the Butler County Coroner's Office, monitoring of suspected drug overdose fatalities for deaths having occurred in the Butler County jurisdiction identified **5 suspected fatal overdoses having occurred between October 20, 2023 and October 25, 2023**. Using prior weekly data, Butler County has averaged approximately **2.33** overdoses observed per seven days since August of 2023. These 5 suspected overdose fatalities over a six day period not only double what was typically observed prior, but there are also significant trends identified from these cases that warrant further attention to conclude this as being a true drug overdose spike.

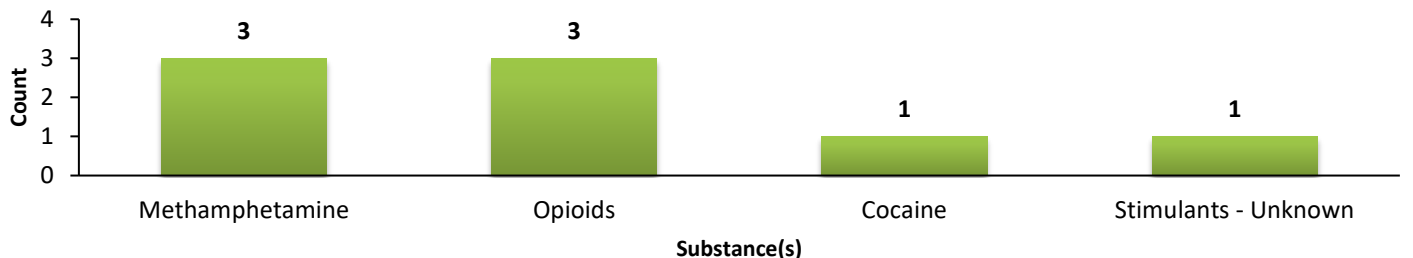
**Figure 1: Overview of Suspected Fatal Overdoses and Suspected Drug Overdose Emergency Department Admissions among Butler County Residents for October 20, 2023 - October 25, 2023**



**Figure 2: City/Township/County of Occurrence for Suspected Fatal Overdose Incidents for October 20, 2023 - October 25, 2023**



**Figure 3: Suspected Substance(s) Involved in Suspected Fatal Overdose Incidents for October 20, 2023 - October 25, 2023**



## Demographic Information

### Fatal Overdose Spike Analysis (5 Total), October 20, 2023 – October 25, 2023

**Table 1: Demographic Overview of Suspected Fatal Overdoses for October 20, 2023 – October 25, 2023**

Variable	Count	Percent
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	3	60.00%
Female	2	40.00%
<b>Race</b>		
White	4	80.00%
Hispanic	1	20.00%
<b>Age Group</b>		
15-24	1	20.00%
25-34	1	20.00%
35-44	2	40.00%
45-54	0	0.00%
55-64	0	0.00%
65+	1	20.00%

#### Overdose Spike Analysis Summary

From analyzing the suspected fatal overdoses for the week of October 20 – October 25 it can be seen that 4 of the 5 incidents (80%) took place within the City of Middletown jurisdiction. This provides evidence that the overdose incidents were mainly concentrated in this particular area of the county. As well, stimulants, including either Cocaine or Methamphetamine were suspected to be involved in 4 of the 5 overdose deaths. Opioids such as Fentanyl were also suspected to be involved in 3 of the 5 fatalities. This further suggests this as being a true drug overdose spike due to stimulants being involved in 80% of the cases with opioids also being involved in 60% of cases. This indicates that stimulant substances used within this time frame were possibly stronger and in more lethal concentrated doses compared to what is normally seen. As well, it also suggests that the substance ingested could have also possibly been mixed with opioids that greatly increased one’s risk for experiencing a fatal overdose.

Emergency Department (ED) visits for suspected drug overdoses among Butler County residents remained fairly low as only 6 total people were admitted during the spike period with no more than 2 people being seen in one day. These numbers propose that the fatal overdose incidents were mainly concentrated to people’s own home or residence location and that the hospitals did not observe a sudden increase in overdose admissions during this time. From reviewing the overdose demographics for the suspected fatalities it can be seen most of the overdoses were among males, white individuals, and of people aged 35-44. It is also noteworthy that there was 1 death among a Hispanic individual during the spike period as last year there were only 7 among them for the entire year. The age distribution for these fatal overdose cases also highlight that it wasn’t isolated to one particular age group of people and that people of many different ages were involved.

The status of this investigation shall be “Monitoring Data” for the duration of this week and next until 11/01/2023 to identify if any other significant increases occur in either reported suspected fatal overdoses according to the Butler County Coroner’s Office, or in suspected drug overdose ED visits among Butler County residents as reported by EpiCenter. Spikes in overdoses can occur at any time and providers and first responders should take steps to ensure that their supply of Naloxone is adequately stocked for the scenario of a public health emergency. **Please contact the Butler County General Health District at 513-863-1770 should you need additional Naloxone**

More information regarding Butler County Opioid Statistics can be found at:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/jordan.meyer7025/viz/ButlerCountyOverdoseDashboard/Story1>