



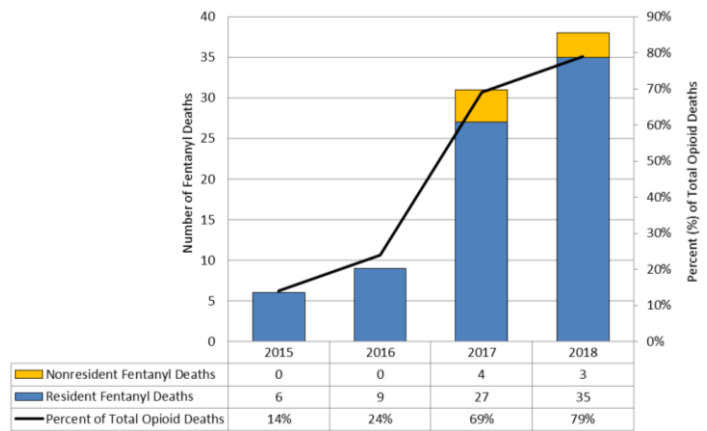
What is an opioid?

An opioid is a drug that eases pain and may also cause feelings of extreme pleasure. Opioids act on the brain and nerves. They can include both prescription medications and illegal drugs like heroin. Opioids can be addictive with regular use or misuse.

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a very powerful opioid that can be prescribed by a healthcare professional or produced illegally. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl, also known as illicitly manufactured fentanyl, is now driving the opioid overdose epidemic.

Calhoun County Medical Examiner Fentanyl-Related Deaths by Year and County of Residence



Fentanyl-related deaths in Calhoun County increased from 6 in 2015 to 38 (35 Calhoun residents) in 2018. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl poses a serious public health threat to Calhoun County.

What is an opioid overdose?

An overdose is when excess opioids act on the brain to decrease or stop a person’s breathing.

What is addiction?

Addiction is a long term, relapsing disease of the brain characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use despite harmful consequences. Opioid addiction affects individuals, families, and communities.

What is happening in Calhoun County?

- From 2014 to 2017 the number of retail opioid prescriptions decreased by 20%. However, the strength and dosage of opioids prescribed in 2017 was 27% higher than Michigan and nearly double the national average.
- Emergency department visits for opioid overdose increased from 147 in 2015 to 311 in 2018.
- Calhoun County’s 2018 opioid death rate of 36.4/100,000 residents was higher than Michigan’s opioid death rate of 20.4/100,000 residents.
- Seventy percent of Calhoun County’s 2018 Hepatitis A outbreak cases reported injection drug use.
- Three hundred new cases of chronic Hepatitis C were diagnosed in Calhoun County among those aged 18-39 years from 2014 to 2018; most report injection drug use.
- Serious soft tissue, bone and heart valve infections associated with drug use all increased from 2016 to 2018 resulting in prolonged and expensive hospital stays.



How can we address the opioid epidemic?

A multi-sector, collaborative approach across communities is required. The diagram (left) outlines the key strategy buckets necessary to coordinate and integrate action:

- Prevention and Education,
- Supply and Control of opioids,
- Treatment, including medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, as well as behavioral health support across a continuum of care,
- And the reduction of overdoses and the spread of infectious disease through Harm Reduction efforts.

The Calhoun County Opioid Coalition aims to address the opioid epidemic through the coordination and integration of these four strategic buckets.

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bronson Healthcare, Oaklawn Hospital, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Calhoun County Medical Examiner, and the Calhoun County Public Health Department