

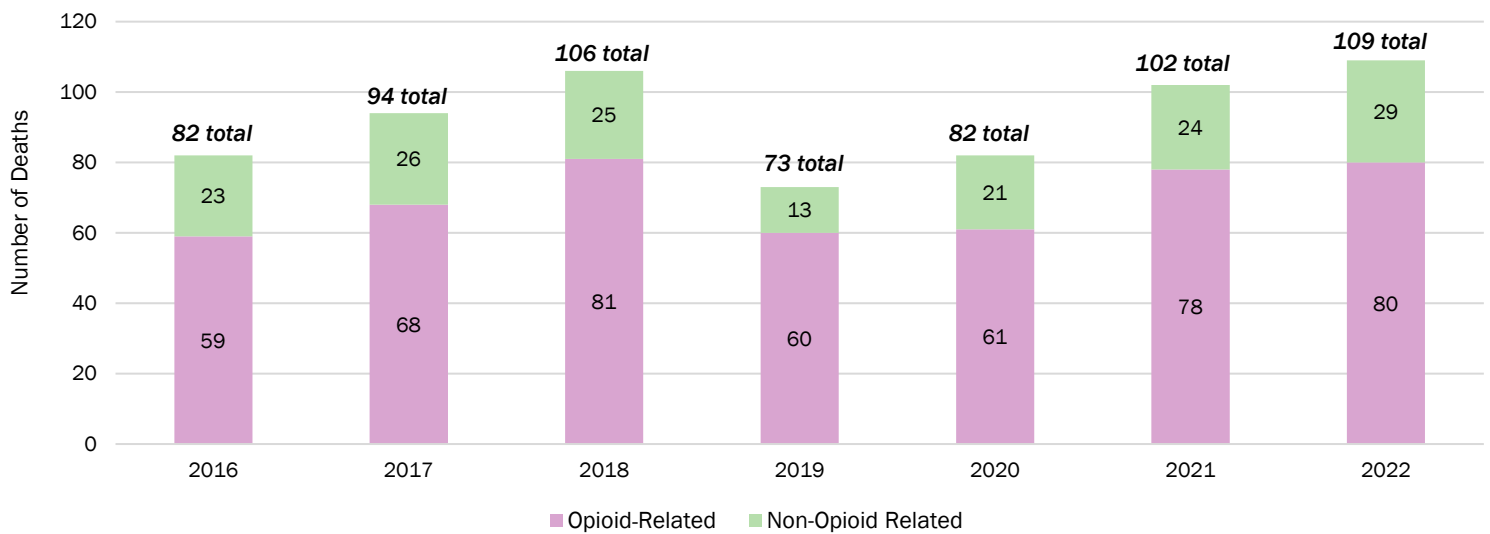
Opioid Report

The number of people who have died of an overdose has been increasing in Washtenaw County, Michigan, and the U.S. since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

In Washtenaw County, there has been a 33% increase in all drug overdose deaths from 2020 to 2022.

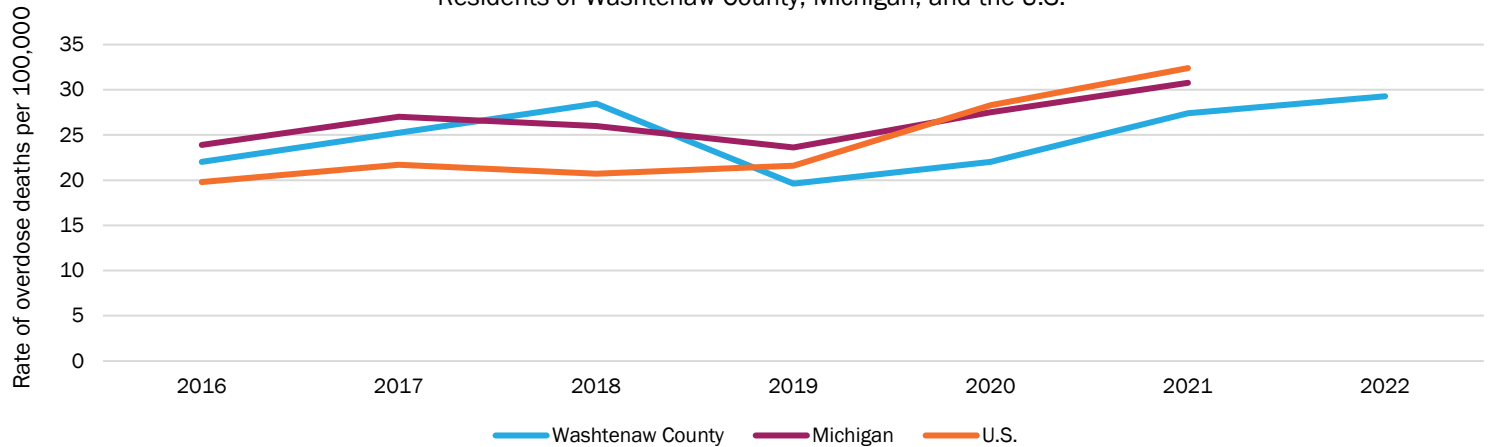
From 2016 to 2018, both Washtenaw County and Michigan had higher rates of drug overdose deaths than the national average, until 2019 when both Michigan and Washtenaw County had a decrease in overdose deaths. Since 2019, Michigan has had similar rates of drug overdose deaths as the U.S. Washtenaw County has had lower rates than both Michigan and the U.S. since 2019.

Opioid- and Non-Opioid Related Overdose Deaths
Washtenaw County Residents, 2016-2022



Source: Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, Michigan Electronic Death Registration System, and Washtenaw County Health Department.

Rate* of All Drug Overdose Deaths, 2016-2022
Residents of Washtenaw County, Michigan, and the U.S.

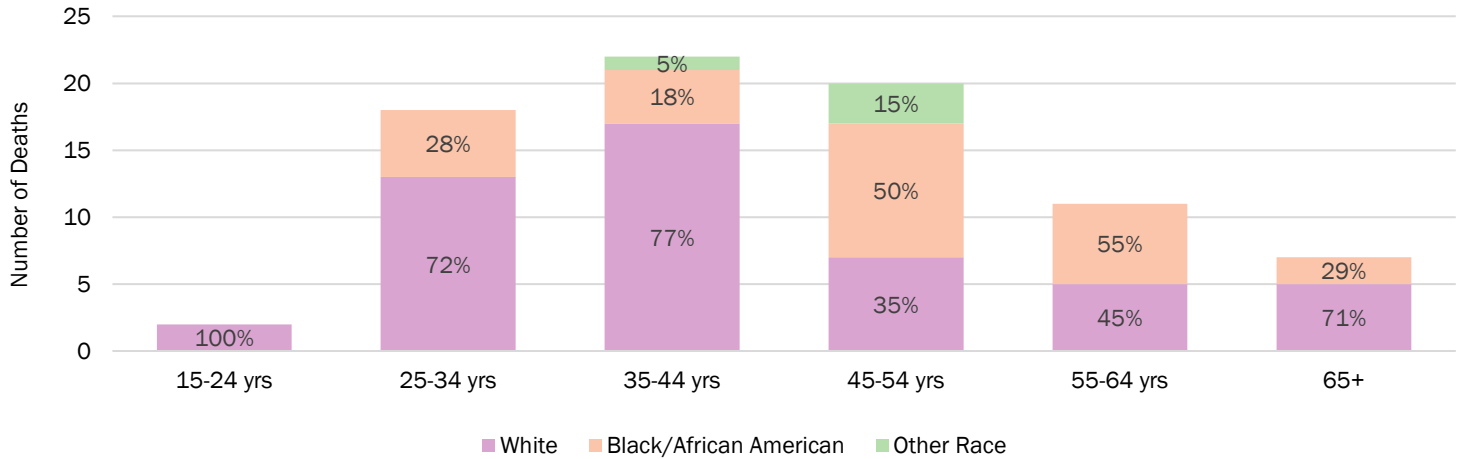


Source: U.S. data is from the National Center of Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER. Michigan data is from the Michigan Environmental Public Health Tracking data portal. Washtenaw County data is from the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner and Michigan Electronic Death Registration System. 2022 data for the U.S. and Michigan were not available.

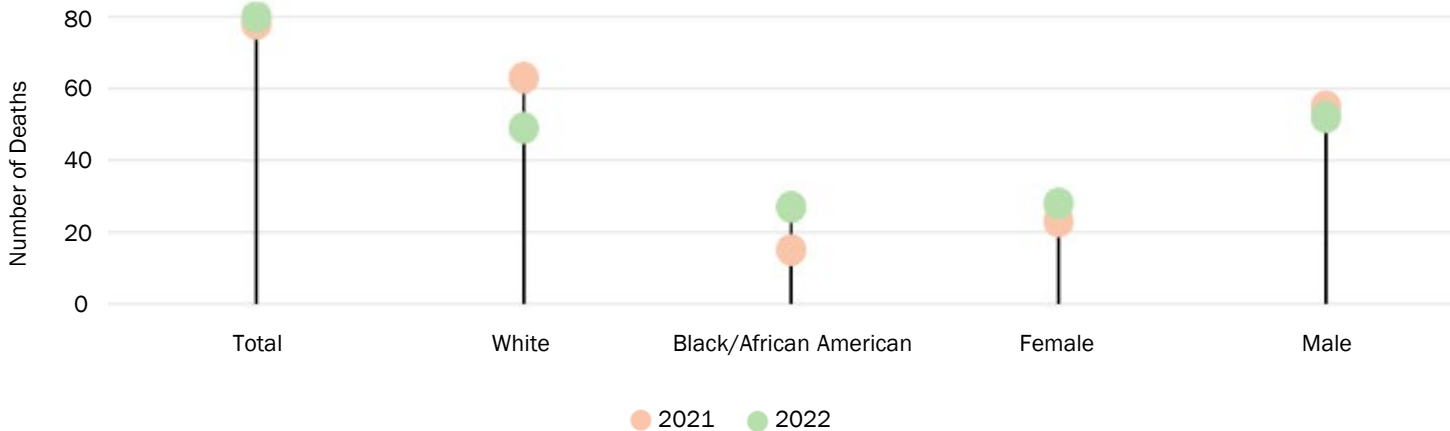
*Crude rates are per 100,000 using population estimates specific to the geographics.

Opioid Report

Opioid Overdose Deaths by Age and Race
Washtenaw County Residents, 2022 (80 total deaths)



Demographic Shifts in Opioid Overdose Deaths
2021 vs. 2022, Washtenaw County Residents



Source for both graphs on page 2: Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, Michigan Electronic Death Registration System, and Washtenaw County Health Department

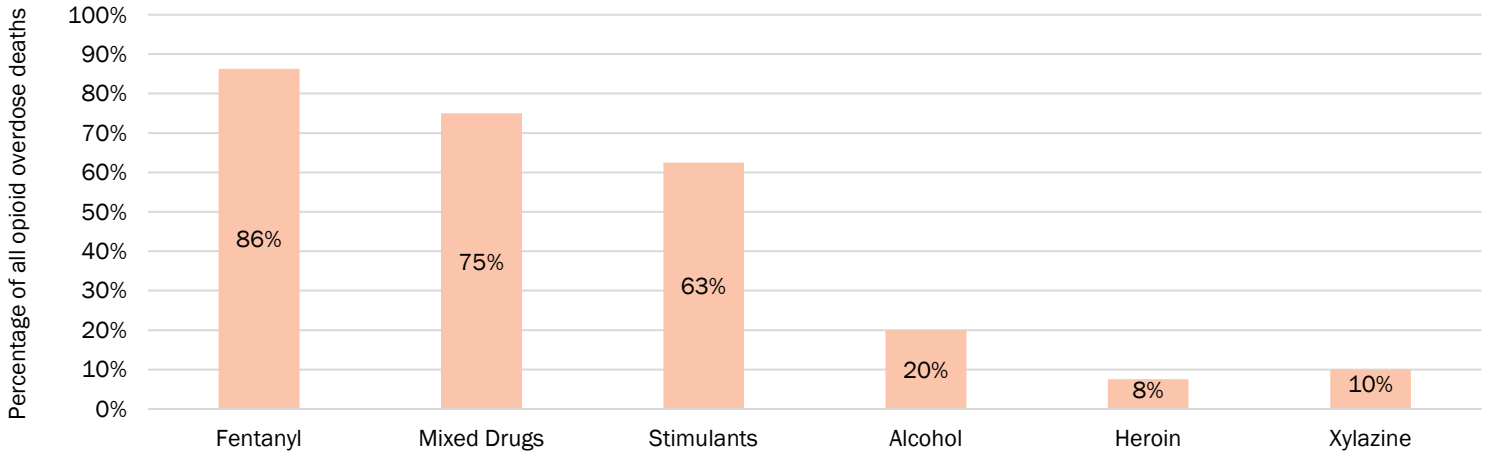
Most overdose deaths in 2022 were white males between 25–54 years old, but these trends may be shifting.

Among residents who died of an opioid-related overdose in 2022, most were male (65%), white (61%), and between the age of 25-54 years (75%). The age range was 17-93 years, and the median was 44 years. However, when looking at age by race, Black/African American residents had a median age of 51 years, while white residents had a median age of 40 years.

In 2022, there was an increase in Black/African American residents and female residents in Washtenaw County who died of an opioid overdose compared to 2021, as well as an overall increase in age. The median age of residents who died of an opioid overdose increased from 40 years in 2021 to 44 years in 2022. The number of females who died of an opioid overdose increased by 22% from 2021 to 2022. The number of Black/African American residents who died of an opioid overdose increased by 80%, while the percent of white residents decreased by 22% from 2021 to 2022.

Opioid Report

Opioid Related Overdose Deaths
Percent of Substances and Characteristics Involved*
Washtenaw County Residents, 2022 (80 total deaths)



*Substance category definitions (individuals may fall into more than one category):

- Fentanyl: fentanyl (a synthetic opioid) or fentanyl analogs was involved in the overdose
- Mixed drugs: an opioid overdose that also involved other non-opioid substances
- Stimulants: a drug classified as a stimulant (e.g., cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine) was involved in the overdose
- Alcohol: alcohol (including alcohol/ethanol poisoning or chronic alcoholism) was involved in the overdose
- Heroin: heroin (a recreational semi-synthetic opioid) was involved in the overdose
- Xylazine: xylazine (a non-opioid tranquilizer not approved for human use) was involved in the overdose

Source: Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, Michigan Electronic Death Registration System, and Washtenaw County Health Department

Most opioid-related overdose deaths involve more than just opioids.

Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs were involved in 86% of opioid-related overdose deaths among Washtenaw County residents in 2022. Fentanyl continues to drive the rise in overdose deaths due to its increased presence in the illicit drug supply, as well as its high potency (Drug Enforcement Administration).

Out of all opioid-related overdose deaths, 75% also involved a non-opioid substance, which is a 22% increase from 2021. Stimulants were involved in 63% of opioid-related overdose deaths, most often cocaine (56% of all opioid overdose deaths), followed by methamphetamine (10% of all opioid overdose deaths). **Stimulants, specifically cocaine, also increased in non-opioid overdose deaths among Washtenaw County residents from 2021 to 2022.** Black/African American residents made up 48% of overdose deaths involving both cocaine and opioids, while white residents made up nearly all overdose deaths involving methamphetamine.

Opioid overdose deaths that were known to involve xylazine doubled in 2022 to 8 cases (10%) compared to 4 cases (5%) in 2021. The presence of xylazine in opioids, usually fentanyl, is increasing across the country and was declared an [Emerging Threat](#) to the U.S. by the Biden-Harris Administration on April 12, 2023. Xylazine, a non-opioid tranquilizer not approved for human use, is often added to illicit opioids, especially fentanyl. Taking xylazine, a central nervous system depressant, in combination with opioids increases the risk of life-threatening overdose (Friedman et al. 2022). Additionally, xylazine is known to be associated with skin wounds and abscesses that can become infected (CDC).

Note: only Washtenaw County residents were included in this analysis. Individuals who died in Washtenaw County but resided outside of the county were excluded from this analysis.

Visit washtenaw.org/opioids for additional opioid reports and data.