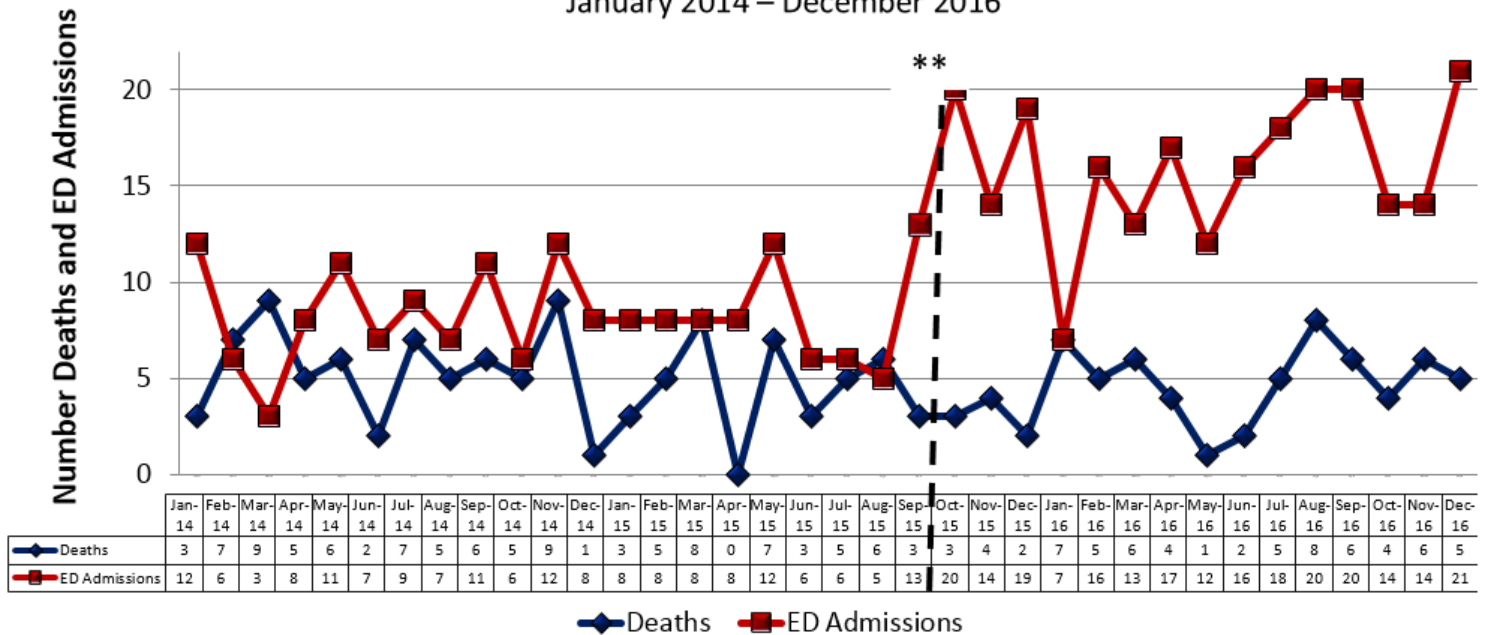




## Opioid Related Overdoses

Opioid Related Deaths and Emergency Department Admissions Associated with Unintentional Opiate Overdoses\*  
Washtenaw County Residents  
January 2014 – December 2016



\*Source: Emergency department data provided by University of Michigan and Saint Joseph Mercy hospitals. October 2015 through April 2016 data are preliminary. These numbers do not include persons who survived their overdose and refused or did not seek or receive medical care. Mortality data provided by the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner and Washtenaw County Public Health

\*\*IN OCTOBER OF 2015, BOTH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITALS IMPLEMENTED THE NEWLY REQUIRED ICD-10. These admissions include unintentional and undetermined intent only.

Please Contact Adreanne Waller, MPH Epidemiologist for questions at [WallerA@washtenaw.org](mailto:WallerA@washtenaw.org)

### BENEATH THE NUMBERS FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY RESIDENTS:

- **Opioid Deaths Increase in 2016:** The final number of opioid related deaths for Washtenaw County residents for 2016 was 59, which is 20% higher than the 49 for 2015.
- **Opioid Deaths Double In Five Years:** Opioid overdose deaths for Washtenaw County residents have increased 100% between 2011 (29 deaths) and 2016 (59 deaths).
- **Age Of Death Younger, Especially In Females:** The median age of death among females decreased 14 years between 2010 and 2016 (from 43 years down to 29 years, respectively). The median age of death decreased four years between 2010 and 2016 for males (from 40 years in 2010 down to 36 years old in 2016).
- **Overdose Admissions Nearly Triple In Five Years:** Washtenaw County residents who were admitted to Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital or Michigan Medicine for unintentional opioid related overdoses increased 154% between 2011 (66 admissions) and 2016 (168 admissions).
- **Decreases in Case Fatality Rates\* May Reflect Increase in Naloxone Access:** Between 2011-2016, there were decreases in case fatality rates (the proportion of opioid overdoses that resulted in death\*) that occurred in 48118 (Chelsea), 48176 (Saline), 48191 (Willis), and 48197 (Ypsilanti City).

\*Overdose related deaths/emergency department admissions for overdose plus overdose deaths

See Back Page for information regarding the ACCELERATING EPIDEMIC for youth and young adult Washtenaw County residents.

Please contact [Adreanne Waller, MPH, Epidemiologist](mailto:Adreanne.Waller@washtenaw.org), Washtenaw County Public Health, for questions.

March 2017

Go to Washtenaw County Public Health '[Opioid and Heroin Overdose Data](#)' webpage for further details.



## For Washtenaw County Youth and Young Adults, The Opioid Epidemic is Accelerating 2010-2016\*



Percent of All Washtenaw County Residents' Opioid Related Overdose Deaths That Were Age 15-24

Percent of Washtenaw County Residents' Overdose Deaths to Persons Age 15-24 That Involved Fentanyl

\*Data Source: Washtenaw County Medical Examiner and Washtenaw County Public Health

## Washtenaw County Youth and Young Adults Who Had Opioid Overdoses in 2016 May Be Earlier in Experimentation Phase of Opioid Use Compared to those in 2010\*\*



The majority of opioid overdoses in this age group occurred in those who had higher risks such as mental health or substance use disorders.

Much larger proportion of overdoses in youth and young adults who may still be in experimentation phase of opioid use.

\*\*Data Source: Huron Valley Ambulance Runs That Involved Naloxone Administration for Washtenaw County Residents' Drug Overdose. Washtenaw County Public Health. 2010-2016

The proportion of opioid related deaths for Washtenaw County residents aged 15-24 is increasing. This may be associated with:

- Using other respiratory depressant substances, such as alcohol, with opioids
- Younger users who are less experienced at recreational opioid use and potential for addiction.
- Less familiarity with the presence of and / or significant lethality of Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.
- Fentanyl crosses the blood brain barrier much quicker than heroin and has almost immediate onset. It takes significantly less of the drug to have the same effect as other opioids. Very Small excesses can easily lead to overdose\*.



\*Why Fentanyl Is So Much More Deadly Than Heroin. Forbes. April 9, 2016

*“Prescription opioids are ‘gateway’ drugs for some of our youth and young adults.”*

John Hopper, MD, Program Director, Addiction Medicine, Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

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March 2017

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