

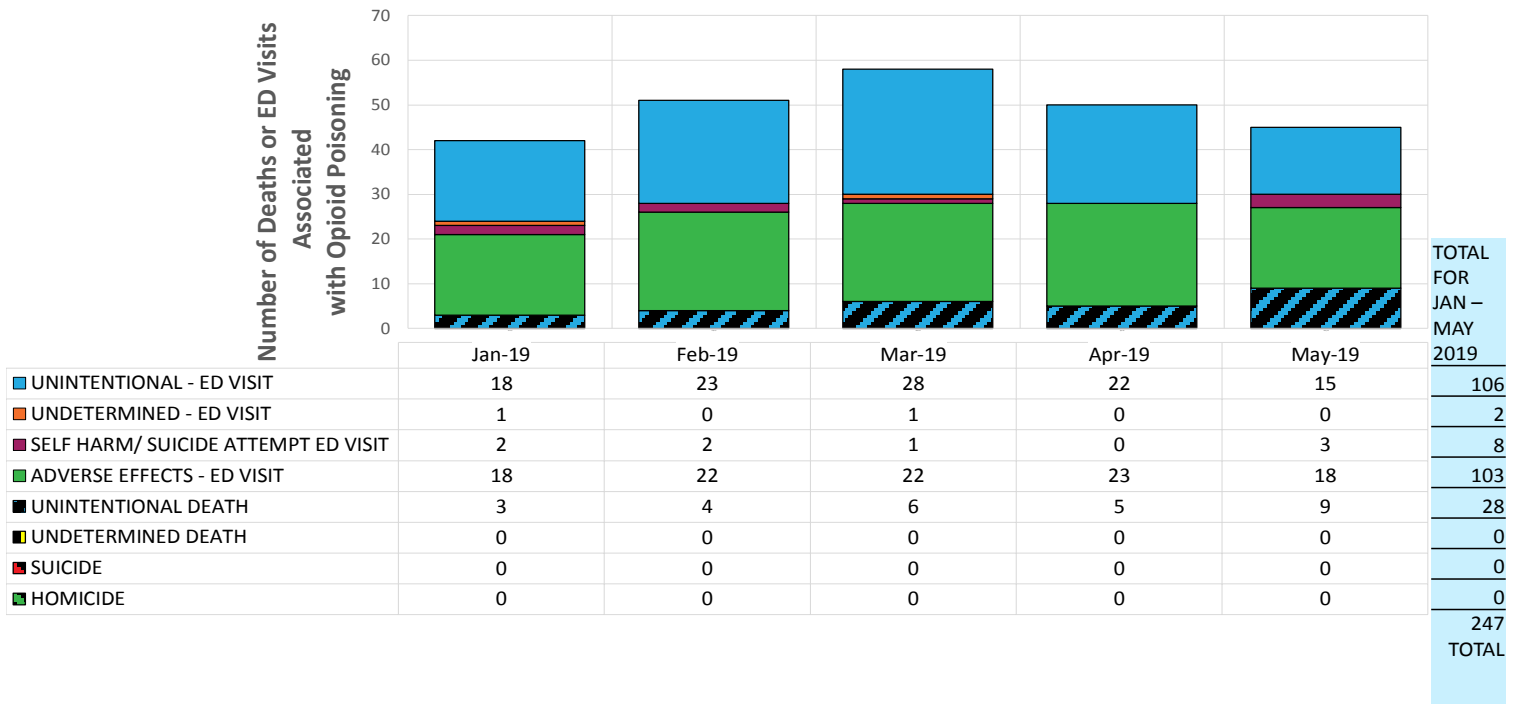
Opioid Report



Nearly Half Of Repeat Overdoses Happen Within Six Months: What Can We Learn?

(See Page Two for Details)

Opioid Related Poisonings[^] By Intentionality* and Manner
Deaths and Emergency Department Visits***
Washtenaw County Residents
January 2019 – May 2019**



[^]Source: Washtenaw County Health Department, Washtenaw County Medical Examiner. Deaths and Emergency Department Admissions include unintentional, intentional, adverse effects and undetermined opioid related poisonings. Emergency Department Visits include opioid poisoning related admissions for Washtenaw County residents at Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospitals. Waller, A. WCHD Internal Communications.

*Poisonings related to opioids reflect incorrect amount, frequency or administration. These may be intentional or unintentional. ‘Adverse effects’ occur when therapeutic medication is prescribed correctly, administered properly, but patient suffers a physical reaction such as tolerance, dependence, or respiratory depression. **‘Manner of Death’ describes circumstances of a death, as designated by the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner.

***Persons who survived the poisoning and who refused or did not seek medical care are not included. Nearly all patients who are admitted to the ED for opioid related poisonings survive their overdose.

BENEATH THE NUMBERS...

There were approximately 11 opioid related poisonings (deaths plus those who survive their poisoning) for Washtenaw County residents per week in January through May of 2019. This is a decrease from approximately 12 per week in 2018.

Younger age nearly doubles for Black/African Americans. The proportion of opioid related poisoning emergency department visits for Black/African American persons under 25 years increased from 10% all age Black/African American opioid related poisoning visits in 2018 to 18% in 2019. This is compared to only 8% for White persons under 25 years old in 2019.

The proportion of opioid related poisoning emergency department visits coded as ‘Adverse Effects’ (medication is prescribed correctly and is administered or taken correctly) has steadily decreased from 46% in 2016 to 38% in 2019. During that same period, those coded as ‘Unintentional’ (accidental, not used as prescribed) have increased from 27% to 39%.

Opioid related deaths involving synthetic opioids (such as Fentanyl) for Washtenaw County residents decreased from 83% in 2018 to 72% in 2019 (January through May).

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

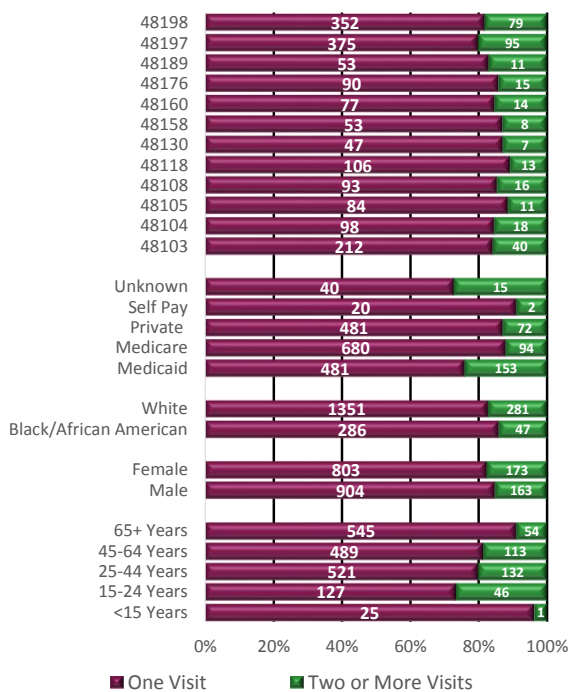
Questions? Contact [Adreanne Waller](mailto:Adreanne.Waller@washtenaw.org), MPH, Epidemiologist, Washtenaw County Health Department.

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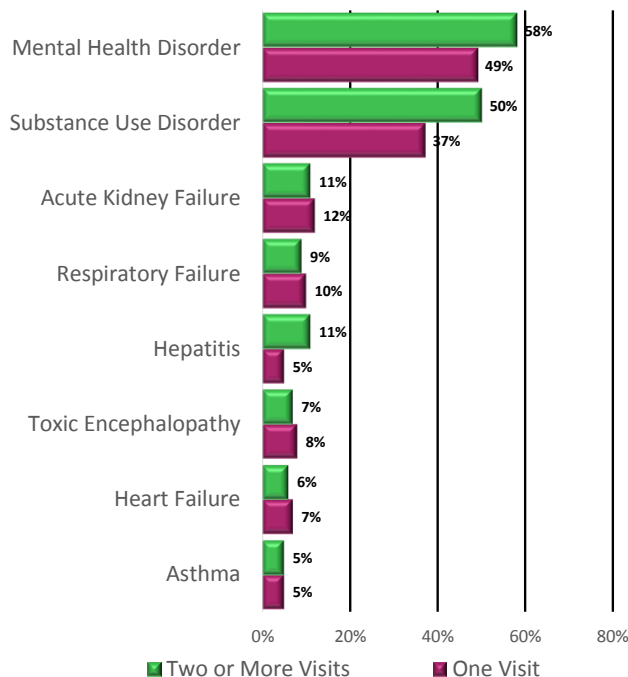


Nearly Half Of Repeat Overdoses Happen Within Six Months: What Can We Learn?

Number of Single and Repeat* Emergency Department Visits for Washtenaw County Residents Diagnosed with Opioid Related Poisonings November 2015 – May 2019**



Selected Comorbidities by Single and Repeat* Emergency Department Visits for Washtenaw County Residents Diagnosed with Opioid Related Poisonings November 2015 – May 2019**



*Persons admitted to both Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospitals are not identified as repeat visits. Repeat Visits are only identified for ED visits to same hospital.
 **Source: Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospitals & Washtenaw County Health Department – Waller, A. 'RPV 7-23-19'

*Persons admitted to both Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospitals are not identified as repeat visits. Repeat Visits are only identified for ED visits to same hospital.
 **Source: Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospitals & Washtenaw County Health Department – Waller, A. 'RPV 7-23-19'



Sixteen percent (16%) of (Washtenaw County) patients diagnosed with opioid related poisoning had more than one ED visit for an opioid related poisoning during the 42 month period of November 2015 to May 2019. Repeat Visits are only identified when an individual visits the same ED.

Repeat visit rates range from 3% to 27%, depending on the sociodemographic category, during the 42 month period of November 2015 to May 2019.

During this period, approximately half of persons with an opioid related poisoning also had substance use disorder and mental illness diagnosed.

One percent (1%) of all Washtenaw County opioid related poisoning Emergency Department visits during November 2015 to May of 2019 were discharged to Substance Abuse Rehabilitation facilities; Forty four percent (44%) to home; 23% to inpatient; 7% to skilled nursing facilities; 4% left against medical advice (AMA); 3% to psychiatric hospital care and 18% to other facilities.

Sixty percent (60%) of repeat visits occurred within one year; 40% of the repeat visits occurred within six months.

Nine percent (9%) of persons who had an emergency department visit for an opioid related poisoning died within one year of the ED visit for opioid poisoning, according to a Pennsylvania study of over 2000 opioid poisonings, published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation* (1)

Risks associated with higher mortality after opioid related poisoning include previous opioid related poisonings, higher number of opioid prescriptions, comorbid medical conditions, comorbid mental disorders, and concurrent use of other psychotropic medications(1,2).

(1)Boscarino JA, Kirchner HL, Pitcavage JM, Nadipelli VR, Ronquest NA, Fitzpatrick MH, et al. Factors associated with opioid overdose: a 10- year retrospective study of patients in a large integrated health care system. *Subst Abuse Rehabil.* 2016;7:131-41. Available from: <https://www.dovepress.com/factors-associated-with-opioid-overdose-a-10-year-retrospective-study-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-SAR>
 (2) Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Leece P. Evidence Brief: Mortality following non-fatal opioid overdose. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2017. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/eb-nonfatal-opioidoverdose-mortality.pdf?la=en>

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