Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits

This report was created as a surveillance effort to help understand the needs of the community concerning drug overdoses (OD). Table 1 displays the estimated number of emergency department (ED) visits from Defiance County residents coded as a drug overdose. In the second quarter of 2018, there were 16 ED visits coded as a drug overdose. The majority of the ED visits were males. Sixty-two percent of the individuals were between the ages of 25-34 years old. Within the same time period, there were 13 EMS runs where Defiance Fire and Rescue responded to a drug overdose call.

Figure 1. ED Visits related to Drug Overdose by Age Group, 2018-YTD

The age group that is most affected by a drug overdose are ages 25-34. Reported drug overdoses are non-specific: any drug or multiple drugs may be involved. It is difficult to know the true number of opioid-related poisonings because some individuals refuse to be transported to an emergency department during an overdose, therefore, the data in this report are estimates.

Sources:
1. ED visits coded as drug overdoses are derived from data in the EpiCenter and represent only those reported in the system (table 1 and figure 1). These data are provisional and subject to change when additional data are reported. Overdoses are selected based on codes at diagnosis. Data reported as of 7/5/2018.
2. Defiance Fire and Rescue