



Estimated Drug Overdoses by Quarter

Table 1. ED visits coded as a drug overdose for Defiance County residents¹

Quarter	2016	2017	% Change (+/-)
1 st Quarter	21	24	14%
2 nd Quarter	17	15	-12%
3 rd Quarter	11	19	72%
4 th Quarter	16	11	-31%
Total	65	69	6%

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 total number of emergency department (ED) visits from Defiance County residents coded as a drug overdose from surrounding emergency departments. There was a 6 percent increase in ED visits for drug overdose from 2016 to 2017. Forty-five percent of the overdose ED visits were among males and 32% of individuals were between the ages of 25-34 years old. Six of the sixty-nine overdoses were repeated overdoses from the same person but on different days. An article from the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, reported Medicaid and uninsured patients were the largest payers of heroin overdoses, and Medicare was the largest payers among non-heroin overdoses between 2010-2014³.

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, these data are estimates.

Naloxone Usage

In the fourth quarter of 2017, naloxone was administered 11 times by a Defiance County EMS personnel². Between January through December 2017, naloxone was administered a total of 37 times.

According to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System, Defiance County opioid doses dispensed per capita was 44.2 vs. Ohio 55.1 in 2016⁴. The trends of opioid being dispensed in Ohio and in Defiance County has continued to decrease in 2017⁴. Defiance County General Health District will continue to monitor the trends of overdoses in 2018.

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 1/2/2017.
2. Defiance County EMS Agencies.
3. Guy GP, Pasalic E, Zhang K. (2018). Emergency Department Visits Involving Opioid Overdoses, U.S., 2012-2014. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 54(1);37-39.
4. Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (2017). County Statistics.

Figure 1. Drug Overdose ED Visits from 2013-2017¹

