



Allegheny County Child Death Review: Overdose

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

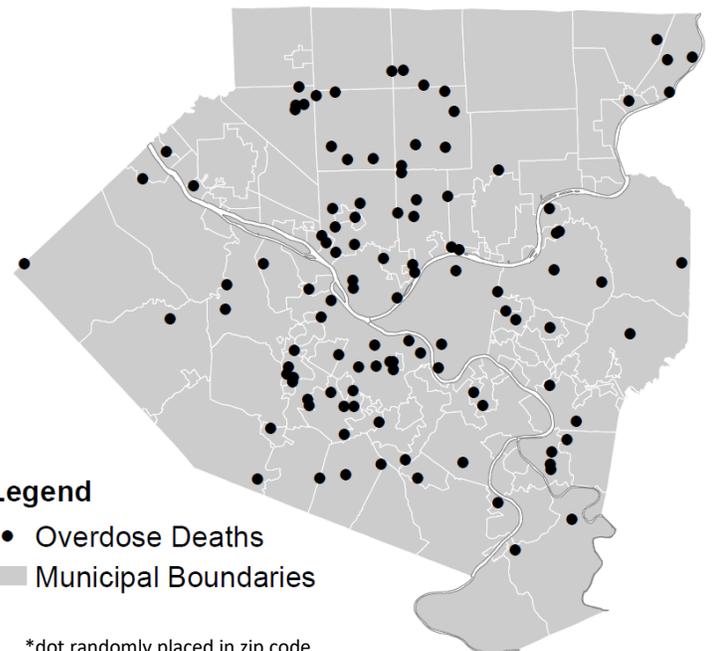
In 2017, more than 47,000 deaths were attributed to opioids in the U.S., continuing the upward trend seen for the past 15 years (CDC). This number of deaths involving prescription opioid and illegal opioids such as heroin and fentanyl was 6 times higher than in 1999.

In Allegheny County, 119 youth overdose deaths occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 12 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single overdose death on family and community is significant. Though overdose is a complex issue, it is preventable and requires a multi-faceted approach to increase access to treatment, increase knowledge of how to effectively respond to an overdose, and promote overdose prevention education for at-risk youth and their families.

Among those aged 0-21 years in Allegheny County from 2008 through 2017:

- 119 youth died from unintentional drug overdose.
- Overdose was the leading cause of unintentional deaths.
- 93% of those who died from overdose were white
- The overdose death rate was 2.4 times higher for whites than for African Americans.

Overdose Deaths Among Allegheny County Residents \leq 21 Years of Age by Zip Code, 2008-2017

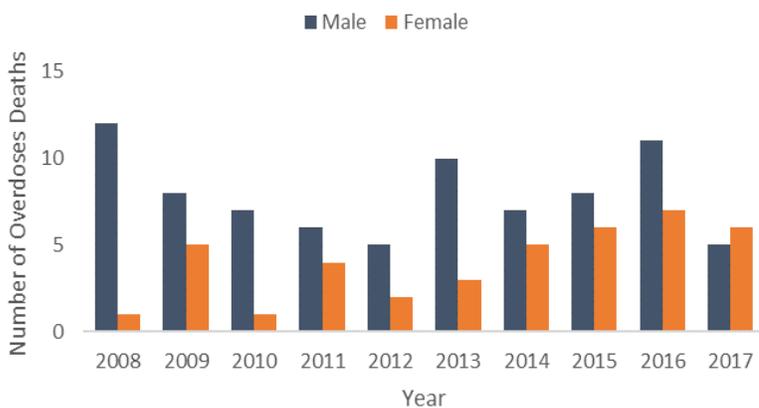


Legend

- Overdose Deaths
- Municipal Boundaries

*dot randomly placed in zip code

Overdose Deaths Among Allegheny County Residents \leq 21 Years of Age by Sex, 2008-2017



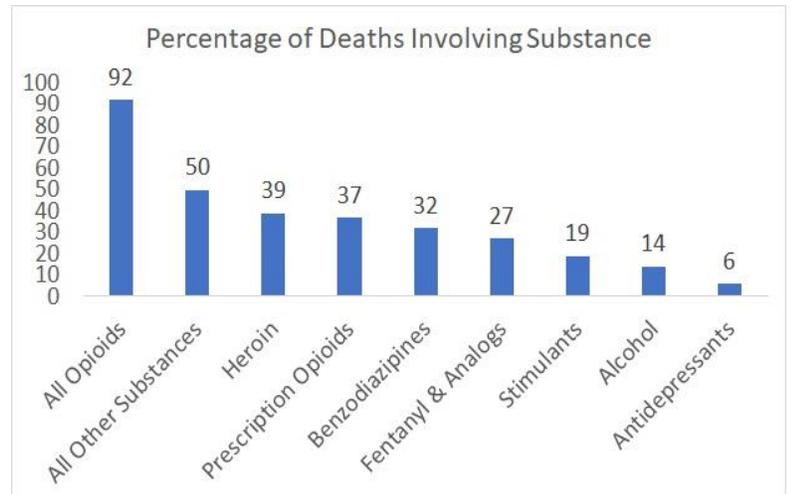


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AC CDRT Recommendations

- Provide universal access to naloxone and overdose prevention education.
- Create opportunities for easy access to effective, evidence-based treatment on demand.
- Promote and increase prescription drug disposal sites in Allegheny County.
- Improve knowledge and utilization of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Perform evidence-based screening for unhealthy substance use in schools and healthcare settings.
- Promote and communicate the importance of calling 911 in the event of an overdose.
- Promote and communicate the importance of having and knowing how to administer naloxone.
- Train school staff and students about overdose risks and the use of naloxone.
- Assist university health services with obtaining naloxone for on-campus use.

Substances Involved in Overdose deaths in Allegheny County residents ≤ 21 Years, 2008-2017



Overdose Death Risk Factors for Youth Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 58% of cases had a history of substance abuse
- 52% had a caregiver with a history of substance abuse
- 35% had a history of chronic physical or behavioral illness
- 32% had a caregiver with a history of chronic physical or behavioral illness