CUYAHOGA COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER’S OFFICE

Heroin/Fentanyl/Cocaine Related Deaths in Cuyahoga County

2019 OCTOBER UPDATE

November 7, 2019
Cuyahoga County Overdose Deaths 2006-2019*
Most Common Drugs

(* 2019 projections based on data collected through November 6, 2019)

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 11-7-19
CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – at least 10 case(s) since November 1

Fatal Cases due to heroin/fentanyl/analogs in SEPTEMBER– at least 39 (6 cases pending testing)

21 - City of Cleveland Residents
12 - Suburban Residents- Broadview Hts., Cleveland Hts., Euclid (3), Fairview Park, Maple Hts., North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Seven Hills, Strongsville (2) and,
5- Out of County- Austin (TX), Lorain (Lorain), Macedonia (Summit), North Fairfield (Ashtabula) and North Ridgeville (Lorain), and
1 - Unknown

VICTIMS
Victims’ ages range from 21 - 73
32 Male victims; 7 Female victims
10 African American victims; and 29 Caucasian victims (1 hispanic victim)

TRENDS
At least 354 victims have died from heroin/fentanyl/analogs or in combination through October 2019. This compares to 337 in 2018 and 447 in 2017. 2019 total is at least 502 fatalities when including cocaine as well.

Carfentanil: 191 FATAL CASES in 2017; 24 confirmed cases in 2018; 124 confirmed in 2019 as of 11/1/19
Rate of African American deaths involving fentanyl is 28.37% of all victims so far in 2019, a rate well above 2016 (14.5%), and much higher than the 20.33% in 2017 and 21.11 in 2018. As many as 37 cocaine related deaths occurred in October 2019 with as many as 19 being mixed with Fentanyl, Heroin or both.

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 11-7-19
2019 CCMEO Overdose Deaths, Most Common Drugs Involved
Combined is heroin and fentanyl or cocaine and fentanyl in some combination
(Fentanyl analogues will be counted under Fentanyl Columns).

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office 11-7-19
Cuyahoga County has seen 1,436 more fentanyl-related deaths in the past 4 years than the entire decade prior.
Opioid related overdose deaths as Percentage* of All Drug related Deaths

*(2006-2010 54%; 2011-2018 77%)

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 4-4-19
CCMEO Fentanyl-related fatalities among African Americans 2014-2019*
*(Red - Projected for remainder of year, as of November 1, 2019)

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 11-7-19
CCMEO, Proliferation of Fentanyl and Cocaine/Fentanyl mixtures in fatalities 2013-2019*  
(* thru November 1, 2019)

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 11-7-19
Demographic Shift in Cocaine Deaths

(Includes cocaine/fentanyl mixed cases)

Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 4-4-19
Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office revised 10-17-19