

Suspected Overdose Deaths in Marion County, Indiana



Background

This report is created in coordination between the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) and the Marion County Coroner's Office (MCCO). This report is made possible through the Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: LOCAL) Grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All data in this report was collected and provided by the MCCO.

Purpose

The goal of this report is to provide more timely statistics regarding suspected overdose deaths to the public and those involved in overdose prevention or harm reduction efforts focused on decreasing the number of overdose deaths in the county.



Important Disclaimer: All cases included in this report are *suspected* overdose deaths. These deaths are still under investigation by the MCCO and are subject to change as toxicology reports are completed. Confirmed statistics will be included in the MCCO's next annual report.



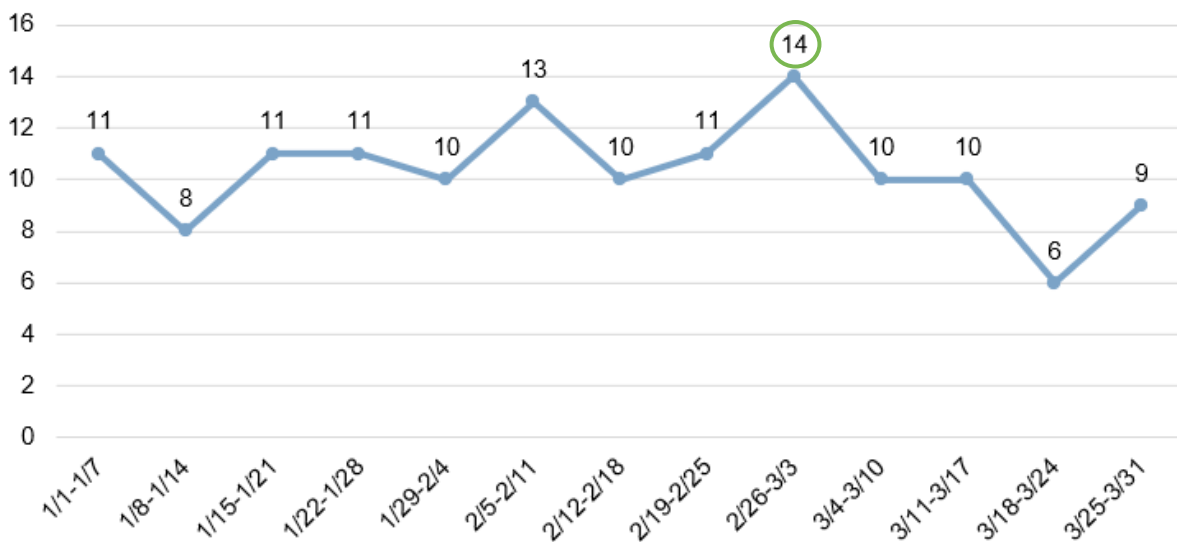
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Summary of Suspected Overdose Deaths | Q1 2024

<p>Q1 2024</p> <p>134 Deaths</p>	<p>Q1 2023</p> <p>185 Deaths</p>	<p>Percent Change</p> <p>▼ 28%</p> <p>From previous year</p>
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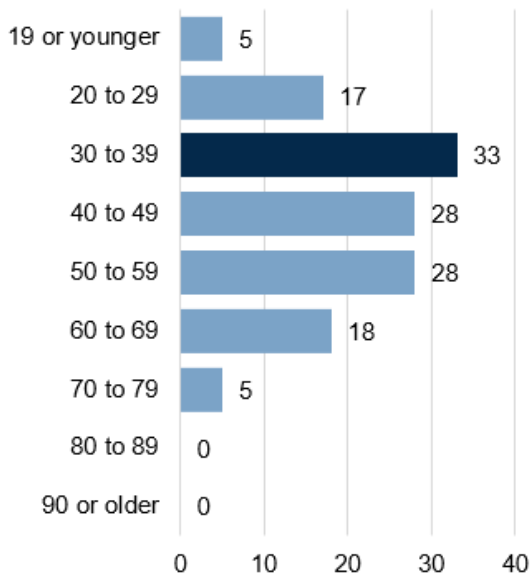
Weekly Trends

Out of the 134 suspected overdose deaths, 14 (10%) deaths occurred between February 26th – March 3rd, which accounted for the most deaths by week for Q1 2024.



Distribution by Age Group

The average age was 44 years old, the youngest decedent was 17 years old and the oldest was 75 years old.

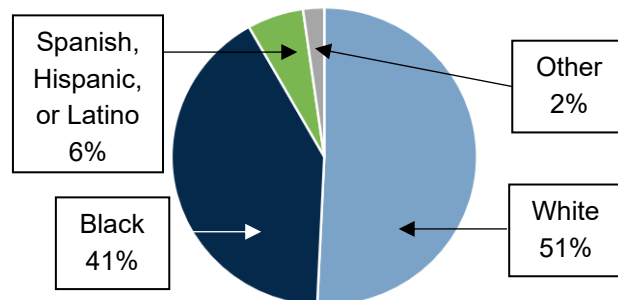


Distribution by Sex

68% 32%



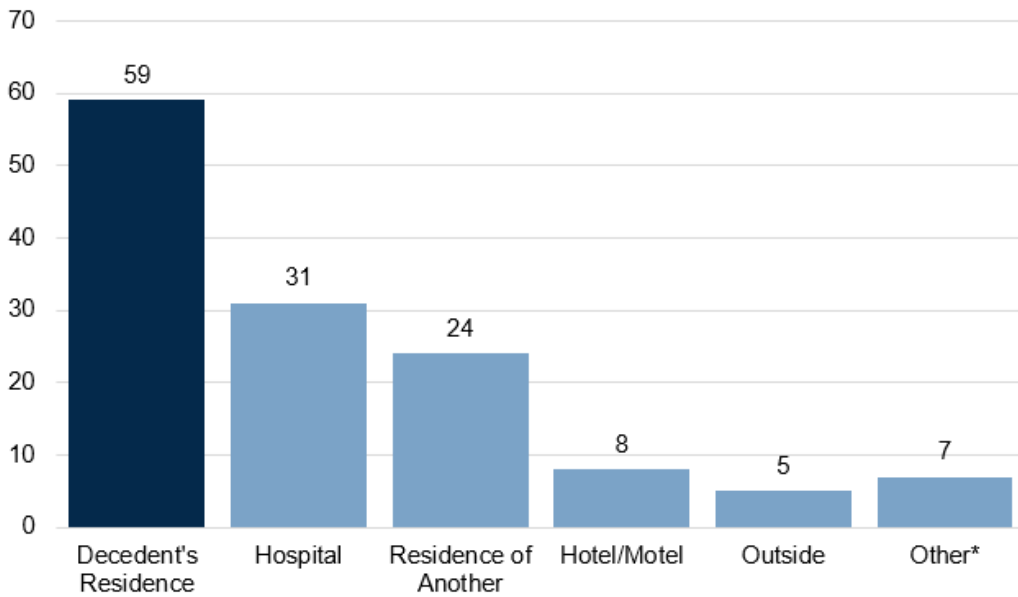
Distribution by Race & Ethnicity



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Distribution by Place of Death

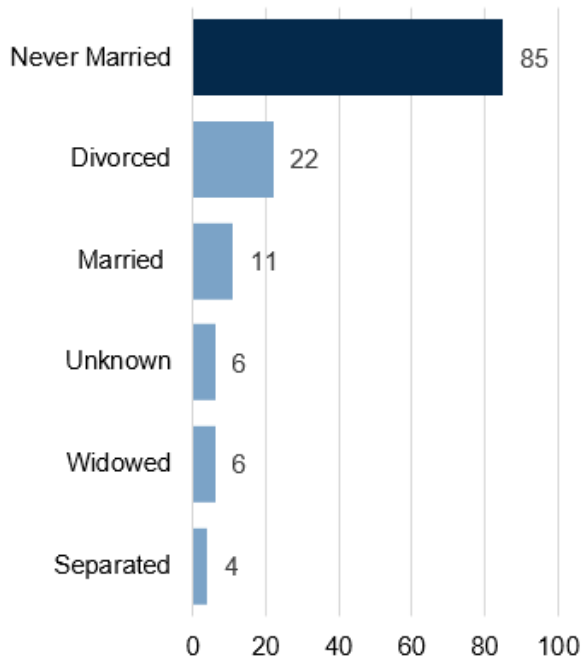
Out of the 134 suspected overdose deaths, 59 (44%) deaths occurred at the decedent's residence.



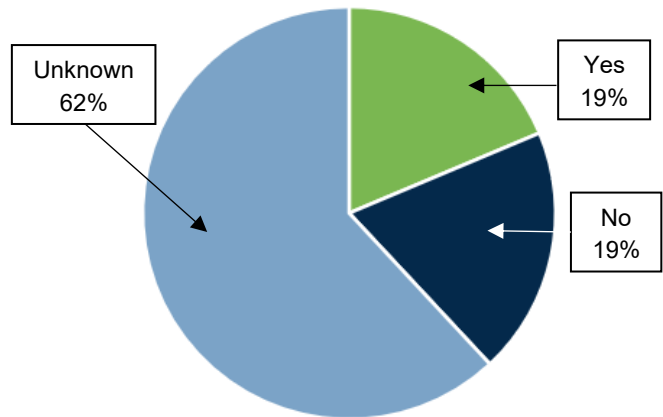
* Other locations include a place of business, inside a vehicle, and an abandoned garage/parking lot.

Distribution by Marital Status

Out of the 134 suspected deaths, 85 (63%) decedents had never been married.



History of Rehabilitation?



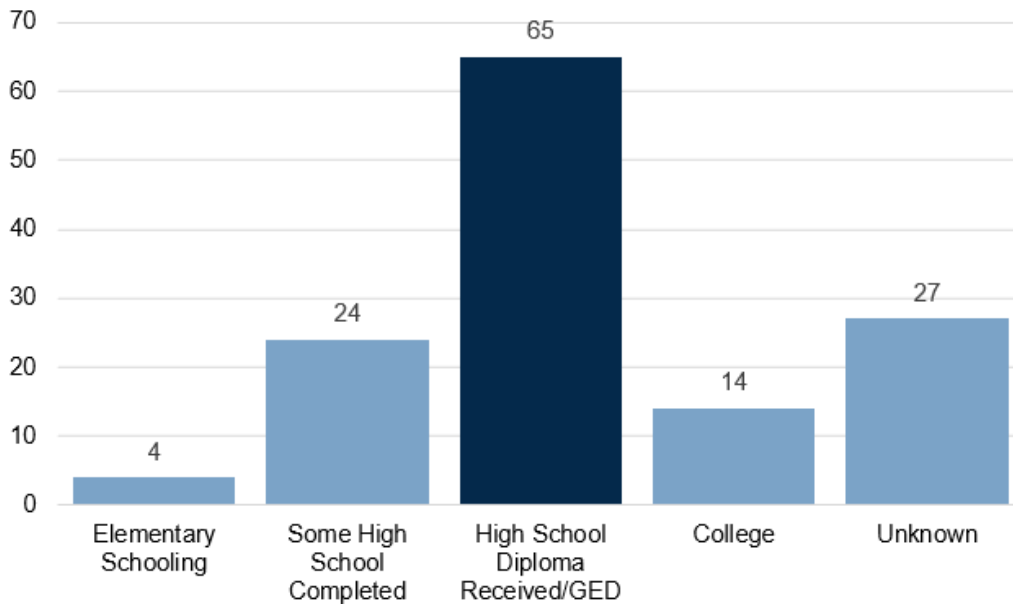
History of Illicit Drug Use?



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Distribution by Education Level

Out of the 134 suspected overdose deaths, 65 (49%) decedents had received a high school diploma or a GED.



Mental Health History

Out of the 134 suspected overdose deaths, 59 (44%) decedents had a documented mental health history. The table below shows how many decedents were diagnosed with specific mental illnesses.

Diagnosis	Count* (n=59)	Percent
Depression	39	66%
Anxiety	29	49%
Bipolar Disorder	12	20%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	10	17%
Schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder	10	17%
Other (Includes borderline personality disorder, unspecified mood/behavioral disorder, panic disorder, attention deficit disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder)	9	15%

* A single decedent can be diagnosed with more than one mental illness, so the total count is higher than the number of suspected decedents with a mental illness.

Other Statistics

46%

of scenes had paraphernalia present

13%

of decedents were previously diagnosed with Hepatitis C

3%

of decedents served in the Armed Forces

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Toxicology Results

Out of the 134 suspected overdose deaths, 133 cases had completed toxicology results by the time of this report. The top five most commonly found substances in the toxicology results were fentanyl (74%), methamphetamine (33%), cocaine (32%), acetyl fentanyl (28%), ethanol/alcohol (20%).

Additionally, 101 (76%) of the completed toxicology results detected either a fentanyl or a fentanyl analog. See the table below for a full breakdown of all substances identified through toxicology.

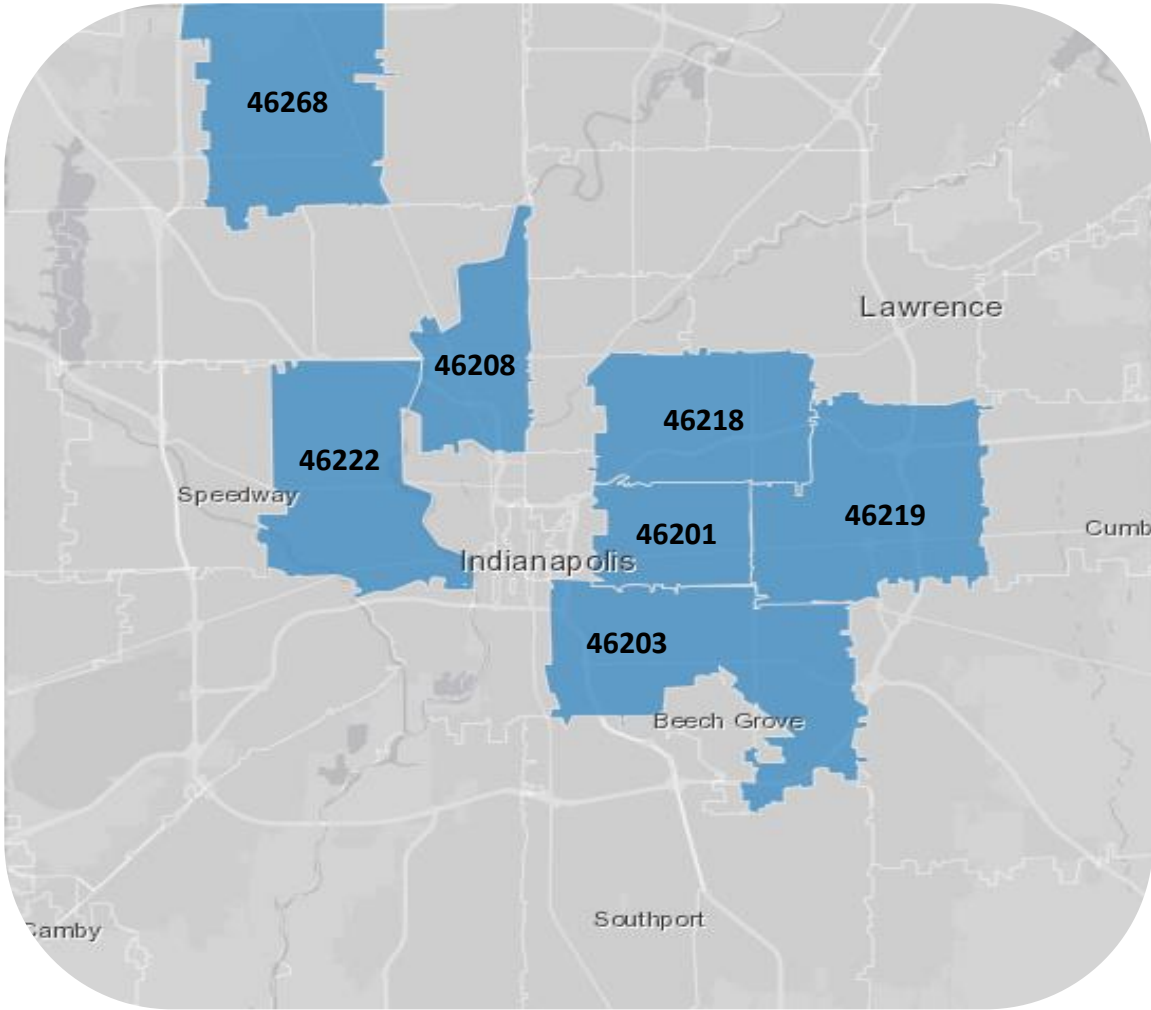
Substance	Count* (n=133)	Percent
Fentanyl	99	74%
Methamphetamine	44	33%
Cocaine	42	32%
Acetyl Fentanyl**	26	28%
Ethanol/Alcohol	37	20%
Fluorofentanyl**	24	18%
Benzodiazepines (Includes alprazolam, bromazolam, olanzapine, lorazepam, & clonazepam)	12	9%
Xylazine	10	8%
Opiates (Other) (Includes oxycodone, levomethorphan, hydrocodone, morphine, codeine, broprhine, & protonitazene)	9	7%
Gabapentin	7	5%
Antihistamines (Includes diphenhydramine & hydroxyzine)	6	5%
Other (Includes cyclobenzaprine, phenacetin, & dextromethorphan)	6	5%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	3	2%
Norfentanyl**	3	2%
4-ANPP**	3	2%
Methadone	3	2%
Antidepressants (Includes duloxetine & escitalopram)	2	2%
Buprenorphine	1	<1%
Heroin	0	0%

* Multiple substances can be found in a single toxicology report for a decedent. Therefore, the total count in this table is higher than the number of suspected decedents.

** Substance is a fentanyl analog, which is an opiate created by altering the basic chemical structure of fentanyl. This allows fentanyl analogs to produce a similar pharmacological effect to fentanyl while containing a slightly different chemical structure.

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Most Impacted Zip Codes



Most Impacted Zip Codes

Zip Code	Total
46203	13
46201	13
46208	10
46219	7
46268	7
46218	6
46222	6
Total	62

46% of suspected overdose deaths in Q1 2024 occurred in these 7 zip codes.

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Community Resources

Marion County Coroner's Office (MCCO) Resource Center

Provides a variety of resources to help people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. If you recently lost a loved one to overdose, you can text "mental" to 317-435-5281 to get connected with mental health resources (<https://www.indy.gov/activity/resource-center>)

Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD)

- ▶ **Safe Syringe Access & Support (SSAS)** - Offers the following services: HIV and hepatitis C rapid screening, safer drug use practices, referral for SUD and mental health treatment, wound care education, immunizations, referral to primary care, and access to health insurance coverage (<https://marionhealth.org/safesyringe/>)
- ▶ **Substance Use Outreach Services (SUOS)** - Offers the following services: HIV rapid testing, STD screenings, Hepatitis B & C screenings, HIV/STD educational materials and prevention counseling, group educational sessions, naloxone training and education, and substance use case management (<https://suos.hhcorp.org/>)

Overdose Lifeline (ODL)

- ▶ **ODL's Peer Grief Support Program** - Provides direct support to individuals experiencing the challenges associated with losing a loved one from an overdose or drug-related cause of death through a network of Peer Grief Helpers (<https://www.overdoselifeline.org/peer-grief-support/>).
- ▶ **Heart Rock Recovery** – A holistic sober living community in Indianapolis that offers evidence-based addiction treatment and subsidized housing to pregnant women and mothers ages 18 and older (<https://heartrockrecovery.org/>)
- ▶ **ODL's Lifeline for Loss** – A monthly support group for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one to drug overdose (<https://www.overdoselifeline.org/lifeline-for-loss/>)
- ▶ **Indiana Naloxone Boxes & Distribution Centers** – an interactive map showing NaloxBox locations and naloxone distribution centers around Indiana (<https://www.overdoselifeline.org/naloxone-indiana-distribution/>)
- ▶ **Naloxone Request & Report** – Need harm reduction materials? Fill out a request form to receive Naloxone & Fentanyl and Xylazine Test Strips (<https://www.overdoselifeline.org/indiana-naloxone-request-report/>)

Recovery Assist Platform

A searchable online directory of providers and resources in Marion County related to overdose prevention, SUD, and other social determinants of health (<https://recoveryassistplatform.com/>)

Indiana 2-1-1

A free and confidential service that helps Hoosiers across Indiana find the local resources they need. Dial 2-1-1 to connect with a navigator 24 hours/day (<https://in211.communityos.org/>)

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

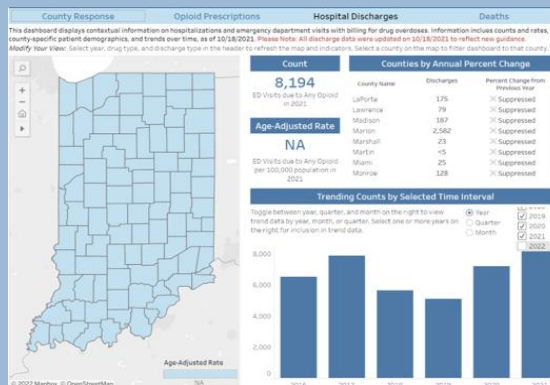
Provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention & crisis resources for you or your loved ones, & best practices for professionals in the US (<https://988lifeline.org/>)

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Drug Overdose Data Dashboard

For more overdose-related information, please visit the Indiana Department of Health’s (IDOH) [Drug Overdose Data Dashboard](#).

In the dashboard, IDOH has provided county and state level data that includes details on county response, opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and overdose death data.



Emerging Substance(s)

Through syringe surveillance, MCPHD has detected the following new or emerging substances since Q1 2024:

Medetomidine (detected 05/2024) – A surgical anesthetic approved for veterinary use. It is in the same class of suppressant drugs as xylazine, but is considered stronger and has a longer duration

MDMB-4en-PINACA (detected 06/2024) – A synthetic cannabinoid often sold as a “legal” replacement for cannabis and controlled synthetic cannabinoids.

MCCO Annual Report

Please use the link below to access the MCCO’s annual reports, which contain more information on all deaths that occur in Marion County.

[MCCO Annual Reports](#)

Have a data request?

Outside agencies and official organizations can request data from MCCO via their information and data request portal.

[Information and Data Requests](#)

Contact Information



Marion County Coroner’s Office

521 W. McCarty St, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317) 327-4744

<https://www.indy.gov/agency/marion-county-coroners-office>



MCPHD | Epidemiology Department

3901 Meadows Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46205

epidemiology@marionhealth.org