

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 was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of Overdose Data to Action: LOCAL (CDC-RFA-CE-23-0003). The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government. 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.



Suspected Overdose Deaths in Marion County, Indiana

Summary of Suspected Overdose Deaths | Q4 2024

Q4 2024

123 Deaths

Q4 2023

152 Deaths

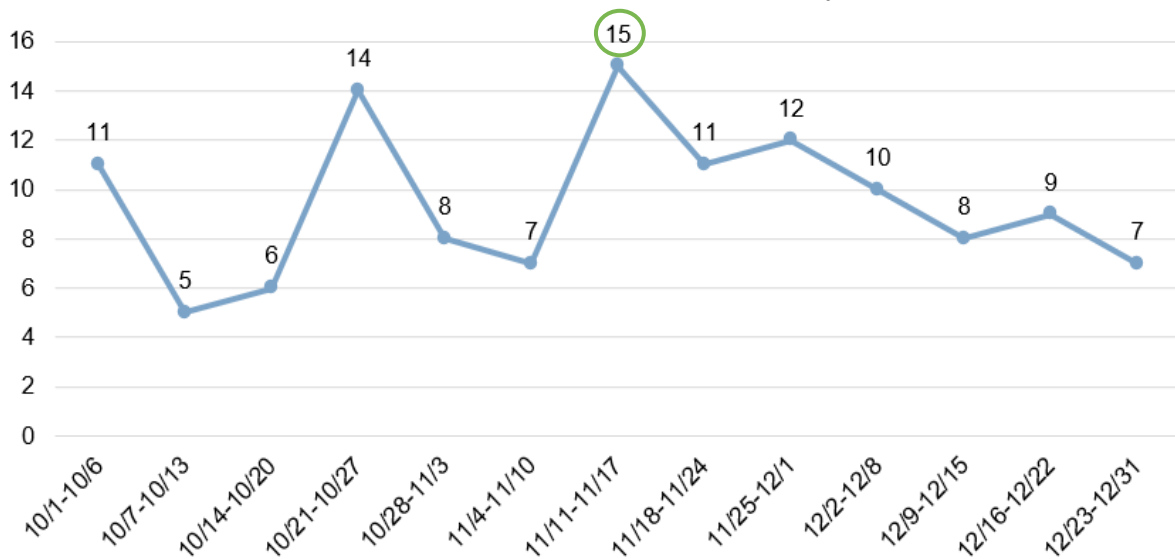
Percent Change

▼ 19%

From previous year

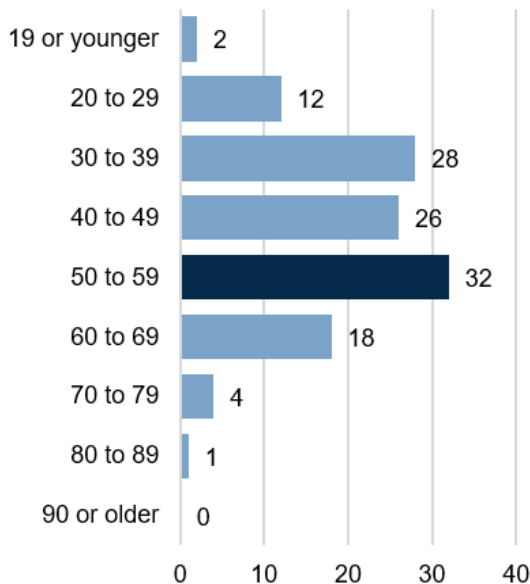
Weekly Trends

Out of the 123 suspected overdose deaths, 15 (12%) deaths occurred between November 11th – November 17th, which accounted for the most deaths by week for Q4 2024.



Distribution by Age Group

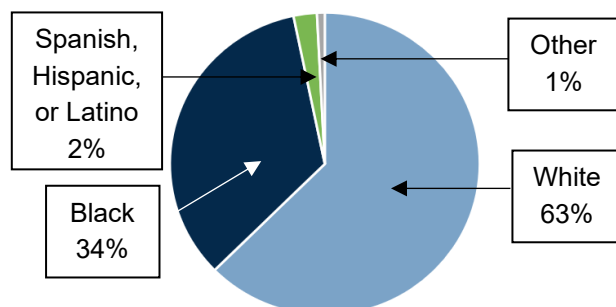
The average age was 47 years old, the youngest decedent was 12 years old and the oldest was 84 years old.



Distribution by Sex

76%**24%**

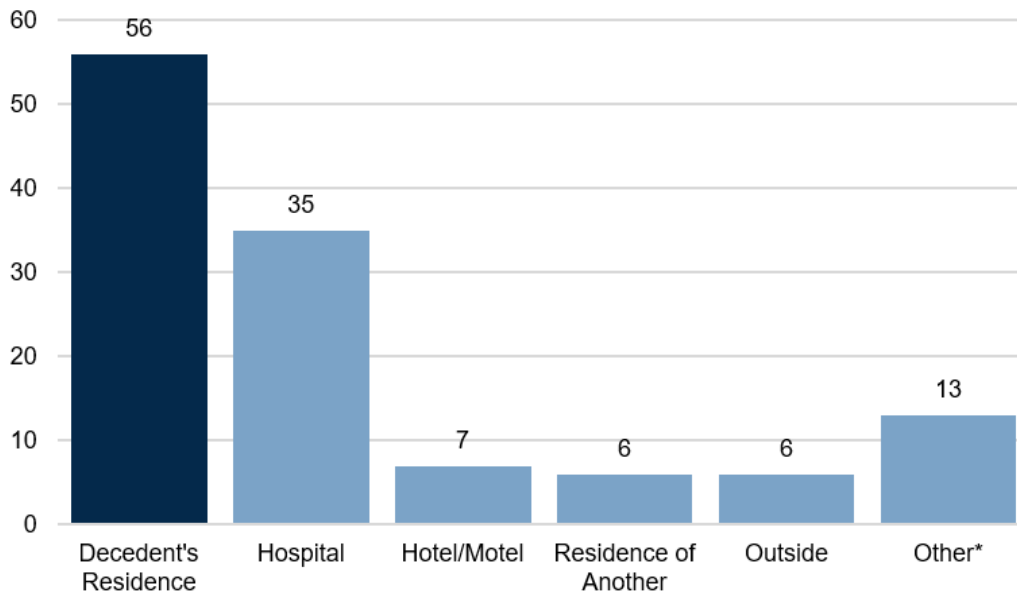
Distribution by Race & Ethnicity



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Distribution by Place of Death

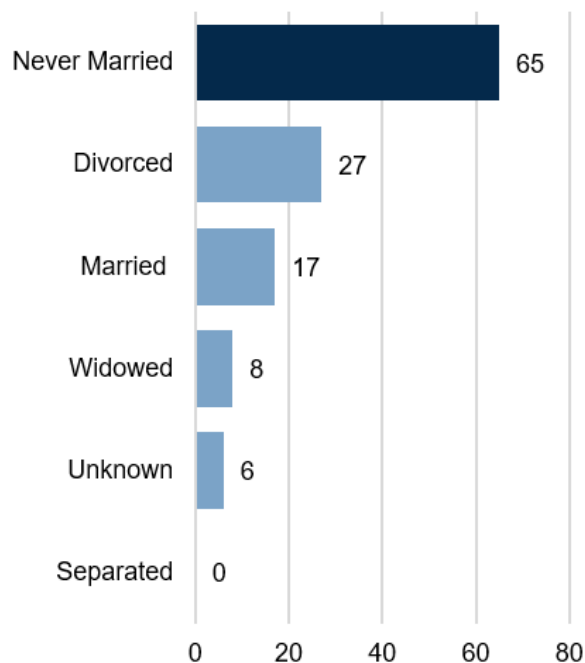
Out of the 123 suspected overdose deaths, 56 (46%) deaths occurred at the decedent's residence.



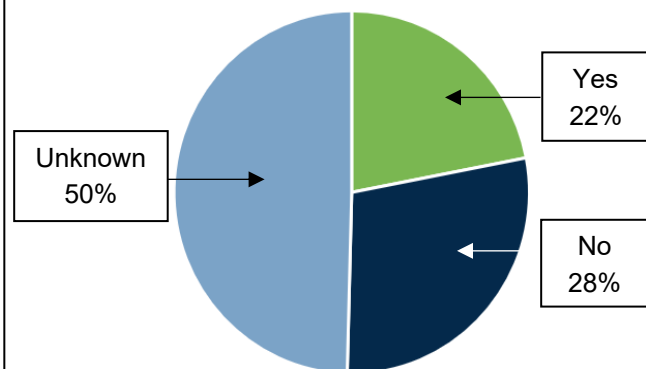
*Other locations include a place of business, inside a vehicle, and abandoned house or structure

Distribution by Marital Status

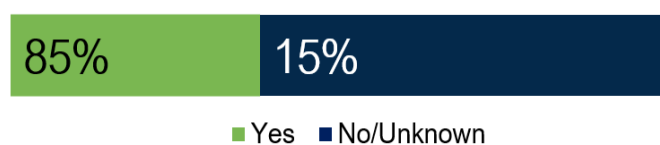
Out of the 123 suspected deaths, 65 (53%) decedents had never been married.



History of Rehabilitation?



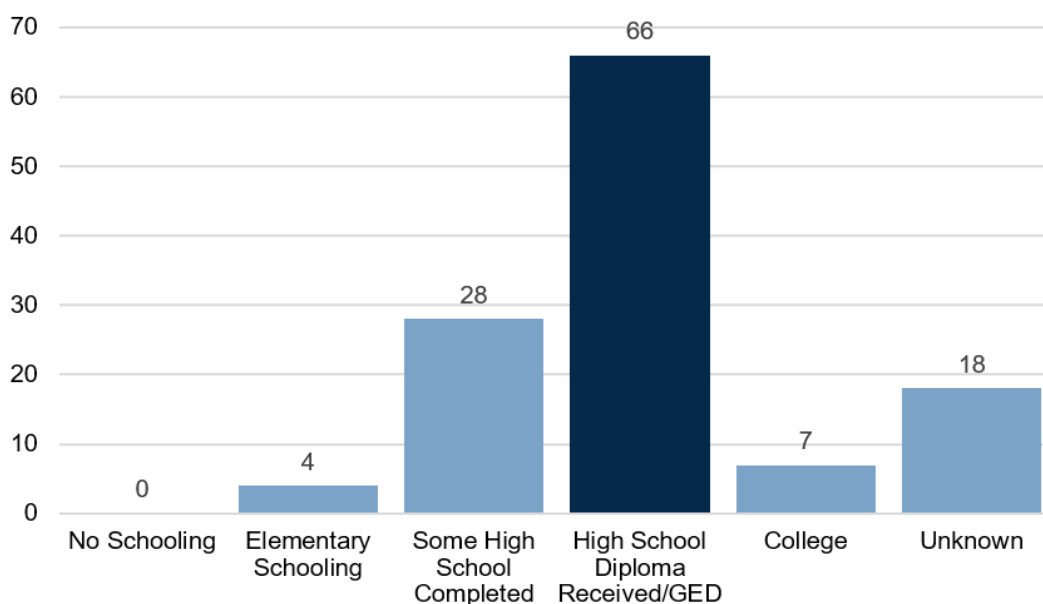
History of Illicit Drug Use?



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Distribution by Education Level

Out of the 123 suspected overdose deaths, 73 (59%) decedents had received a high school diploma/GED or higher.



Mental Health History

Out of the 123 suspected overdose deaths, 52 (42%) decedents had a documented mental health history. The table below shows how many decedents were diagnosed with specific mental illnesses.

Diagnosis	Count* (n=52)	Percent
Depression	36	69%
Anxiety Disorder (includes generalized anxiety disorder)	26	50%
Schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder	11	21%
Bipolar Disorder	9	17%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	7	13%
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)	3	6%
Other (Includes antisocial personality disorder, paranoid personality disorder, and unspecified psychotic disorder)	3	6%

* 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

40%

of scenes had paraphernalia present

18%

of decedents were previously diagnosed with Hepatitis C

4%

of decedents served in the Armed Forces

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Toxicology Results

Out of the 123 suspected overdose deaths, 111 cases had completed toxicology results by the time of this report. The top five most commonly found substances in the toxicology results were fentanyl (54%), methamphetamine (40%), cocaine (34%), ethanol/alcohol (13%), and xylazine (13%). Additionally, 61 (55%) of the completed toxicology results detected either fentanyl or a fentanyl analog.

See the table below for a full breakdown of all substances identified through toxicology. The last column indicates whether the presence of this substance increased (▲), decreased (▼), or stayed the same (—) as compared to toxicology in Q3 2024. Please note that changes between quarters may not be indicative of an ongoing trend and will need to be observed over a longer timeframe.

Substance	Count* (n=111)	Percent	Compared to Q3 2024
Fentanyl	60	54%	▼
Methamphetamine	44	40%	—
Cocaine	38	34%	▲
Ethanol/Alcohol	14	13%	▼
Xylazine	14	13%	—
Benzodiazepines (Includes (flu)bromazolam, clonazepam, lorazepam)	11	10%	▼
Other (includes carbon monoxide, phencyclidine, dextro/levomethorphan, mitragynine, olanzapine, acetaminophen, quetiapine, levetiracetam)	10	9%	▲
Acetyl fentanyl**	9	8%	▼
Antihistamines (includes diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine, doxylamine, promethazine)	6	5%	▲
Antidepressants (includes fluoxetine, trazodone, citalopram, escitalopram, duloxetine)	6	5%	▼
Opiates (Other) (includes morphine and hydrocodone)	5	5%	▼
Gabapentin	5	5%	▼
Fluorofentanyl**	4	4%	▼
Methadone	3	3%	▲
Buprenorphine	3	3%	▲
Synthetic cannabinoid (includes MDMB-4en-PINACA)	2	2%	▼
Carfentanil**	2	2%	▼
4-ANPP**	1	1%	—
Nitazenes	0	0%	▼
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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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/>)

Indiana's Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)

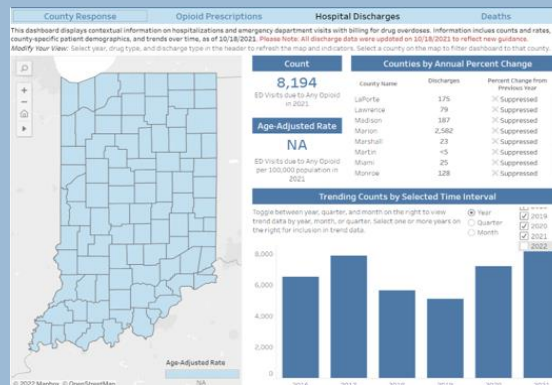
Indiana's DMHA certifies all addiction treatment providers in the State of Indiana. Find addiction treatment or recovery housing in Indiana by visiting their website (<https://www.in.gov/fssa/addiction>) or dial 2-1-1 to be connected to available treatment providers and community resources.

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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:

Carfentanil (significant increase detected 07/2024) – A fentanyl analog that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

Nitazenes (increase detected Q3 2024) – Synthetic opioids developed as a morphine alternative but never approved for human use due to their high potential for overdose. Depending on chemical structure, nitazenes can range from 250 to 4,300 times stronger than morphine.

BTMPS (detected 12/2024) – New opioid adulterant originally used as a light stabilizer for plastic materials. Reportedly has a strong chemical or “fishy” smell and can cause eye damage or skin irritation.

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

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<https://www.indy.gov/agency/marion-county-coroners-office>
 (317) 327-4744



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