

# COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO DRUG USE DATA BRIEF

## INTRODUCTION

Central Ohio is experiencing a drug epidemic and drug overdoses are on the rise. This data brief provides a snapshot of the problem through local, state and national indicators of unintentional drug overdose, as well as infectious diseases that can occur in people who inject drugs. Columbus Public Health, in partnership with other community partners, is working to combat drug overdoses through a new comprehensive harm reduction program that includes clean needles, treatment, testing for HIV and hepatitis C, and access to a naloxone.

## UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

	2013	2014
<b>United States</b>	35,663	38,718
<b>Ohio</b>	2,109	2,532
<b>Franklin County</b>	198	196

## IN THE U.S.

Nationally, drug poisoning (overdose) is the **number one cause of injury-related death** in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

**Heroin:** From 2000 through 2013, the rate of drug poisoning deaths involving heroin increased for all regions of the country, with the greatest increase seen in the Midwest.<sup>2</sup>

**Drug Overdose Deaths:** 38,718 people died from unintentional drug overdose in the U.S. in 2014, an increase from the 28,754 deaths in 2009.

**Opiate Use (Non-medical):** The 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that 4.5 million Americans used opiates and related substances non-medically in 2013.<sup>3</sup>

## IN OHIO

**Drug Overdose Deaths:** More than 2,500 Ohio residents died from unintentional drug overdoses in 2014 – a 20% increase over 2013 and the highest number of overdose deaths on record.

- Multiple drug use was the single-largest contributor to unintentional drug overdoses in 2014. Of the overdose deaths in which the number of drugs was specified, more than half (59%) involved more than one drug.<sup>4</sup>
- **Opioids:** 1,988 (80%) of drug overdoses involved opioids (prescription, fentanyl and heroin), compared to 1,539 (73%) in 2013.<sup>4</sup>

**Syringe Use & Diseases:** People who inject drugs without a clean syringe are at risk for diseases like Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

- **Hepatitis C:** In 2014, Hepatitis C rates were highest in individuals aged 20-29 years at 345.5 cases per 100,000.
- **HIV:** Roughly 1,000 Ohioans are diagnosed with HIV each year.

**Overdose Treatment:** Naloxone was administered by Ohio EMS personnel 15,493 times in 2014, a 26% increase compared to 2013 when naloxone was administered 12,256 times.<sup>5</sup>

## IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

**Drug Overdose Deaths:** In Franklin County in 2014, there was a 227% increase in residents who died from unintentional drug overdoses since 2003.

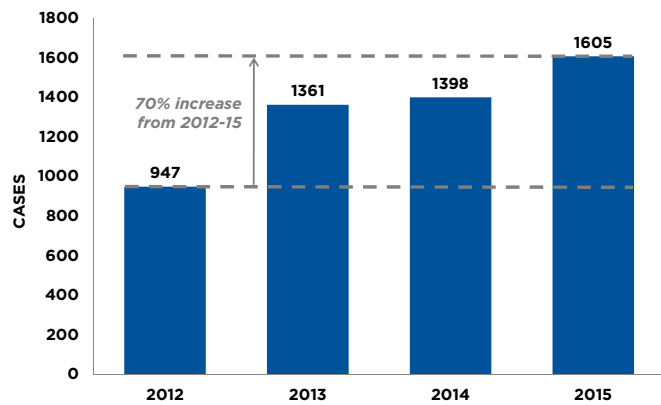
**Heroin:** In 2013, heroin-related deaths surpassed prescription opiates among unintentional overdose deaths and continued to rise in 2014.

## SYRINGE USE & THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

In Franklin County:

- **Hepatitis C cases have increased 70%** from nearly 950 cases in 2012 to over 1,600 cases in 2015.
- **Over 200 people are diagnosed with HIV each year**, with the highest rates occurring among individuals aged 20-24 years.

### HEPATITIS C CASES, FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2012-2015



#### REFERENCES:

1. Chen LH, Hedegaard H, Warner M. QuickStat: Rates of death from drug poisoning and drug poisoning involving opioid analgesics—United States, 1999–2013. MMWR 64(01):32. 2015.
2. Hedegaard H, Chen LH, Warner M. Drug-poisoning deaths involving heroin: United States, 2000–2013. NCHS data brief, no 190. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015.
3. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control. 2015. National Forensic Laboratory Information System Report: Opiates and Related Drugs Reported in NFLIS, 2009–2014. Springfield, VA: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.
4. 2014 Ohio Drug Overdose Preliminary Data General Findings
5. 2013 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings

SOURCES (Analysis by Office of Epidemiology, Columbus Public Health):

*National Vital Statistics System (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WONDER)*  
*Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Disease Reporting System*  
*Ohio Department of Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program*  
*Columbus Fire Department Emergency Medical Services*

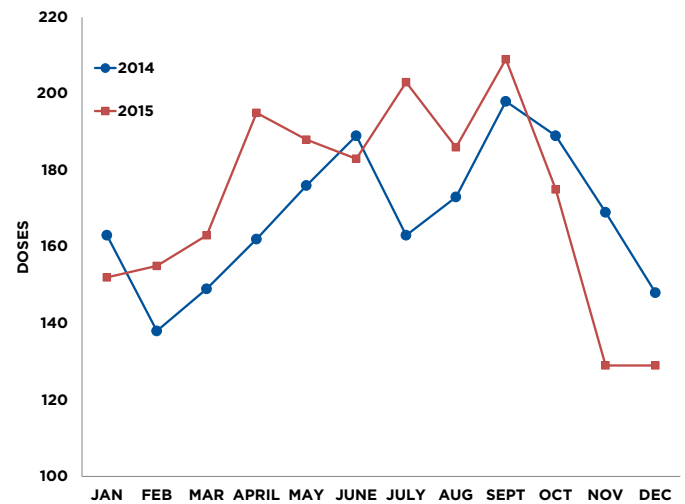
Report released March 2016

## OVERDOSE TREATMENT

In Franklin County:

- Columbus Fire Department EMS gave over **2,000 doses of naloxone** (a medicine given to treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency) in 2015.
- Monthly average **naloxone doses given increased 2.5%** between 2014 and 2015.

### NALOXONE DOSES GIVEN BY COLUMBUS FIRE DEPT. EMS BY MONTH, COLUMBUS, 2014-2015



### UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE DEATHS BY DRUG TYPE, FRANKLIN COUNTY, 1999-2014

