



2025 Semi-Annual Report: Overdose Deaths in Western Michigan

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
Department of Pathology

February 12th, 2026



Office of the Medical Examiner

Allegan

Barry

Berrien

Calhoun

Cass

Grand Traverse

Kalamazoo

Leelanau

Mason

Muskegon

Osceola

St. Joseph

Van Buren

Physical Address:

300 Portage Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: (269) 337-6173
After Hours: (844) 337-6001

Mailing Address:

1000 Oakland Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Hours of Operation: Our office operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Our administrative office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with holiday exceptions.

Contact information: For all drug-related data inquiries or questions about the data and figures in this report, please contact: gemma.harkin@wmed.edu.

For all other data inquires or questions for our office, please contact: pathology@wmed.edu.

mimedicaexaminer.com



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
— Homer Stryker M.D. —
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEDICAL EXAMINER AND
FORENSIC SERVICES

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Disclaimer	1
Summary of Drug-Related Deaths	2
Drug-Related Deaths by Manner of Death, All Counties	2
Drug-Related Deaths by County.....	2
Drug-Related Deaths by Year, 2023-2025, All Counties.....	3
Common Substances Contributing to Death, All Counties	4
Stimulant & Opioid-Related Deaths, All Counties.....	4
Polysubstance Use, All Counties	5
Race, Ethnicity & Gender, All Counties	6
Age Distribution, All Counties	6
Common Locations & Zip Codes of Injury, All Counties.....	7
Route of Administration, All Counties.....	8
Naloxone Administration, All Counties	8
Medical History, All Counties	9
Other Demographics, All Counties	9

Introduction

This report includes summarized data from 13 counties served by the Office of the Medical Examiner located within the Department of Pathology at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed). The 13 counties are as follows: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Leelanau, Mason, Muskegon, Osceola, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

The data in this report includes deaths where drug(s) were listed as the immediate cause of death or as contributory to death on the death certificate without other unnatural lethal means. Data was extracted from death scene investigation reports, law enforcement reports, EMS reports, medical records, Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS), and death certificates. Acute alcohol-related deaths are deemed drug-related and are included in this report. Some key highlights from this report include:

- Opioid-related deaths represented **46.5%** (60) of all drug-related deaths in this report
- Stimulant-related deaths represented **68.2%** (88) of all drug-related deaths in this report

Disclaimer

Data provided is from January 1st to June 30th 2025 and includes summarized data from the web-based case management system utilized by WMed for tracking and organizing reported deaths. This summary report is intended to provide valuable information about overdose mortality in western Michigan so that it may support data-driven policy decisions and interventions by public health agencies aiming to prevent fatal overdoses. Please be advised that our office is unable to confirm all information of every individual in our system as decedent information is typically gathered during the death investigation. Additionally, the race or gender of the decedent may not reflect how they identified in life.

Not all deaths that have drugs listed as contributory to death are included in this report. Deaths that involve additional circumstances that make it difficult to determine if drugs are the specific reason for death are deemed non-drug-related deaths. Some of these extenuating circumstances involve, but are not limited to: blunt force injuries, hypothermia, hyperthermia, carbon monoxide poisoning, and drowning.

Since 2024, our office no longer considers Mitragynine (Kratom) an opioid. Data from 2024 forward has been adjusted to reflect this, while previous yearly data has not been adjusted.

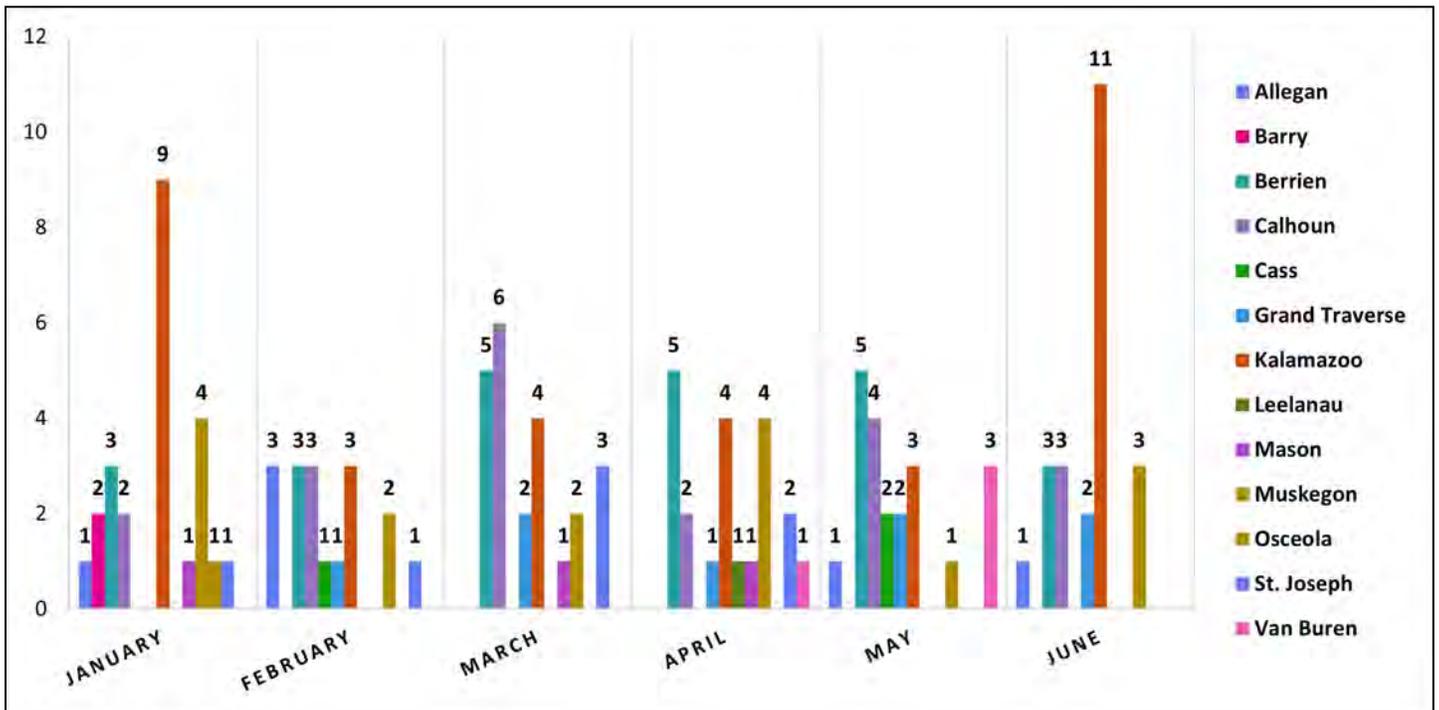
All data included in this report is intended to be preliminary.

Summary of Drug-Related Deaths

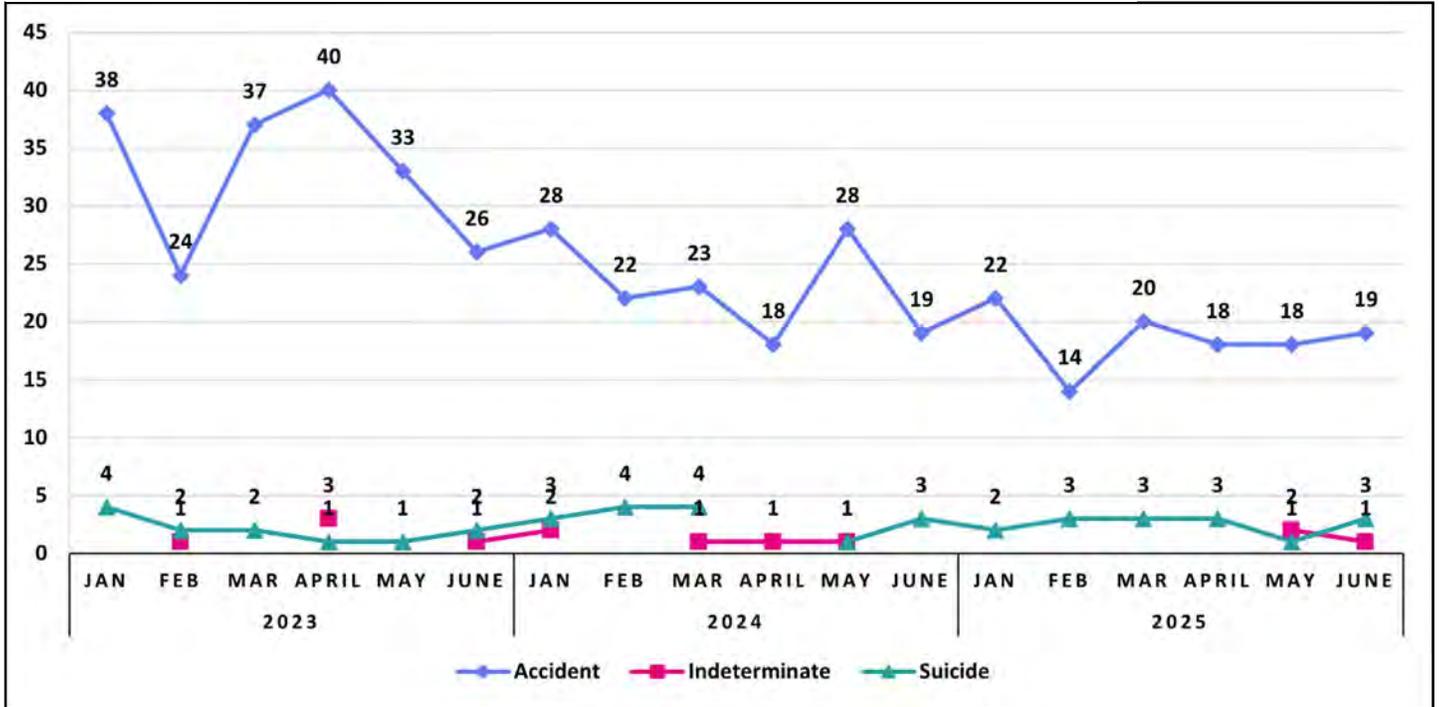
Drug-Related Deaths by Manner of Death, All Counties

	Accident	Suicide	Indeterminate	Total
Allegan	3	2	1	6
Barry	2	0	0	2
Berrien	23	1	0	24
Calhoun	17	3	0	20
Cass	2	1	0	3
Grand Traverse	6	1	1	8
Kalamazoo	28	5	1	34
Leelanau	1	0	0	1
Mason	2	1	0	3
Muskegon	15	1	0	16
Osceola	1	0	0	1
St. Joseph	7	0	0	7
Van Buren	4	0	0	4
Total	111	15	3	129

Drug-Related Deaths by County



Drug-Related Deaths by Year, 2023-2025, All Counties



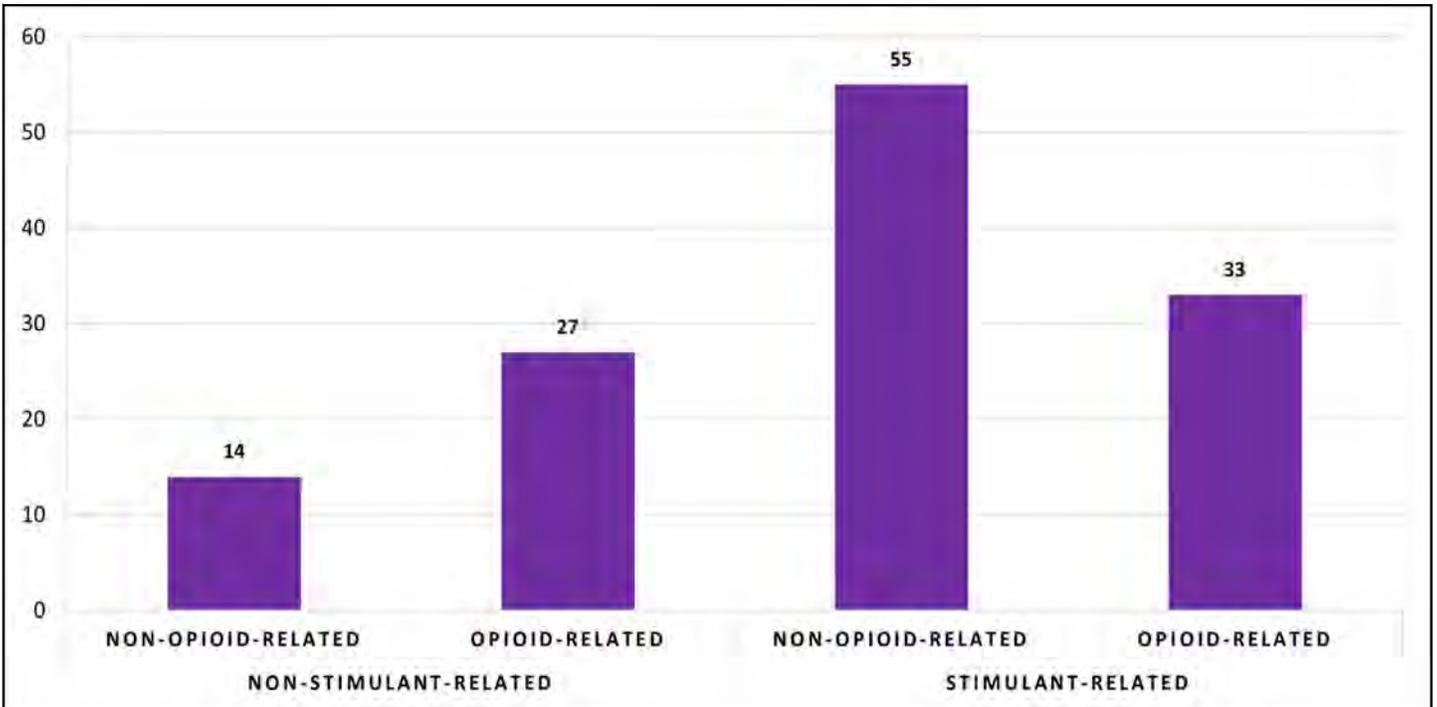
This graph provides the number of drug-related deaths from all 13 counties from January 1st to June 30th, compared by manner of death (MOD).

Common Substances Contributing to Death, All Counties

Common Substances	# of Times Listed on Death Certificate
Fentanyl	46
Methamphetamine	49
Cocaine	38
Non-Opioid Prescription Medication (e.g., Gabapentin)	64
Opioid Prescription Medication (e.g., Oxycodone)	28
Ethanol	10
Diphenhydramine	10
Amphetamine	9
Xylazine	1
Mitragynine (Kratom)	1
1, 1-Difluoroethane	2
Over-The-Counter Medication (e.g., Acetaminophen)	1
Heroin	3
Ketamine	1

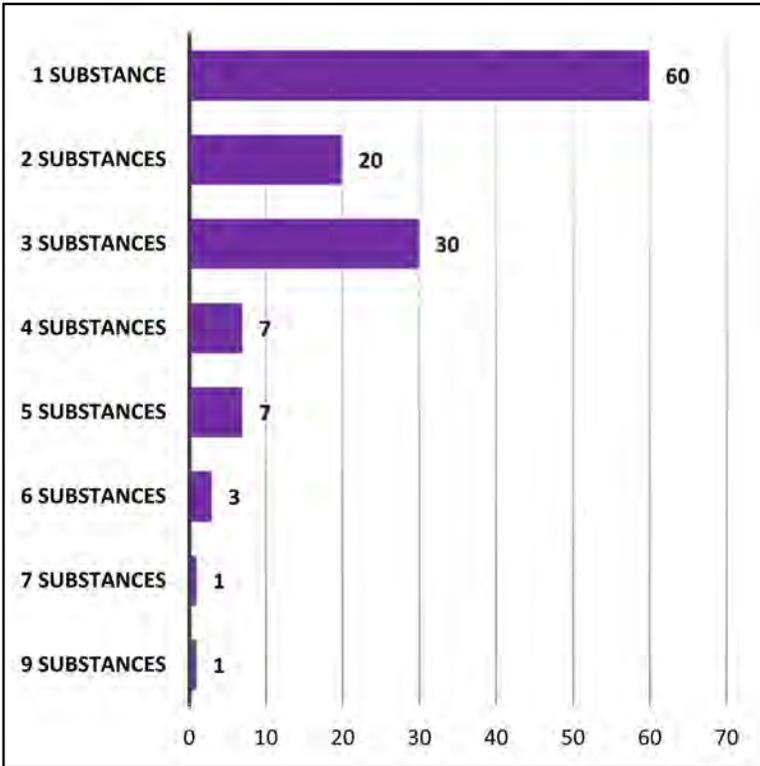
Prescription medication refers to 30 various medications, anywhere from blood pressure medications, antipsychotics, to anticonvulsant medications.

Stimulant & Opioid-Related Deaths, All Counties



Stimulants are a class of drugs that include but are not limited to: amphetamine, methamphetamine and cocaine. The most common drugs that are not considered stimulants or opioids were quetiapine, over-the-counter medication, and ethanol.

Polysubstance Use, All Counties



Multiple substances may be listed as contributory to death on a death certificate. The median number of substances listed as contributory was two substances.

The table below lists the most common substances used independently, as well as the most common drug combinations seen with polysubstance use.

Independent methamphetamine was the most common substance listed as the cause of death for drug-related deaths in this data period.

Most Common Drug Combinations & Single Substances Seen	# of Times Listed on Death Certificate
Methamphetamine	25
Cocaine	19
Multiple Prescription Medications	9
Fentanyl & Methamphetamine	6
Fentanyl	6
Cocaine & Fentanyl	4
Cocaine, Ethanol & Fentanyl	3
Methamphetamine & Prescription Medication	2
Oxycodone	2
Fentanyl, Methamphetamine & Prescription Medication	2
Morphine & Prescription Medication	2

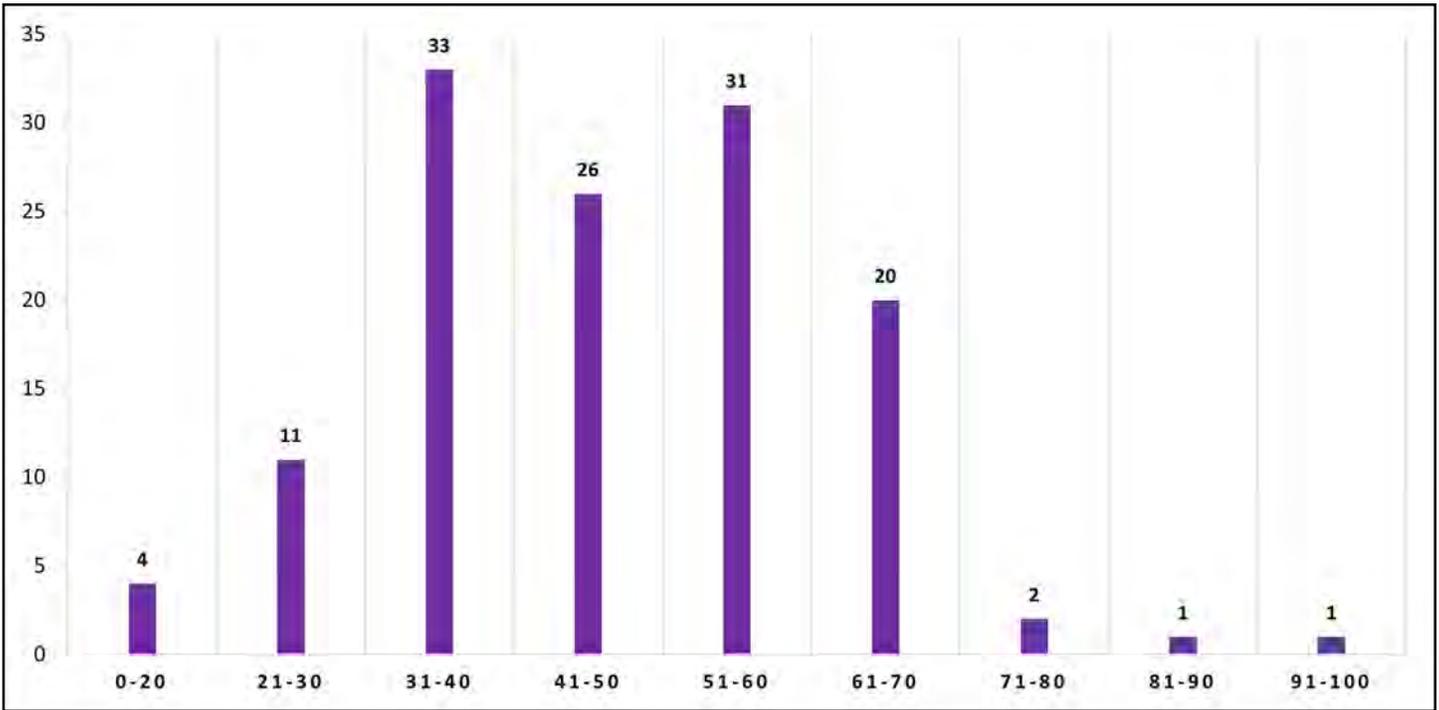
Prescription medication refers to at least one prescription medication being listed on the death certificate.

Race, Ethnicity & Gender, All Counties

	Male	Female	Total
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0	1
African American/Black	18	8	26
Asian	1	1	2
White	67	33	100
Total	87	42	129

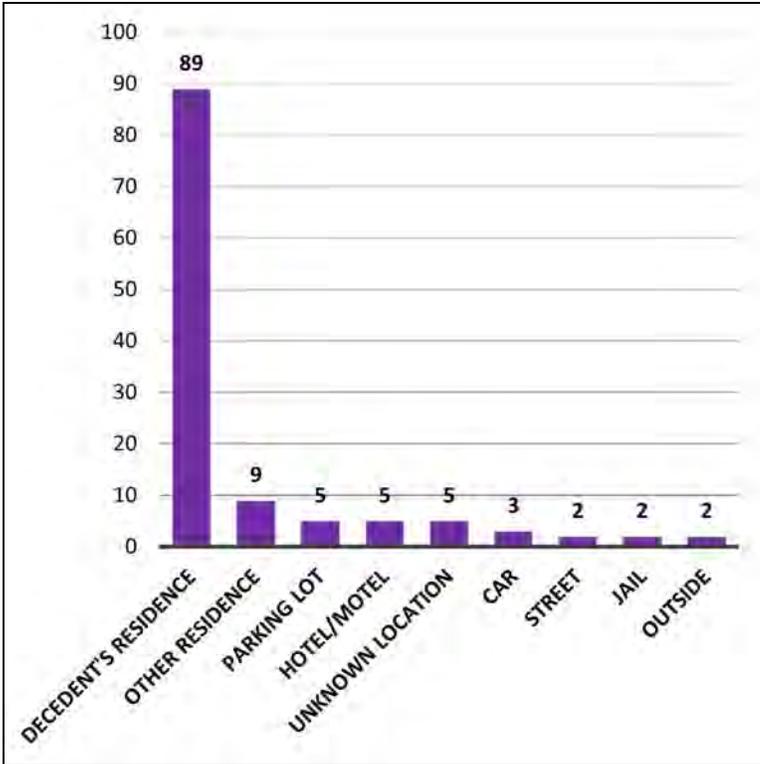
Males accounted for 87 (67.4%) drug-related deaths, while females accounted for 42 (32.6%). White individuals accounted for 100 (77.5%) of all drug-related deaths, with 67 (67%) of these cases being male, 33 (33%) being female. African American/Black individuals accounted for 26 (20.2%) of all drug-related deaths with 18 (69.2%) being male, 8 (30.8%) being female.

Age Distribution, All Counties



The predominant age group in this period was individuals between the ages of 31 and 40, representing 33 (25.6%) drug-related deaths. 46 years was the median age of the deaths in this data period.

Common Locations and Zip Codes of Injury, All Counties



Location of injury refers to the location where the decedent most likely administered drugs.

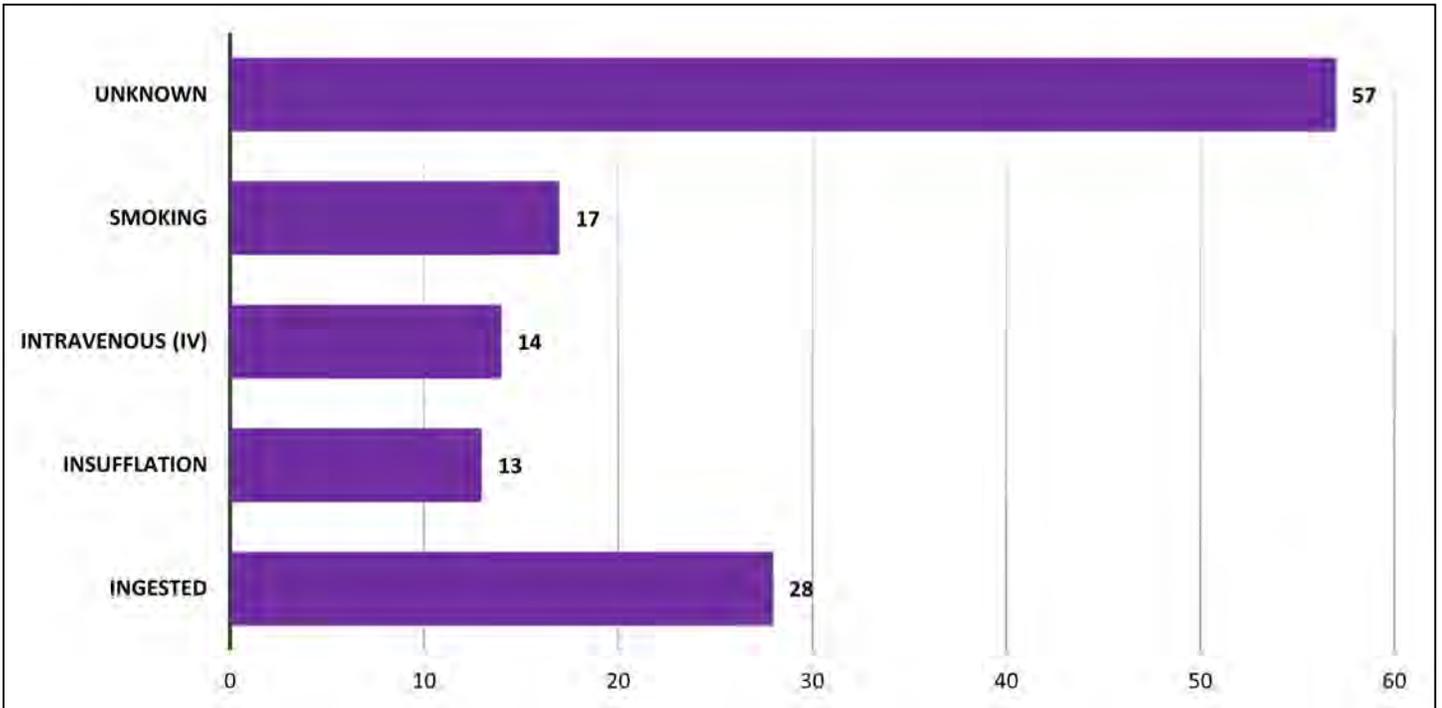
The most common location of injury was the decedent’s residence, accounting for 89 (69%) of all drug-related deaths in this data period. Locations with only one instance were excluded.

The table below depicts zip codes where injuries occurred on more than three occasions within their respected county.

In some instances, the location and zip code of injury cannot be determined. There are 4 cases in Kalamazoo and 1 case in Muskegon where this is the case.

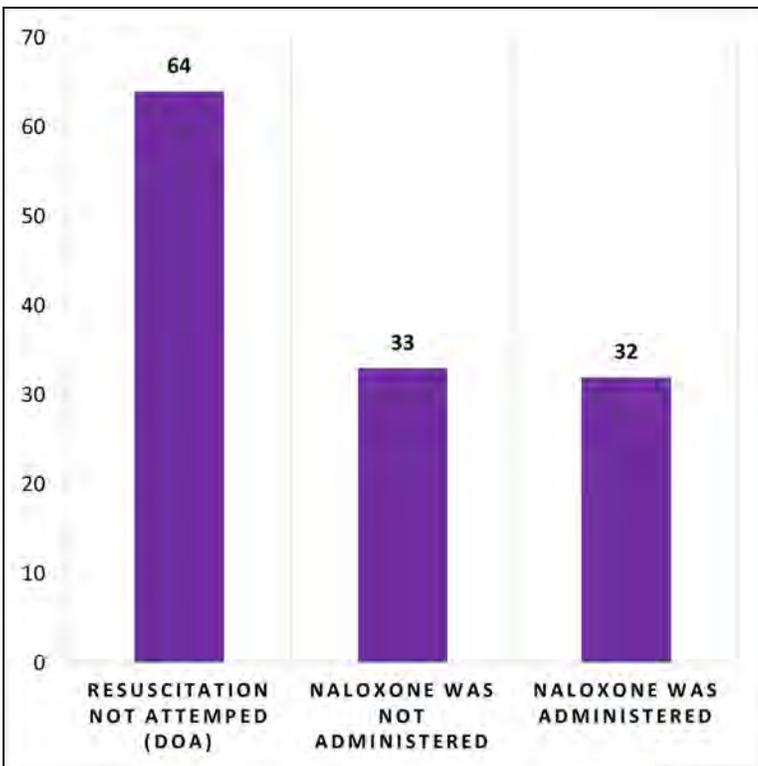
County	Zip Code of Injury	Count
Berrien	49022	11
Kalamazoo	49001	7
Calhoun	49037	7
Muskegon	49442	5
Grand Traverse	49686	5
Calhoun	49014	5
Kalamazoo	49007	5
Kalamazoo & Muskegon	Unknown Zip Code	5
Muskegon	49444	4
Calhoun	49015	4
Muskegon	49441	4
Kalamazoo	49008	4

Route of Administration, All Counties



Route of administration is determined by what type of drug paraphernalia that was present during the scene investigation.

Naloxone Administration & DOA, All Counties



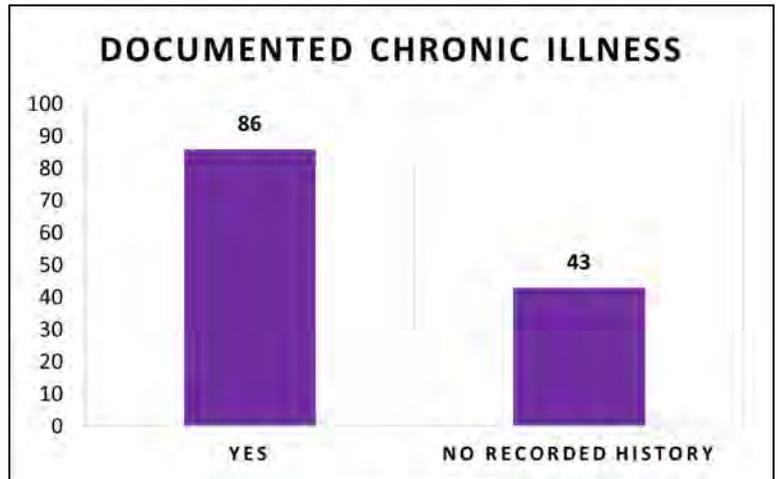
Naloxone Administered By:	Count
Emergency Medical Services	23
Emergency Room	3
Law Enforcement	2
Spouse/Partner	1
Friend	2
Roommate	1
Total	32

Dead on Arrival (DOA) indicates that when emergency services arrived on the scene, death was obvious and therefore no resuscitative efforts were initiated.

There were 100 decedents recorded as using substances alone, and in 20% (20) of these cases Naloxone was administered. Of those who used with others (20), Naloxone was administered 45% (9) of those instances.

Medical History, All Counties

Mental Health History	Count
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	4
GAD (General Anxiety Disorder)	23
Bipolar Disorder	12
Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD)	2
Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)	28
Psychosis	2
Schizophrenia	10
Diagnosis Unknown	1
Status Unknown	75



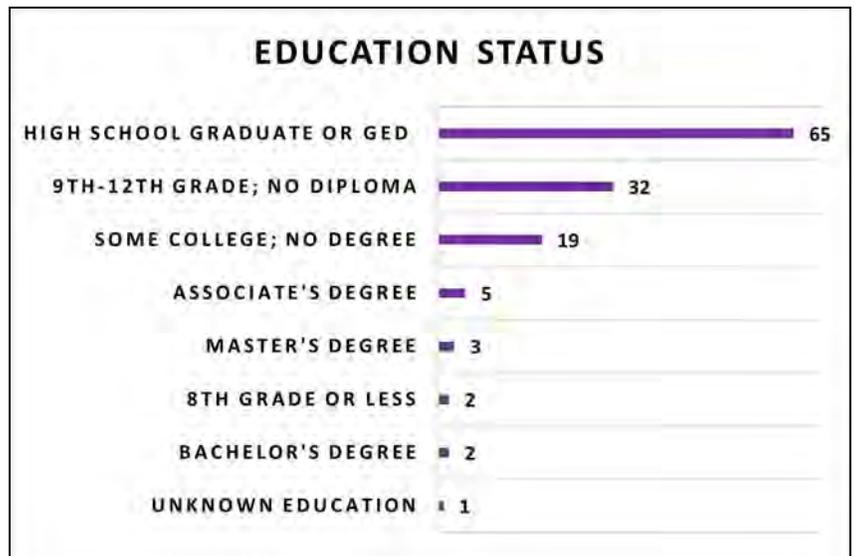
Drug Use History	Yes	Status Unknown
History of illicit drug use?	99	26
History of prescription drug use?	2	-
History of alcoholism?	2	-
History of previous overdose?	12	117
Record of attending a rehabilitation center?	3	126

Other Demographics, All Counties

	Yes	Status Unknown
Was a Veteran?	9	120
Was Homeless?	21	108
Recently incarcerated?	16	113

Employment Status	Count
Employed	31
Unemployed	56
Retired	4
Unknown employment status	38

Marital Status	Count
Married	15
Separated	1
Divorced	30
Widowed	8
Never Married	75





WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
— Homer Stryker M.D. —
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**MEDICAL EXAMINER AND
FORENSIC SERVICES**