

Leveraging Real-Time Overdose Mortality Data to Drive Community Action and Transparency



*** July 13-14-2026**

**Transforming Public Health Through Health IT and Data Modernization:
Bridging Innovation and Implementation**

Presenters



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Epidemiologist

Franklin County Public Health

Objectives

- ▶ Learn About:
 - ▶ Background
 - ▶ Problem
 - ▶ Solution
 - ▶ Looking forward





Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Evaluation System

EXPLORE DATA ▾

COMMUNITY PROFILES ▾

SEE HOW WE COMPARE ▾

TOOLS & RESOURCES ▾

LEARN MORE ▾



Emergency Department Visits
for Overdose



Overdose Deaths



Linkage to and Retention in
Care



Court-Supervised Diversion
Programs

Addressing Overdose and Addiction in Franklin County

Franklin County CARES provides a one-stop resource for comprehensive data on addiction, recovery, and health for residents and communities in Franklin County. Here, you will find current data on overdoses, demographics, health, and basic needs in Franklin County, as well as resources and data-driven strategies to address substance use and abuse.

SEARCH ALL INDICATORS



Build a Custom
Dashboard



Frequently Asked
Questions



Create a Custom
Report



Community
Profiles ▾

Franklin County Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Evaluation System (C.A.R.E.S.)

Franklin County
Public Health

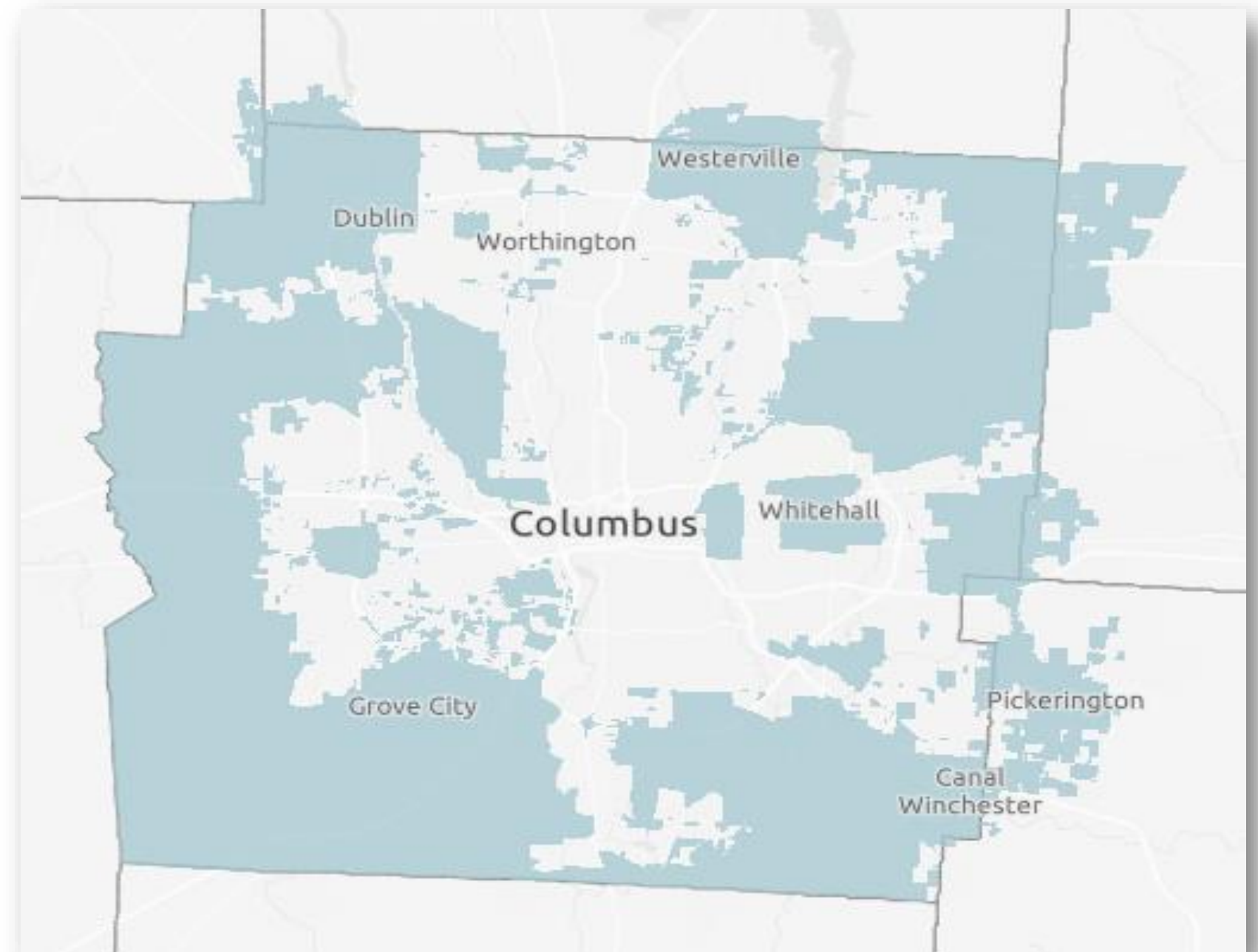


Franklin
County
Public
Health

BACKGROUND

Franklin County Public Health

- ▶ Franklin County, Ohio
- ▶ F.C.P.H. Staff: ~150
- ▶ F.C.P.H. serves 15 cities, 17 townships and 8 villages in Franklin County
 - ▶ F.C.P.H. serves 536,339 residents
- ▶ Franklin County Population¹: 1,356,303
 - ▶ Demographics¹:
 - ▶ 49% male
 - ▶ 57% Non-Hispanic White
 - ▶ 23% Non-Hispanic Black



Franklin County Public Health



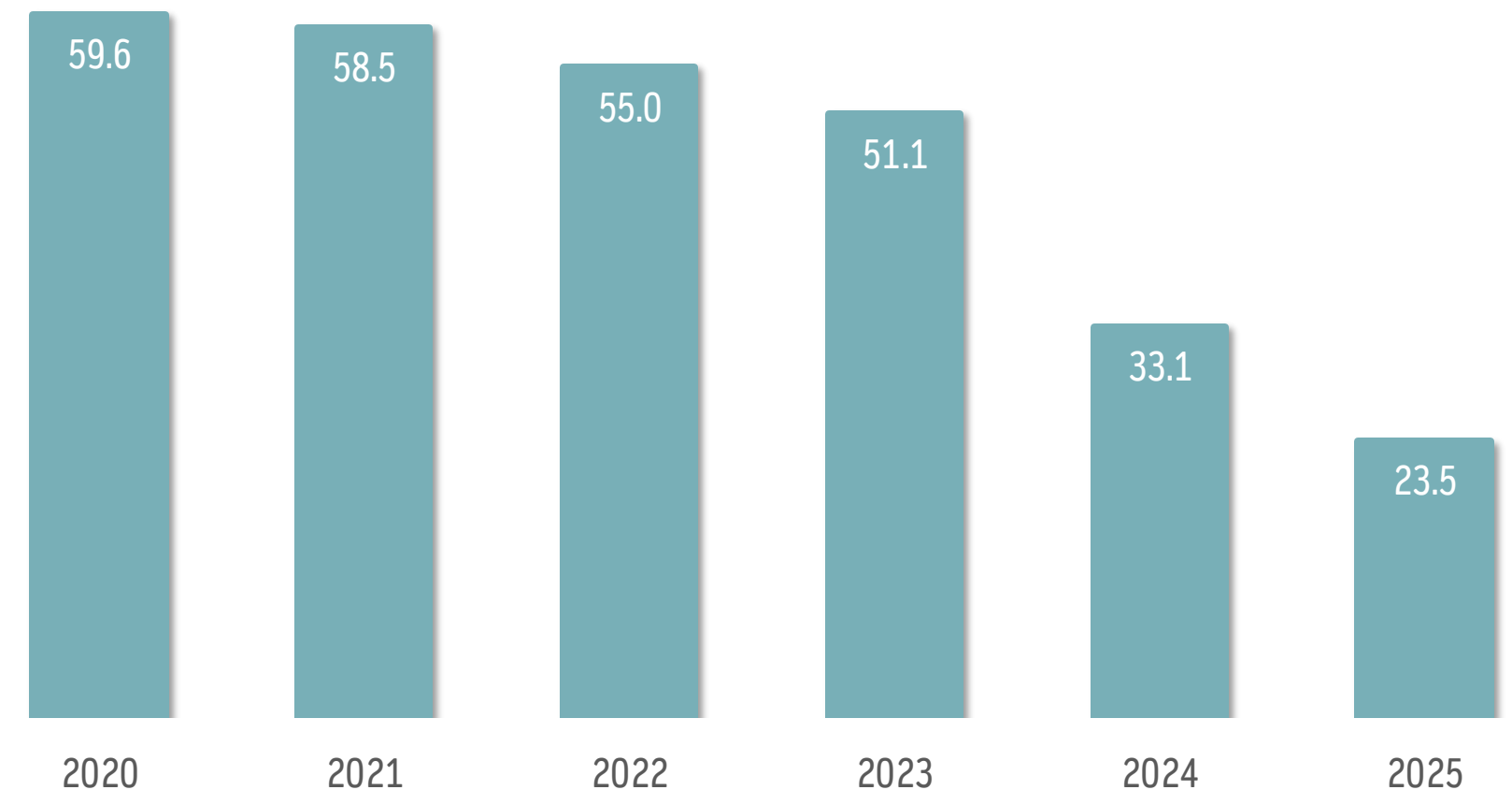
- ▶ Between 2016 and 2017, overdose deaths increased by 37%.
- ▶ In 2019, F.C.P.H. received the Overdose Data to Action (O.D.2.A.) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C.).
- ▶ In 2023, F.C.P.H. was one of the 40 local health departments to receive the Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (O.D.2.A.: L.O.C.A.L.) grant from the C.D.C.

Overdoses in Franklin County

- ▶ Overdose deaths peaked in 2020, with 803 Franklin County resident deaths.
 - ▶ Age-adjusted mortality rate: 60 deaths for every 100,000 residents.
- ▶ In 2025, there were 325 overdose deaths among Franklin County residents.
 - ▶ Age-adjusted mortality rate: 24 deaths for every 100,000 residents.
- ▶ Despite the decrease, unintentional injuries were the 3rd leading cause of death in Franklin County in 2024.
 - ▶ 49% of unintentional injury deaths were overdoses.

Overdose Mortality Rates have decreased 60% since 2020.

Age-adjusted Drug Overdose Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population, 2020-2025.

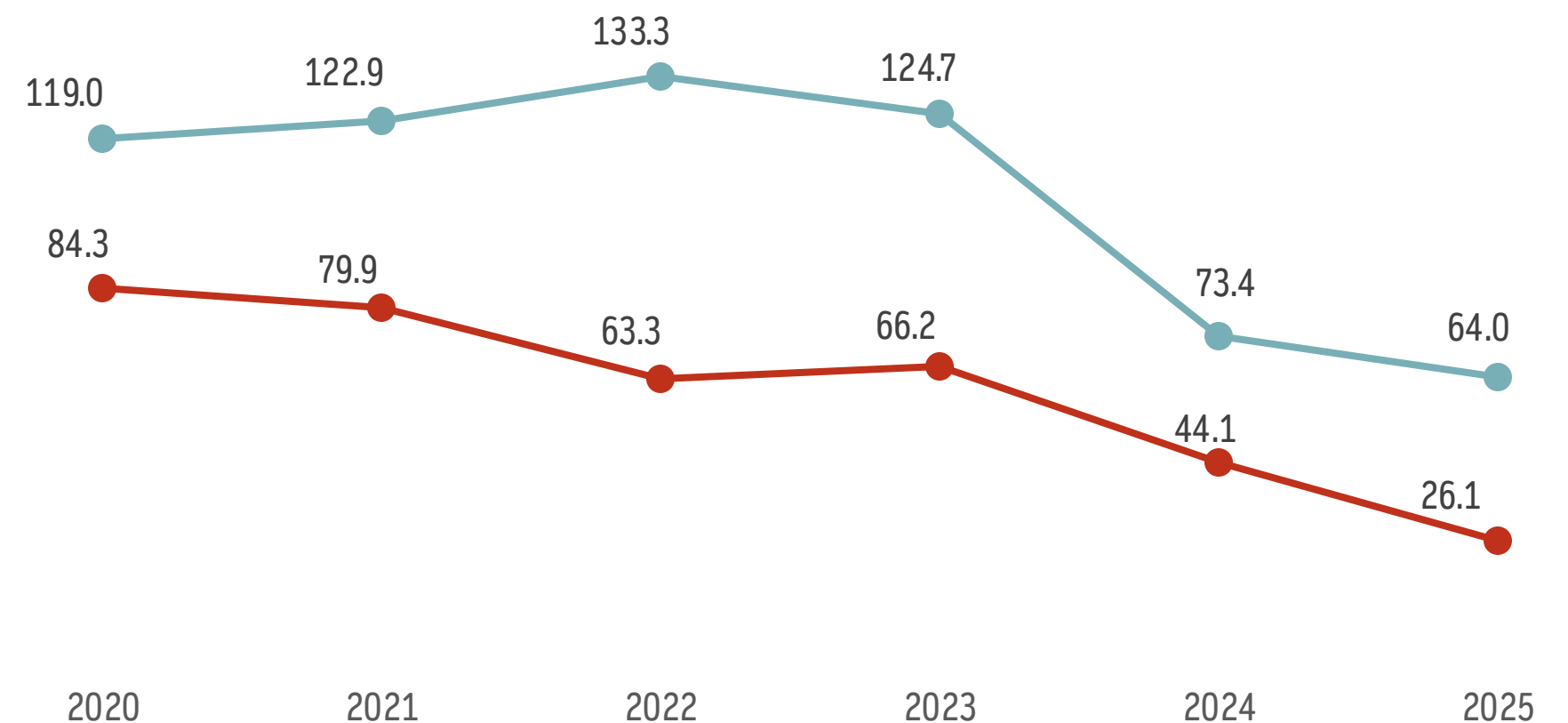


Overdoses in Franklin County

- ▶ Overdose mortality rates among Black residents have decreased at a smaller rate than for White residents.
- ▶ The percentage of overdose deaths involving a stimulant (cocaine or methamphetamine) have been increasing.
 - ▶ Cocaine was involved in 57% of overdose deaths in 2025.

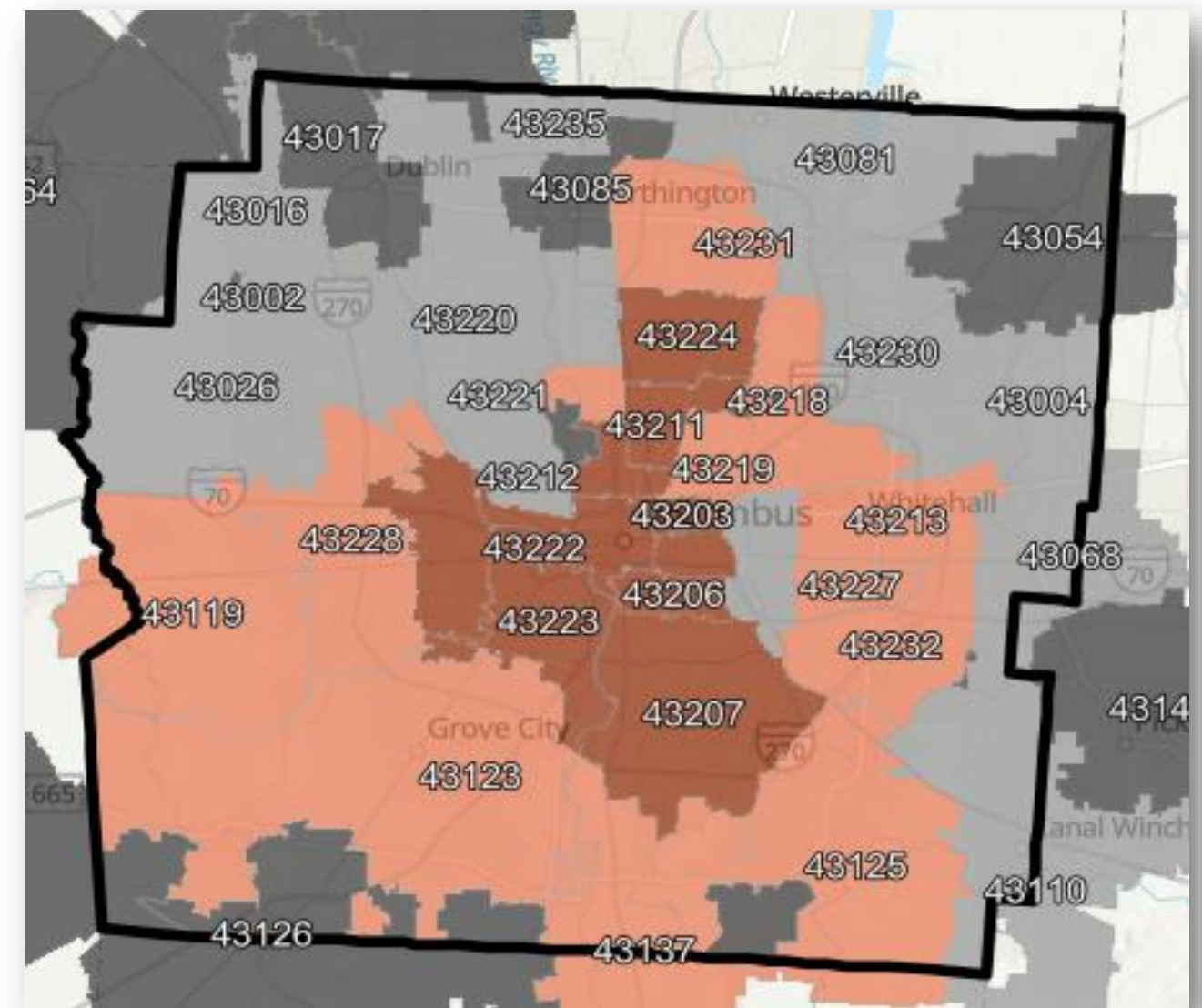
Black residents experience higher rates of overdose deaths than White residents.

Age-adjusted Drug Overdose Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population, 2020-2025.



Background: Need for timely overdose mortality data on C.A.R.E.S.

- ▶ Overdose deaths rapidly increased between 2017 and 2020.
- ▶ Overdose rates vary by zip code.
- ▶ Main data source was the finalized mortality dataset from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics.
 - ▶ Led to delays in data sharing due to lag times in finalizing data.



Background: Development of Franklin County C.A.R.E.S.

- ▶ A strategy from the first iteration of O.D.2.A. focused on creating an innovative surveillance system.
 - ▶ Focused on linking overdose data with risk/protective factor data.
- ▶ Wanted local data to inform how to respond to the overdose epidemic.



Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (H.C.I.)

90M+

Impacting over ninety
million lives



31+

U.S. States and
territories with H.C.I.
Platforms



**Strategic public health
services & technology
for
health equity &
community health
improvement**

18+

Years of experience



400+

Community health
assessments and
plans completed





Comprehensive **Addiction and Recovery Evaluation System**

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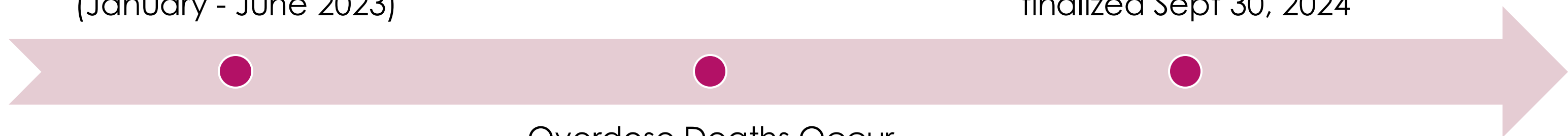
Issue We Set Out to Resolve

- ▶ No localized data system available.
- ▶ Relying on state mortality data that had significant lags being finalized.
 - ▶ Wanted to be able to update data on a quarterly basis but mortality data wouldn't be finalized for almost a year.

Overdose Deaths Occur
(January - June 2023)

All overdose mortality data
finalized Sept 30, 2024

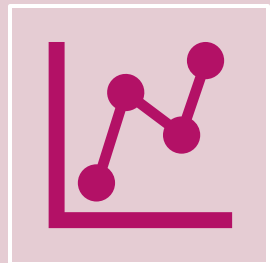
Overdose Deaths Occur
(July - December 2023)



Issue We Set Out to Resolve



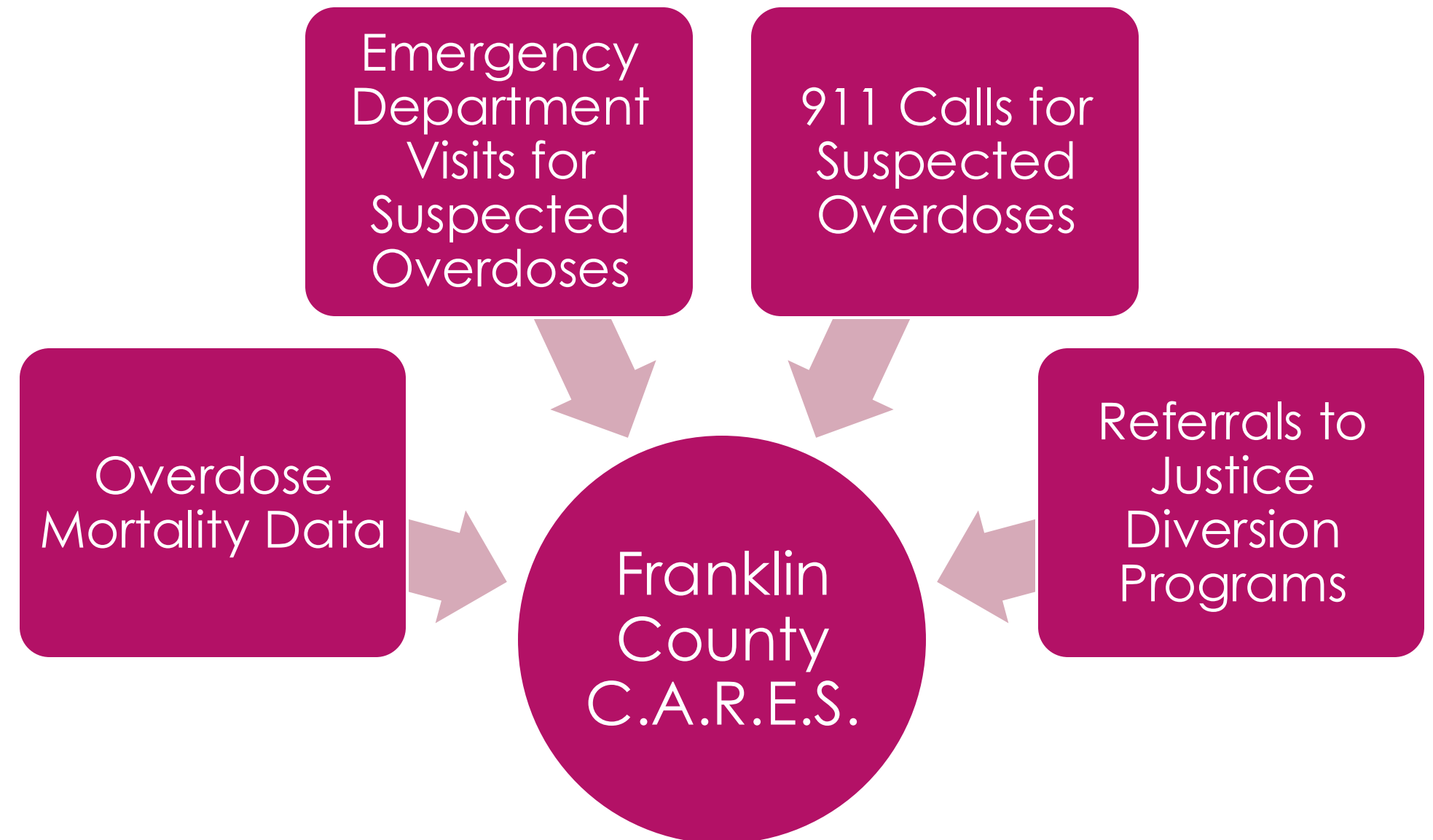
With the delayed data, it was harder to identify trends and emerging issues in a timely manner to share with partners.



No easily accessible way for partners to be able to visualize local data to better inform their work.

Background: Use of Franklin County C.A.R.E.S. since its launch

- ▶ The goal of C.A.R.E.S. is to highlight local data.
- ▶ The initial building stages of C.A.R.E.S. allowed for new and improved data sharing partnerships to form between organizations that were previously siloed.
 - ▶ Franklin County Coroner's Office
 - ▶ Franklin County Sheriff's Office
 - ▶ Columbus Fire Department
 - ▶ Supreme Court of Ohio



Partnerships to Increase Transparency

- ▶ Since the launch of C.A.R.E.S., data sharing has continued to grow and improve.
 - ▶ Data from 7 partners is now represented and displayed on the site.
- ▶ One of the biggest successes in data sharing is from the Franklin County Coroner's Office.

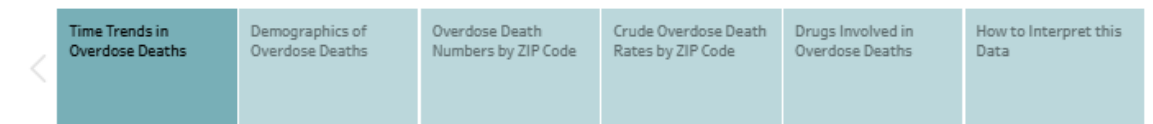


Partnerships to Increase Transparency

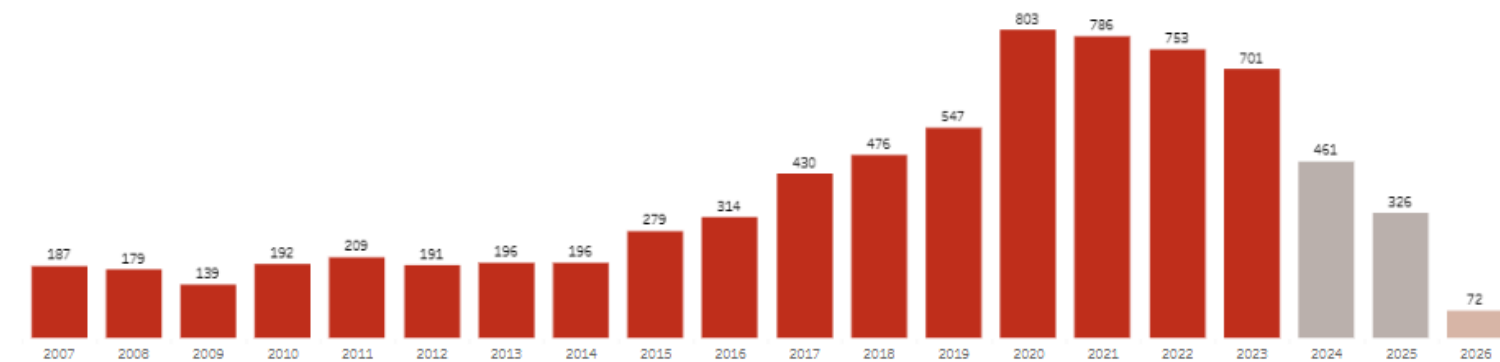
- ▶ In 2025, the Franklin County Coroner's Office began sharing closed overdose death cases monthly with FCPH.
- ▶ F.C.P.H. staff incorporated this updated data into a Tableau Dashboard that is embedded on C.A.R.E.S.
 - ▶ Dashboard is updated on a quarterly basis.

Overdose Deaths among Franklin County Residents

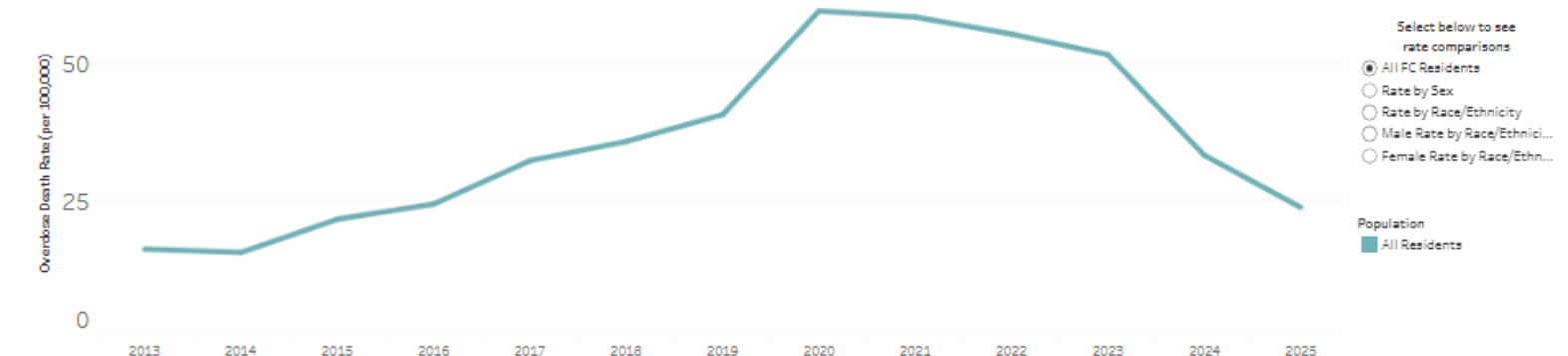
The most serious outcome for an accidental overdose is death. When a person overdoses on a drug and dies within Franklin County, the death of that person will be investigated by the Franklin County Coroner's Office in order to capture as much information about that person as possible. This includes information such as date and time of death, demographic and location data, final cause of death, and a full record of all drugs present in that person's system at their time of death. During this investigation, investigators will also note whether the death was accidental/unintentional or intentional.



Overdose deaths increased between 2014 - 2020, but have decreased since 2020.
*Data from 2024 to 2026 is preliminary and is subject to change.



Age-Adjusted Overdose Death Rate (per 100,000) among Franklin County Residents
Select a Population to view rate comparisons between different demographic groups in Franklin County



Near Real-Time Reporting

In addition to updated mortality data, C.A.R.E.S. highlights several other substance use and overdose related data:



Emergency Department Visits for Overdoses



Court-Supervised Diversion Program



Linkage to and Retention in Care

2026 Demographics

 [View all Demographic Variables](#)

Franklin

- Summary
- Population
- Race/Ethnicity
- Age
- Sex
- Households/Income
- Housing
- Education
- Employment

Summary Data for County: Franklin

Population

[See More Population Data](#)

Population

County: Franklin

1,370,238 Persons

State: Ohio 11,898,145 Persons

Percent Population Change: 2020 to 2026

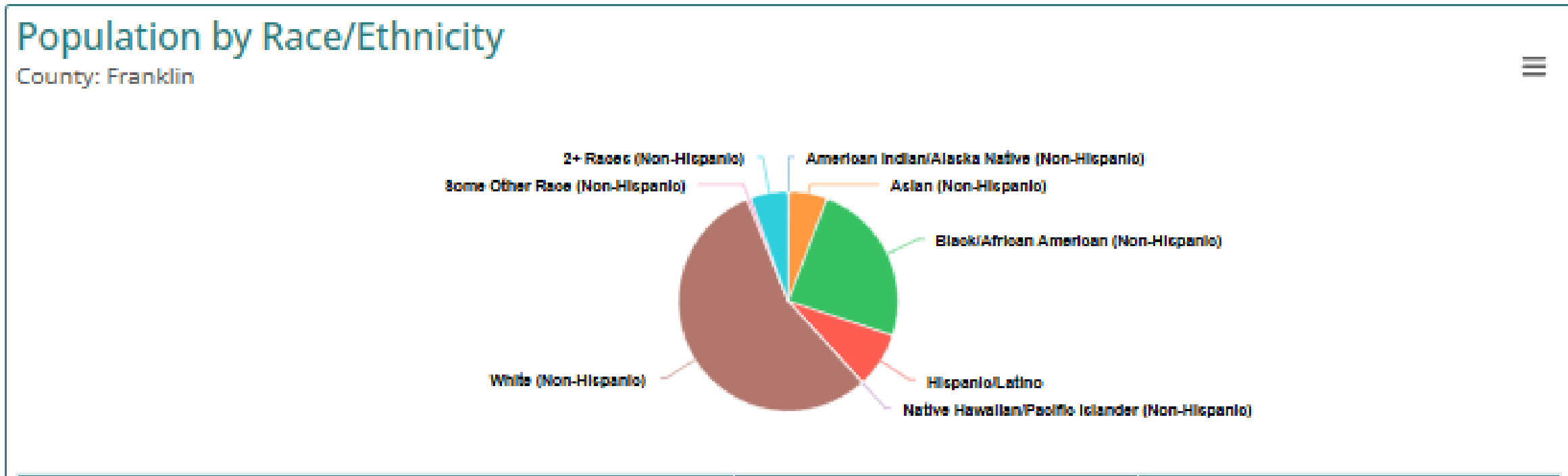
County: Franklin

3.51%

State: Ohio 0.84%

Race/Ethnicity

[See More Race/Ethnicity Data](#)



Data for
Actionable
Insights

Demographics
Dashboard

Bexley Profile

This dashboard provides information on the city of Bexley, offering a view of the health conditions, community factors, economy, educational background, and environmental health of Bexley and its residents. While much of this data does not directly address overdose, addiction, and recovery, these factors can help to describe the health and social context in which addiction and recovery occur.

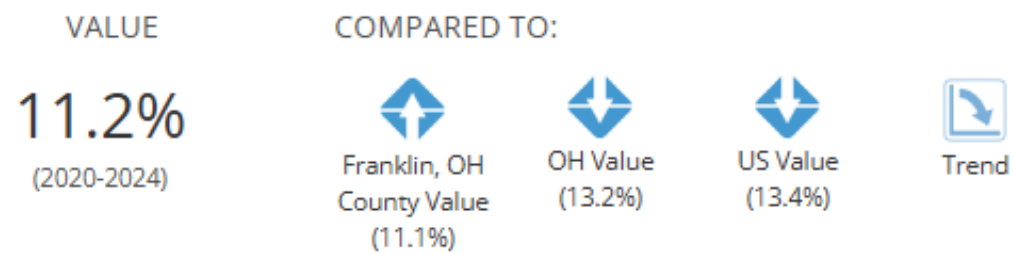
The dropdown menu below can be used to look through all available indicators and choose one of interest. This menu also has a search bar if you are interested in looking for a particular topic. Clicking on one of the indicators below will take you to a Details page for that indicator where you can learn more about how the indicator is defined, see the source of the data, and view changes in the indicator over time. Information about how to interpret the numbers and images within indicators is available in the Legend, accessible by clicking the "See the Legend" button on the left side of the page.

If you are looking for additional information about Bexley and cannot find it on this page, please consider navigating to the United States Census Bureau's profile of Bexley, linked below. This page will allow you to see more demographic information about Bexley than may currently be available through CARES.
[Bexley.](#)

Adults 65+ with a Hearing Difficulty



Census Place: Bexley



Data for Actionable Insights

Community Profiles

Overdose Deaths among Franklin County Residents

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<

Time Trends in Overdose Deaths

Demographics of Overdose Deaths

Overdose Deaths Numbers by ZIP Code

Crude Overdose Death Rates by ZIP Code

Drugs Involved in Overdose Deaths

How to Interpret this Data

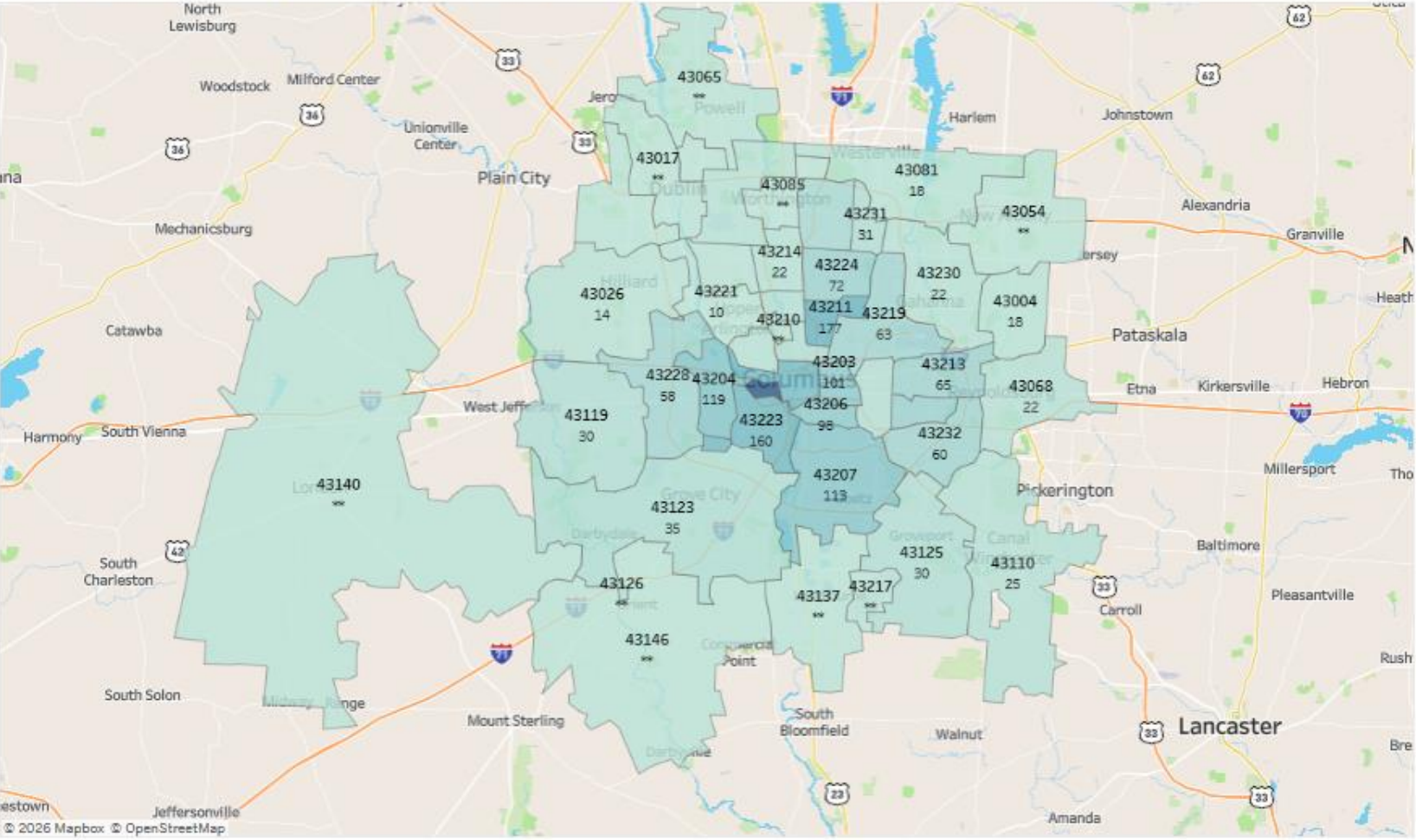
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Overdose death rates (per 100,000) by zip code in 2020-2025

*Data from 2025 includes closed cases of Franklin County resident overdose deaths from the Franklin County Coroner's Office through <Month Updated> 2025 and are considered preliminary and are subject to change. Data for 2024 from Vital Statistics is also currently considered preliminary are subject to change.
**Rate values are censored if fewer than 20 cases occurred within that zip code.

Select a year

2020-2025



Data for Actionable Insights

Embedded Overdose Data

Mental Health Index

Location: Franklin

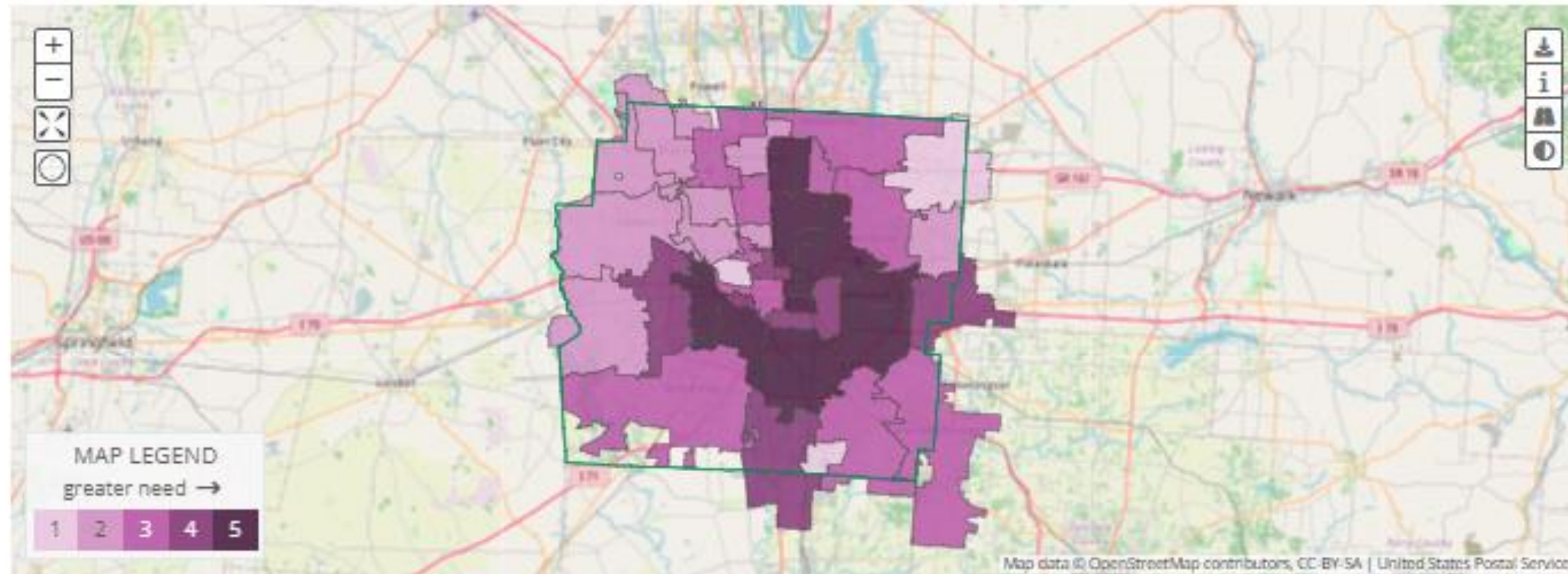
Show by: Zip Code

Period: 2026 (most recent)

The **2026 Mental Health Index**, created by [Conduent Healthy Communities Institute](#), is a measure of socioeconomic and health factors correlated with self-reported poor mental health. The index is part of Conduent's [SocioNeeds Index® Suite](#), which provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes for a range of topics.

All zip codes, census tracts, counties, and county equivalents in the United States are given an **index value** from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need). To help you find the areas of highest need in your community, the selected locations are **ranked** from 1 (low need) to 5 (high need) based on their index value relative to similar locations within the region.

[Learn more about the Mental Health Index](#)



Data for Actionable Insights

Conduent H.C.I.'s Mental Health Index

Find Treatment and Support that Works for YOU



Connect with Community Health Workers at Franklin County Public Health



Speak With Peers to Be Linked to Care by People Who Have Been Where You Are



Find Treatment Resources and Free Narcan with Recover for Life



Access Medical Screening and Linkage to Care in Franklinton with SAFER Station



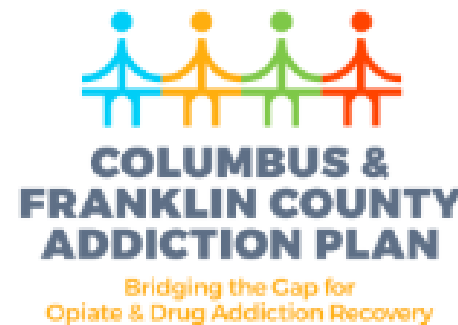
Treatment Entry, Case Management, and Recovery Support with CFD RREACT



Harm Reduction Resources and Syringe Services through Equitas Health Safe Point



Search for Addiction, Mental Health, and Support Services Supported by ADAMH



Learn how Columbus and Franklin County are Responding to the Overdose Crisis

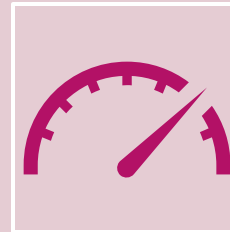
Resources for your Overall Well-Being

When thinking about how to address substance use and addiction, it is important to remember that different people will have different needs depending on their unique situations. These circumstances can affect how people navigate their journey to

Data for Actionable Insights

Recovery & Support Resources

Results



Reduced reporting lag from 12+ months to 1-3 months.



Interactive maps allow the public to easily visualize data to identify geographic hotspots.



Able to include a wider range of substance-use data that previously wasn't available.

Results: Community Impact

- ▶ Since implementation, F.C.P.H. asks for feedback on C.A.R.E.S. from community partners on a yearly basis.
 - ▶ Want to know if organizations are using the data.
 - ▶ What data they use most often.
 - ▶ What data is missing.
 - ▶ Any barriers or issues they experience with the site.



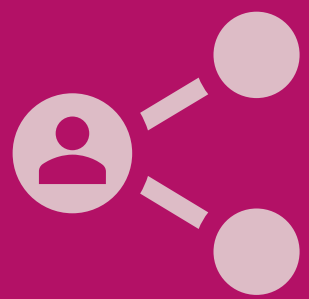
Results: Community Impact

One partner from The African American Male Wellness Agency (A.A.M.W.A.) said

“This data allowed us to conduct an in-depth analysis of each zip code’s demographics, as outlined on the website. Additionally, we shared key insights on overdose trends and emergency visits from recent years, fostering community awareness. The website has been an essential tool in refining our prevention and education strategies, ultimately contributing to stigma reduction within the community.”



Barriers



Maintaining long-term data sharing.

- Staff turnover
- Data/technical capacity



Receiving actionable feedback from partners to improve the site.



Effectively managing and improving data processes.

Looking Ahead

Future Goals:

- ▶ Expand the range of data indicators showcasing social determinants of poor behavioral health outcomes, including adverse childhood experiences and unmet mental health care needs.
- ▶ Paint a wider reaching picture of the drivers of opioid misuse and overdose risk that can further support community action and partnership and enable a more holistic approach to overdose prevention.



Looking Ahead

Future Goals:

- ▶ Utilize the H.C.I. Platform Story Tool to highlight the work being done by F.C.P.H. and partners to address substance use and overdoses in the county.
- ▶ While data for cities in Franklin County is available on C.A.R.E.S., data for townships is not as available.
 - ▶ Township roll-ups are in process and will be added to the site in 2026.



Key Takeaways

Real-time mortality data integration combined with visualization and storytelling is a replicable strategy for communities seeking to accelerate overdose prevention.

We recommend leveraging technology platforms that offer interactive mapping and narrative tools to make data meaningful and actionable for diverse audiences.

Common Questions Answered

1. How were some of these cross-sector partnerships initiated?
2. What has kept partners engaged over time?
3. What kinds of barriers or challenges have you faced working across sectors?
4. Is there anything you wish would have gone differently?
5. Who do you see engaging with the data today?
6. Have you seen interest in the opioid crisis change over time? If so, how?
7. What community actions have the data influenced?
8. What are you most proud of so far with this work?

Thank You!

Contact Us:

Elizabeth Bobo, Conduent Healthy Communities Institute: Elizabeth.Bobo@conduent.com

Logan Legg, Franklin County Public Health: LoganLegg@Franklincountyohio.gov

Stop by at NACCHO360!

- Find Elizabeth with Conduent H.C.I. at Booth 216 in the Exhibit Hall!



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