

BRIDGE Erie to Harm Reduction Overdose Data Updates March 2026



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Overview

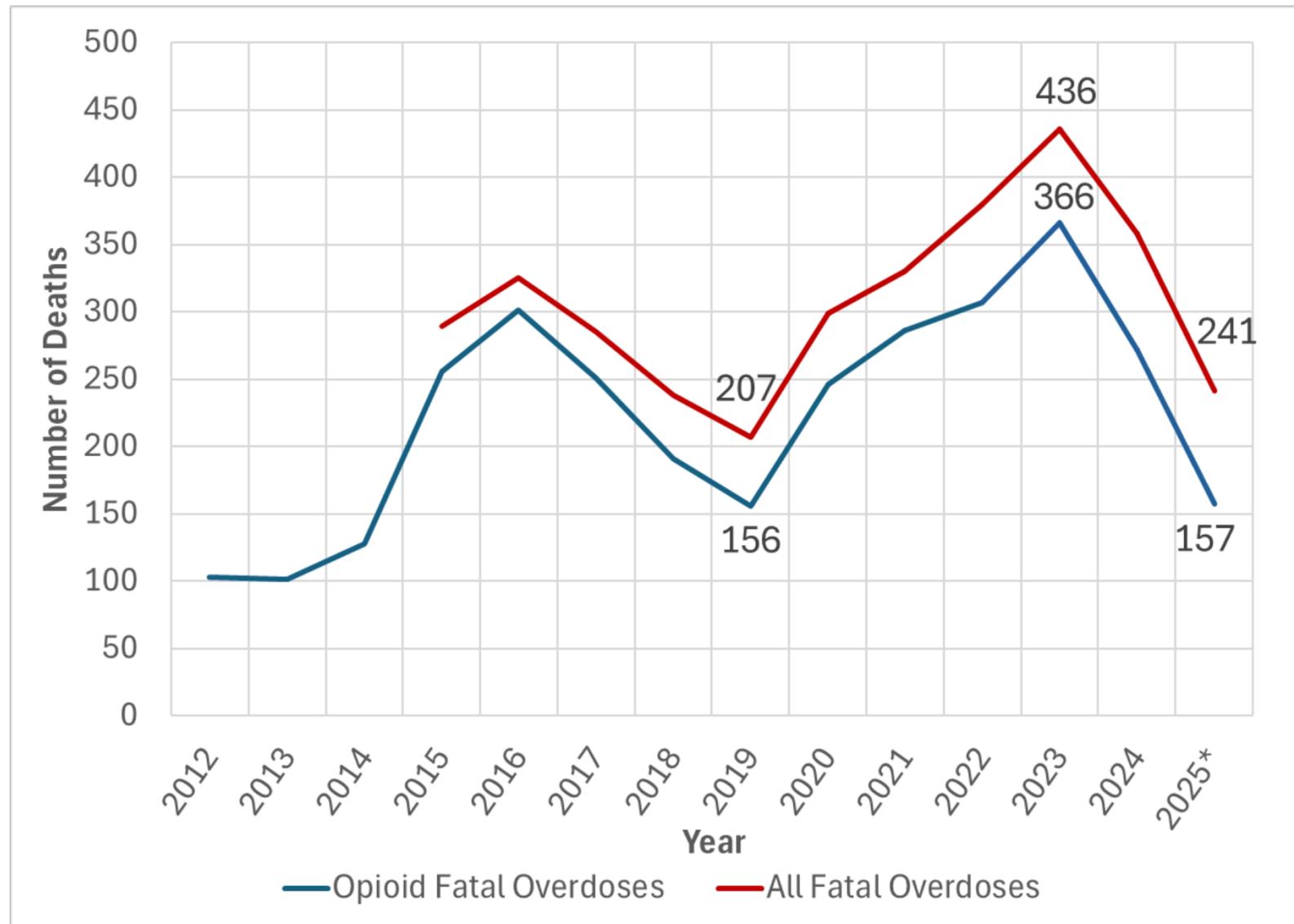
- February Q&A Response
- Total Overdose Deaths
- Comparison to State and National Trends in Overdose Deaths
- Quarter-Quarter Change in Overdose Deaths by ZIP Code
- Overdose Death Demographics
- Overdose Death Toxicology
- Alcohol Related Deaths
- Non-Fatal Overdose Reports Over Time
- Overdose Locations vs. Drug Busts
- Upcoming Events

February Q&A

- Q: Have we seen medetomidine in Erie County?
- A: Yes, but not in recent data. It was detected in 4 samples seized in June-July 2025. A recent batch of samples containing data from November 2025 through February 2026 shows no detections of medetomidine.
- Source: Erie County Central Police Services drug seizure data

Overdose Deaths, 2012–2025

2012 – 2025 NUMBER OF OVERDOSE RELATED DEATHS ERIE COUNTY



2025 Overdose Deaths

- 241 total as of 3/18/2026
 - All cases confirmed!
 - 33% decrease from 2024
 - 157 opioid related, 84 non-opioid related

2026 Overdose Deaths

- 23 confirmed, 31 probable

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

Comparison to State Trends

- Year-over-Year, October 2025

- Erie County: 37% Decrease!

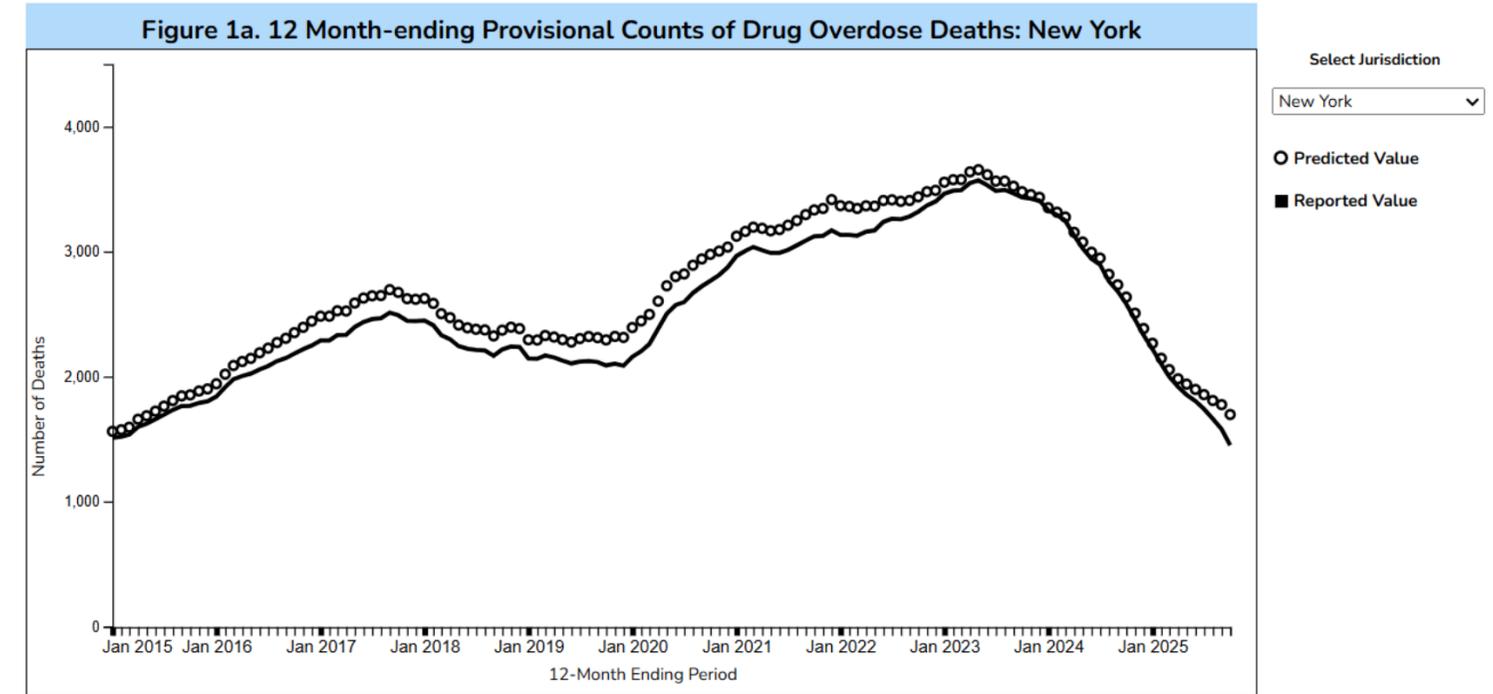
- 385 deaths  241 deaths within 12-month period

- New York State: 36% Decrease

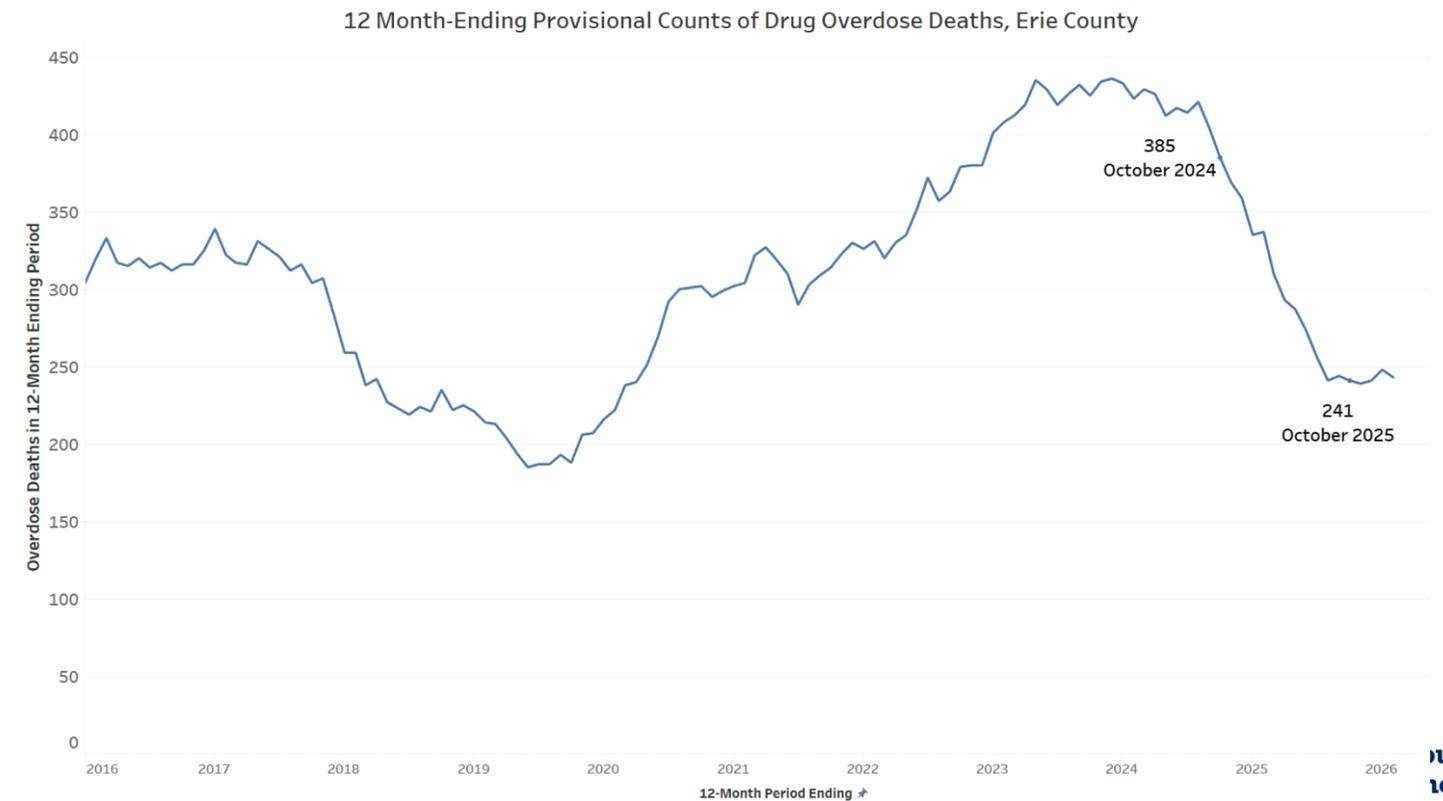
- United States: 17% Decrease

12 Month-Ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: March 1, 2026

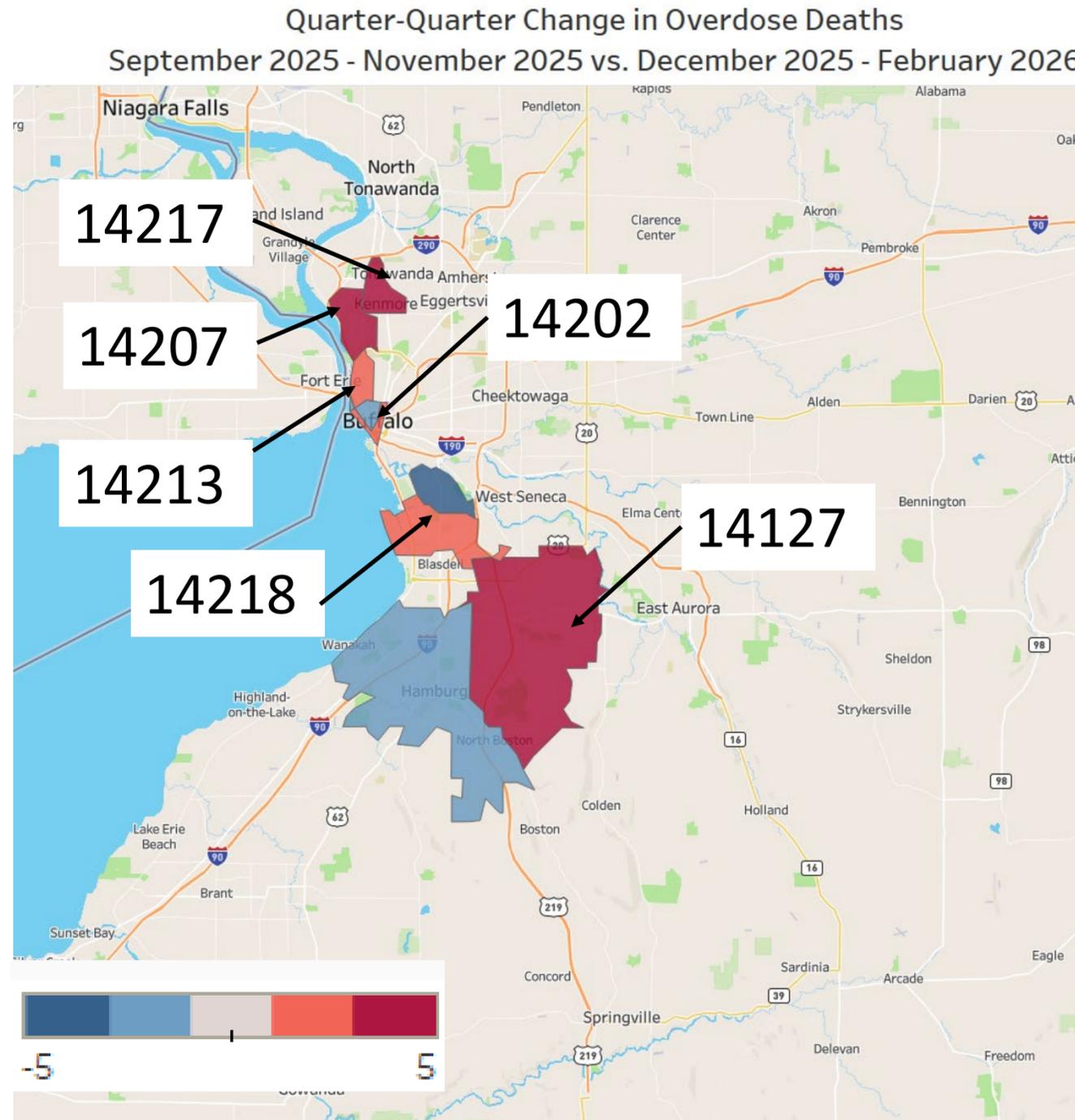


Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>



SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE . CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

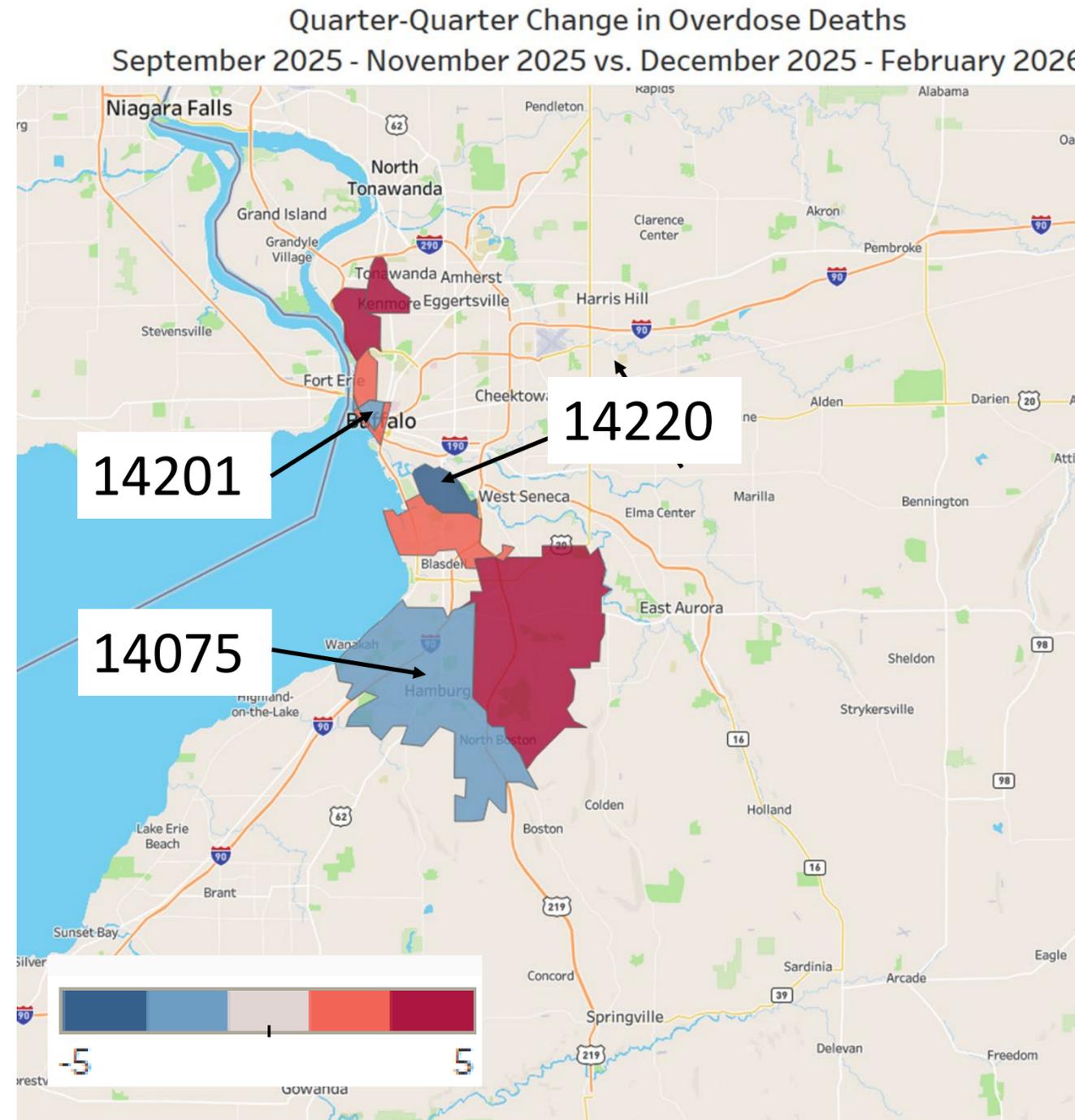
Overdose Deaths by ZIP Code



- Quarter - Quarter Change in Overdose Deaths
 - September - November vs. December - February
 - Overdose deaths increased (red):
 - City of Buffalo
 - 14207 (Black Rock/Riverside)
 - 14213 (West Side)
 - 14202 (Downtown)
 - Other jurisdictions
 - 14217 (Kenmore)
 - 14127 (Orchard Park)
 - 14218 (Lackawanna)

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

Overdose Deaths by ZIP Code

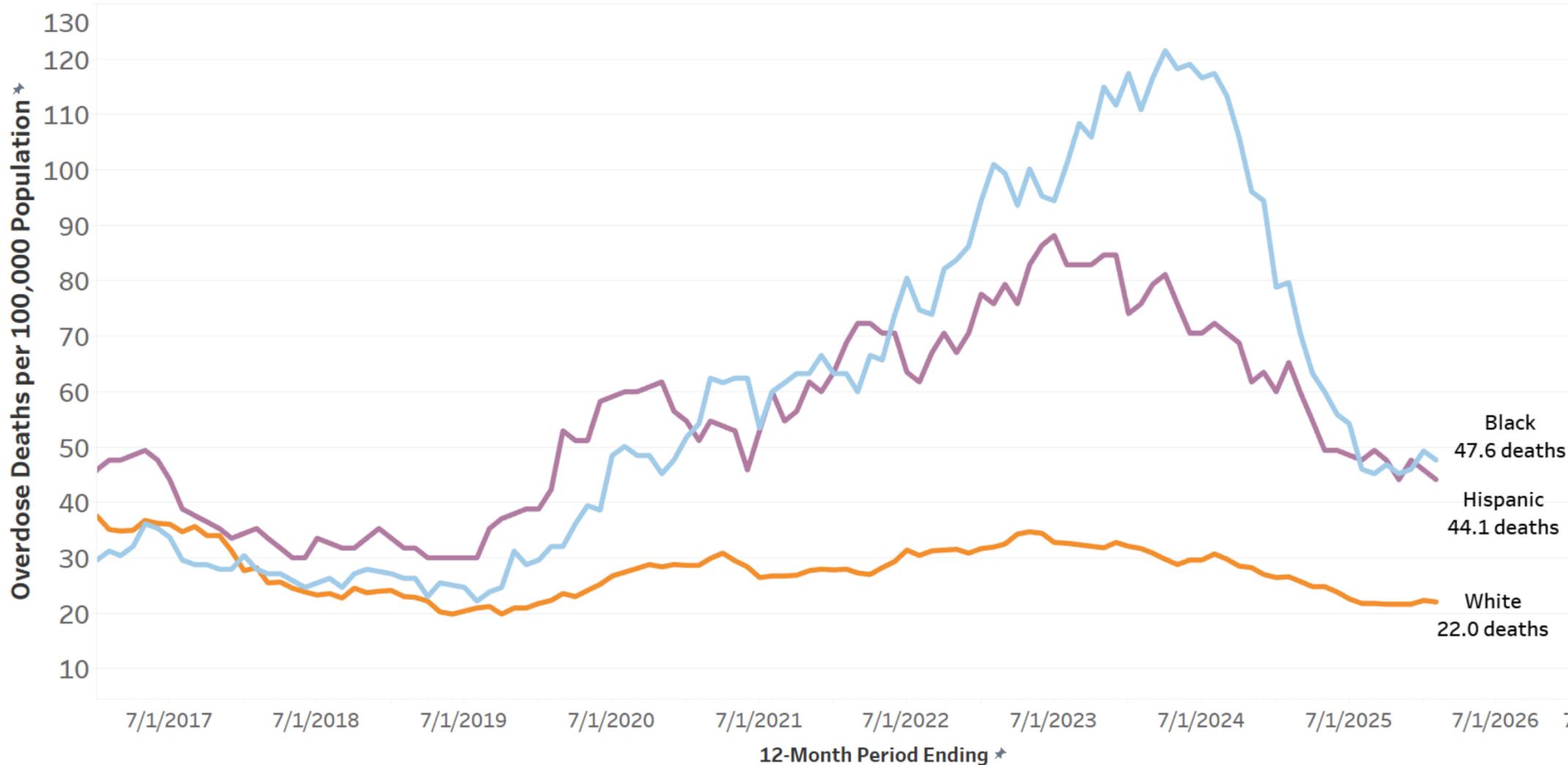


- Quarter - Quarter Change in Overdose Deaths
 - September - November vs. December - February
 - Overdose deaths decreased (blue):
 - City of Buffalo
 - 14201 (Lower West Side)
 - 14220 (South Buffalo)
 - Other jurisdictions
 - 14075 (Hamburg)

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

Overdose Death Demographics

Population-Adjusted Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity
12-Month Average
2017 - February 2026



- Black
- Hispanic
- White

- Bigger gap between lines = bigger disparity
- Disparity largest in mid-2024
- Decreased rapidly through mid-2025
- Decline stagnated, currently similar rates among Black and Hispanic populations

*OTHER RACE CATEGORIES EXCLUDED DUE TO LIMITED DATA

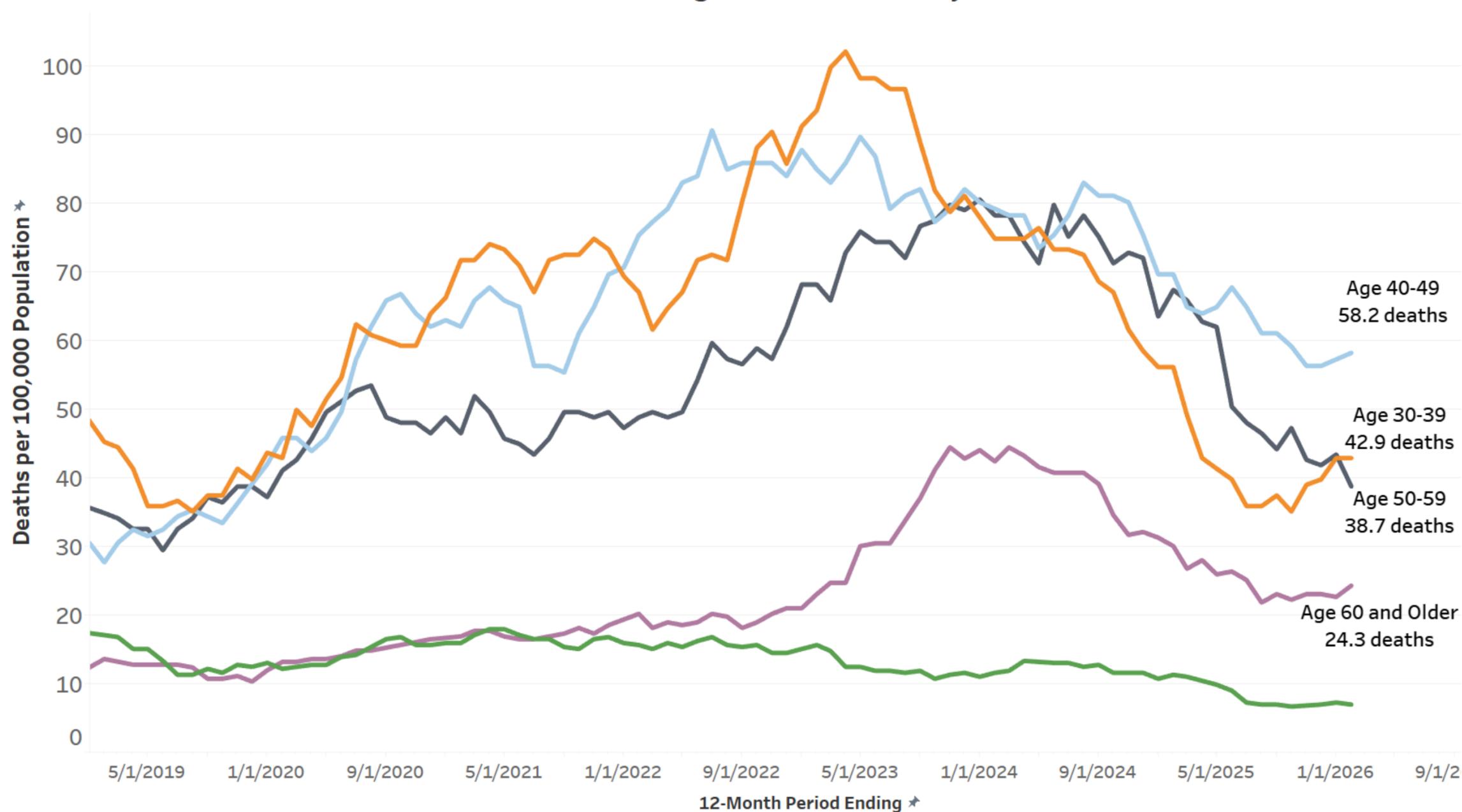
SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Overdose Death Demographics: Age

Population-Adjusted Overdose Deaths by Age Group
12-Month Average, 2020 - February 2026



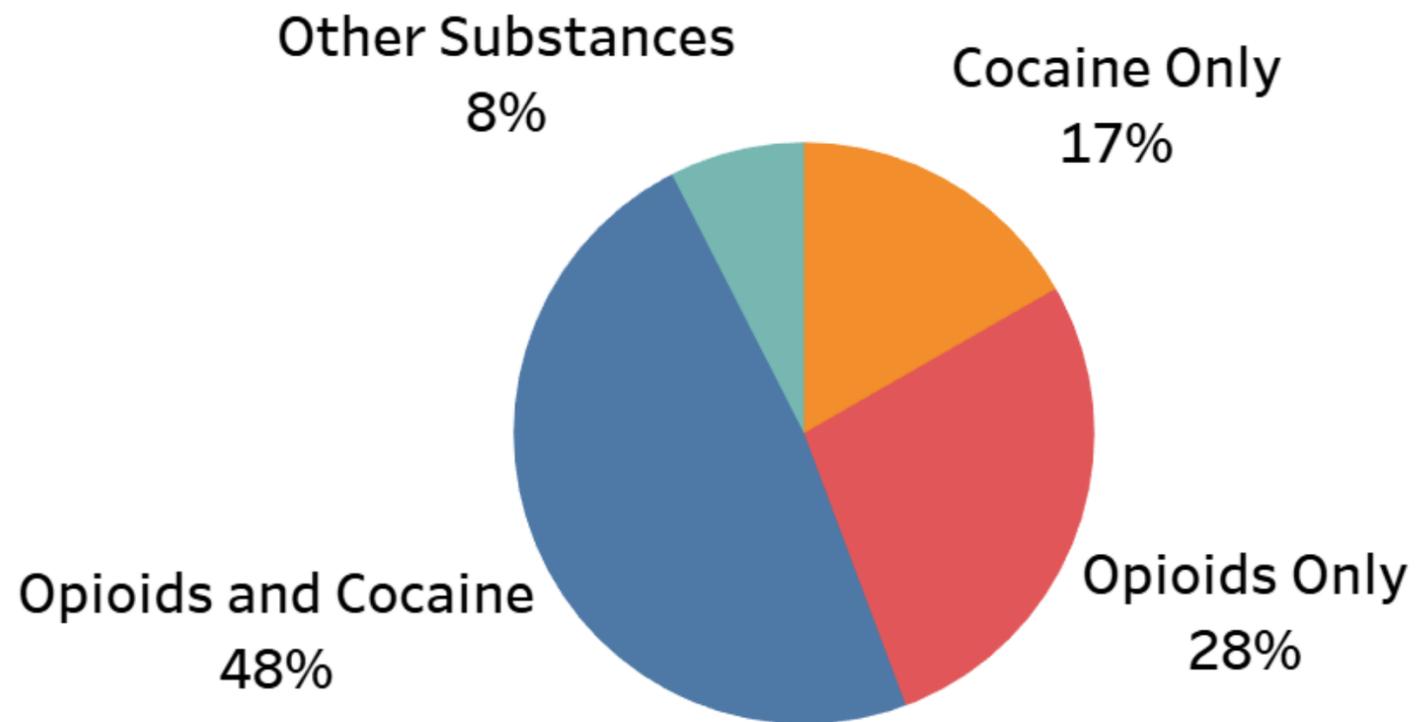
- Ages 40-49 most disproportionately affected
- 50-59 continues to decline
- 30-39 has increased in recent months



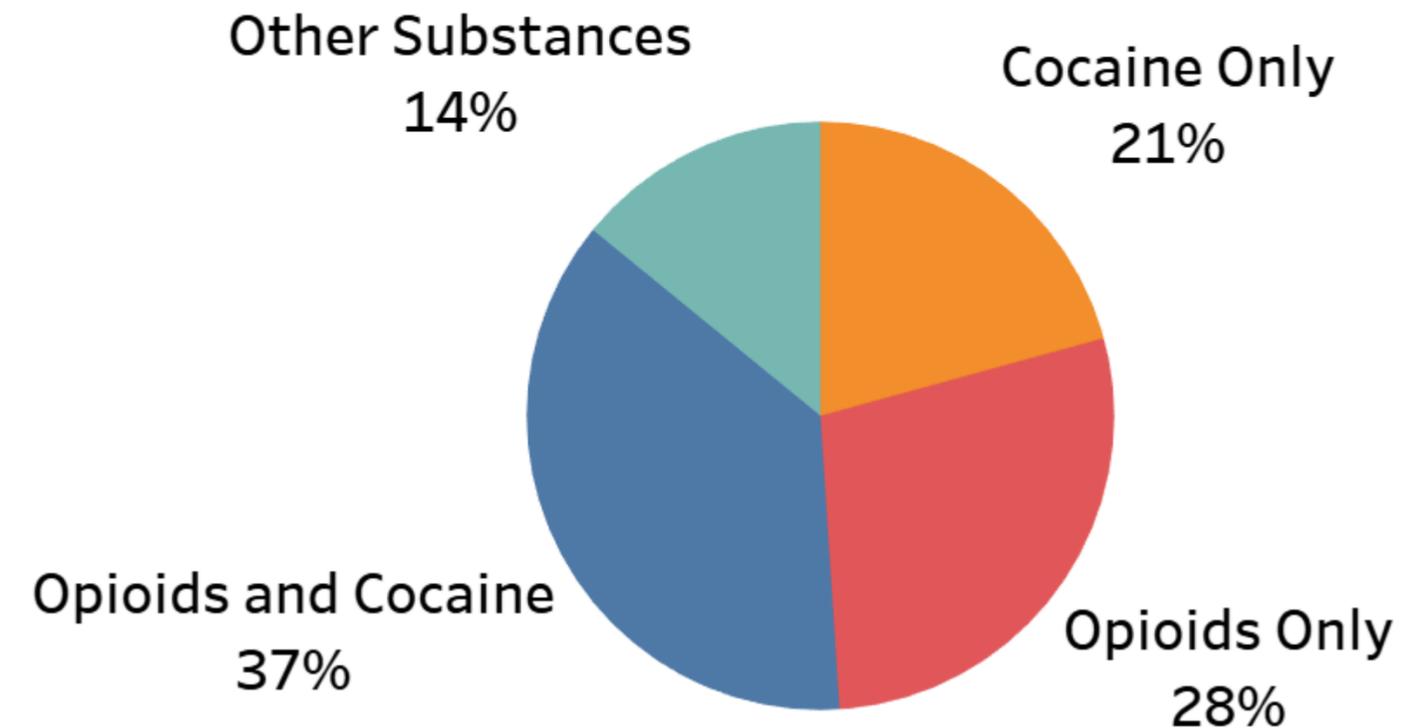
SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

Overdose Death Toxicology

Substances Detected among Overdose Deaths
2024



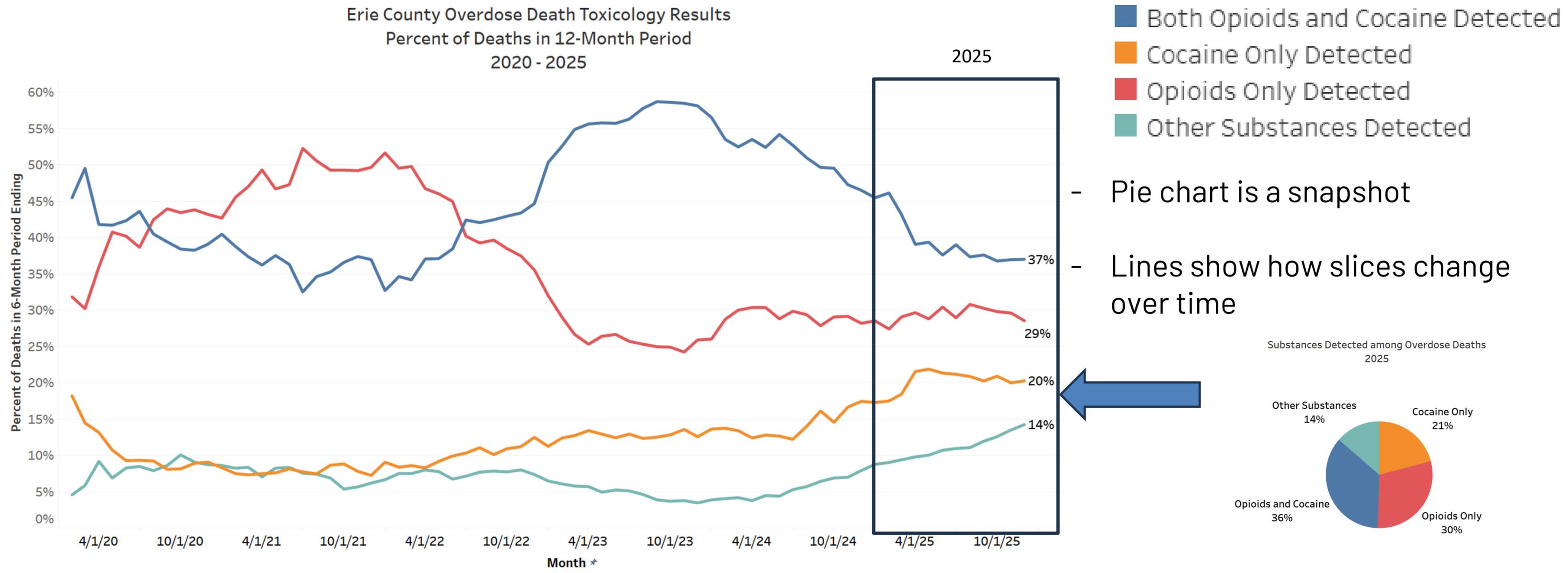
Substances Detected among Overdose Deaths
2025



- 21% cocaine w/o opioids in 2025, up from 17% in 2024
- Overdose deaths related to both opioids and cocaine fell from 48% to 37% from 2024 - 2025

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026.

Overdose Death Toxicology

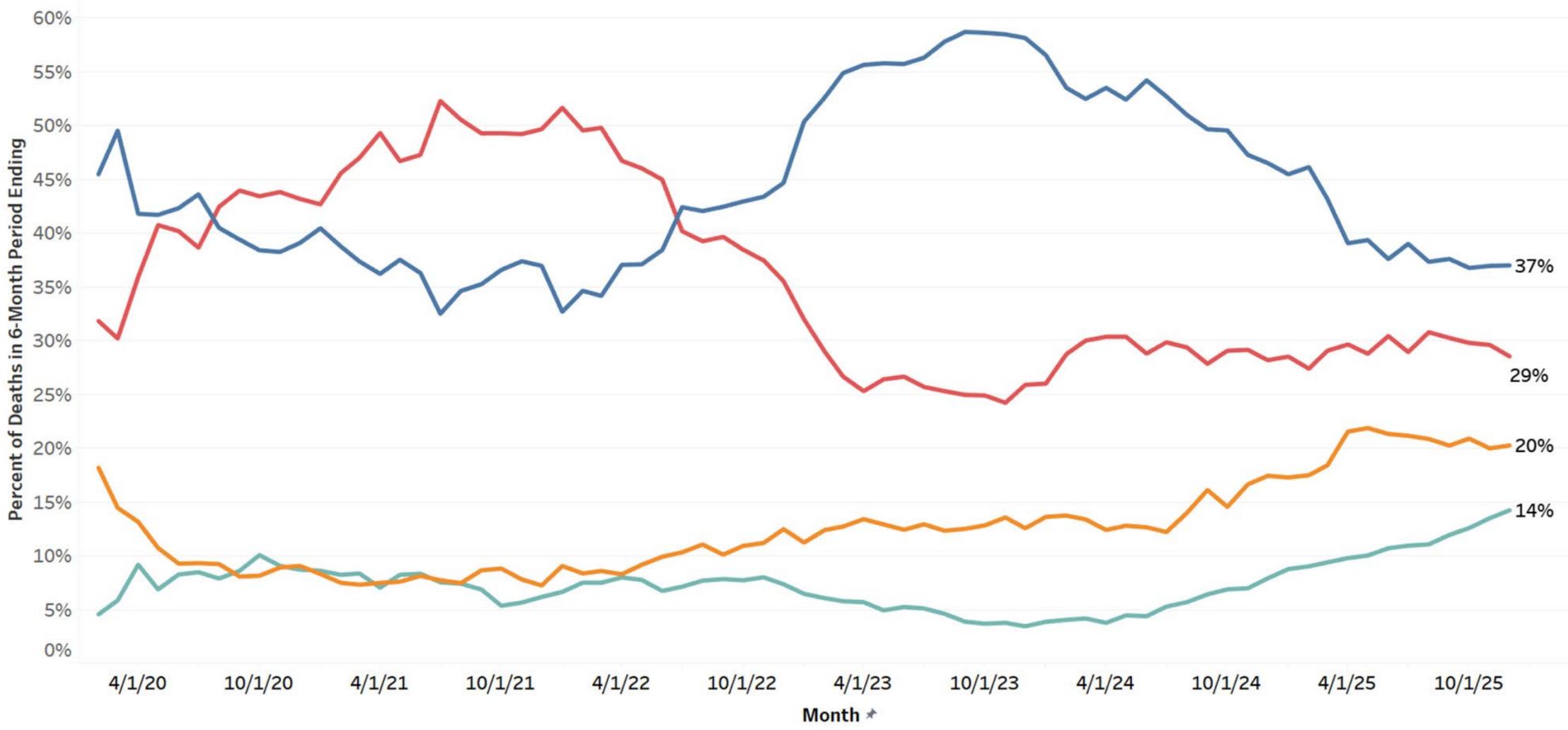


SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026. .

Overdose Death Toxicology

Erie County Overdose Death Toxicology Results
Percent of Deaths in 12-Month Period
2020 - 2025

- Both Opioids and Cocaine Detected
- Cocaine Only Detected
- Opioids Only Detected
- Other Substances Detected

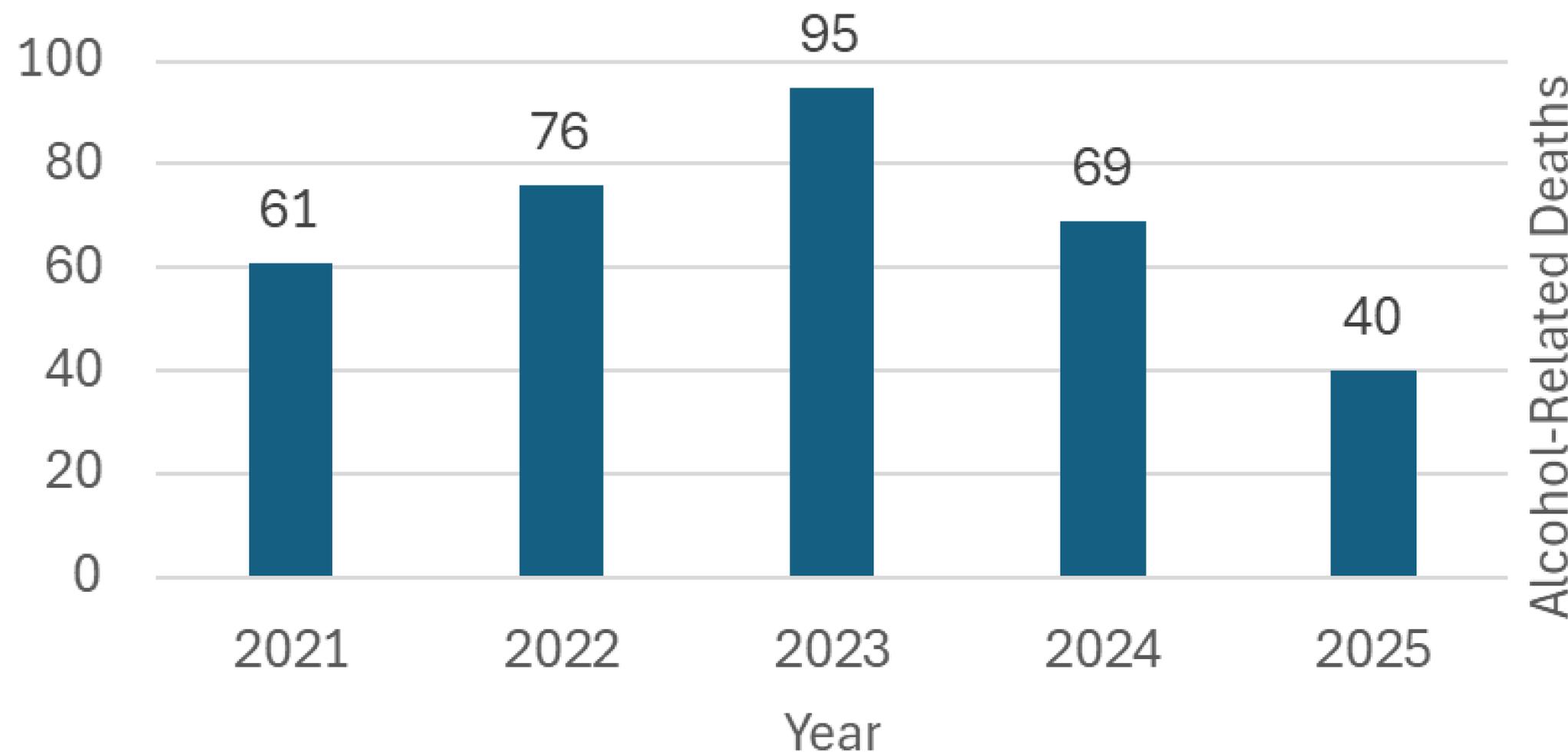


- "Other substances" gradually rising
- Opioids, cocaine stagnating

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026. .

Alcohol-Related Deaths

Alcohol Related Overdose Deaths
Erie County, 2021 - 2025

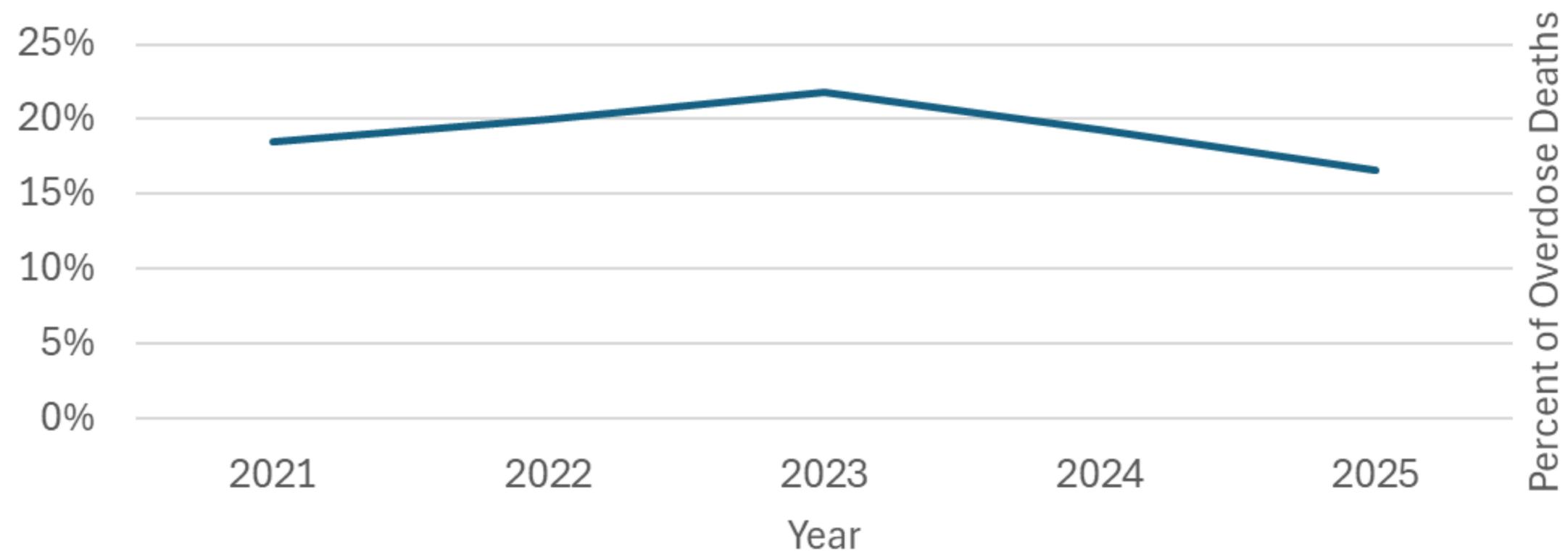


- Alcohol-related deaths peaked in 2023
- Declined significantly in 2024 and 2025

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

Alcohol-Related Deaths

Percent of Erie County Overdose Deaths Related to Alcohol
2021 - 2025

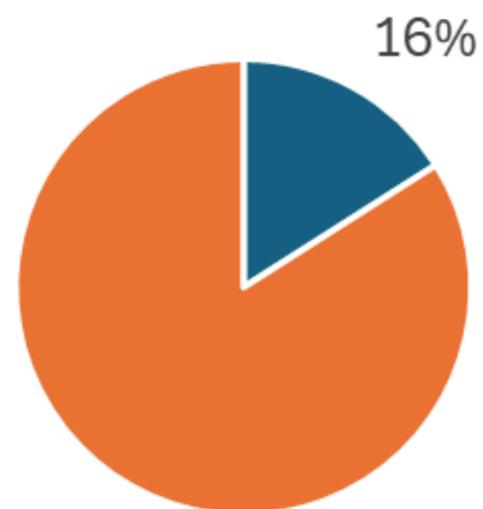


- Approx. 20% of Erie County overdose deaths related to alcohol over past 5 years
- Alcohol related deaths usually also involve other substances such as cocaine and fentanyl

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE
*CASES REPORTED THRU 3/18/2026

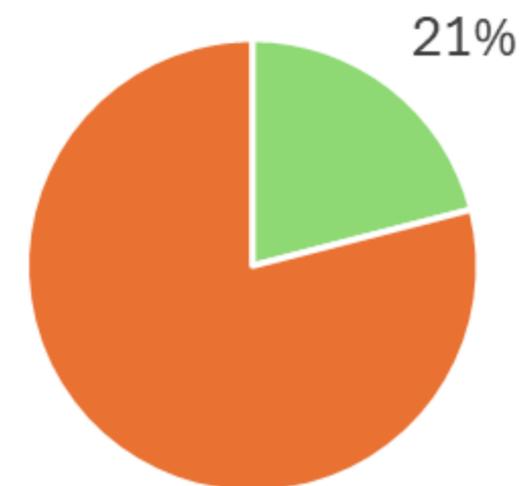
Alcohol-Related Deaths

Percent of Fentanyl Deaths Also Related to Alcohol
Erie County, 2025



■ Related to Alcohol ■ Not Related to Alcohol

Percent of Cocaine Deaths Also Related to Alcohol
Erie County, 2025



■ Related to Alcohol ■ Not Related to Alcohol

- In 2025, 16% of fentanyl deaths and 21% of cocaine deaths were also related to alcohol

Non-Fatal Overdose Reports 2022 - Present

Data based on police reports compiled by High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Office (HIDTA) and tabulated by Office of Harm Reduction (OHR)



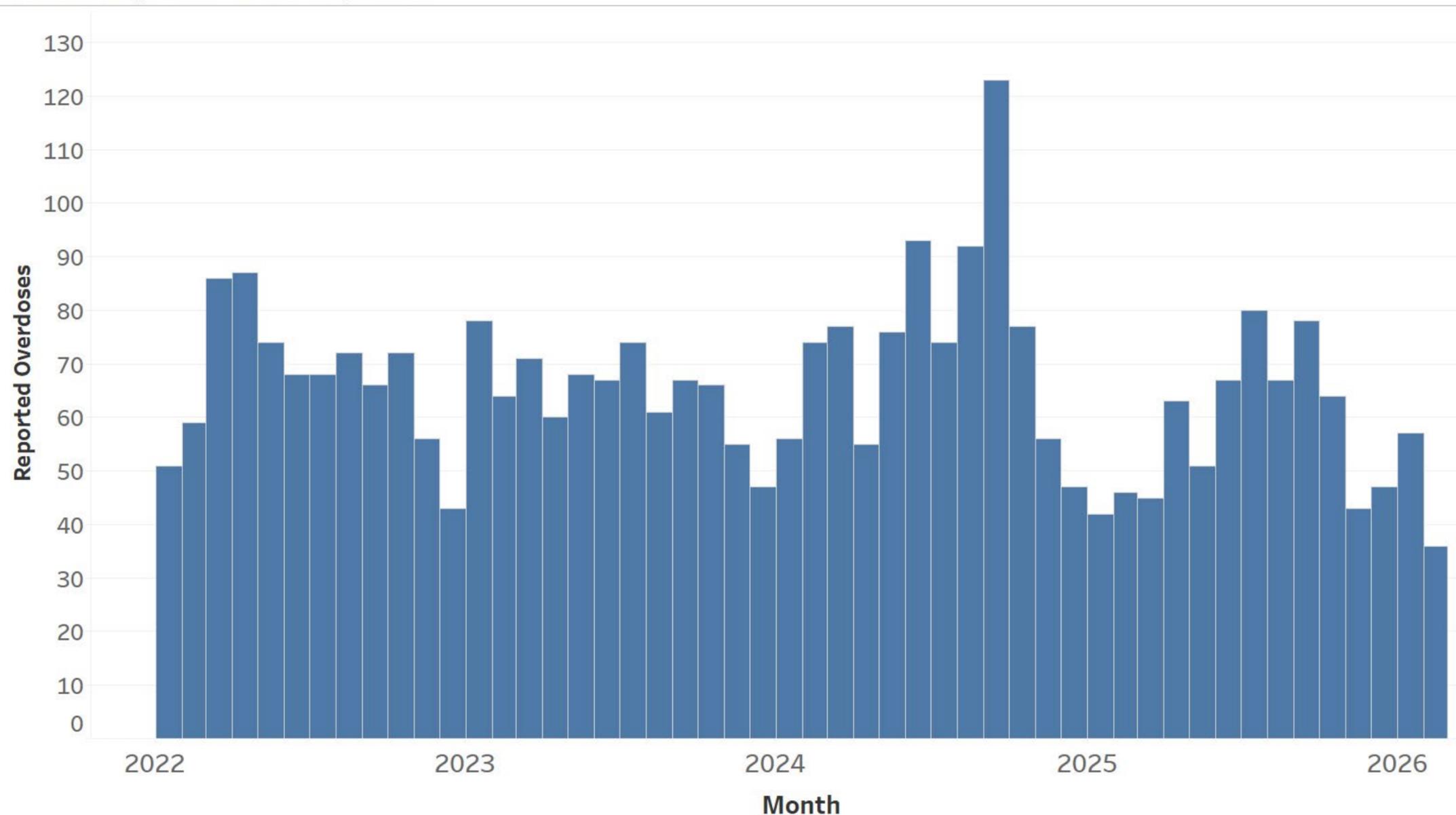
**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Non-Fatal Overdoses, 2022 to Present

Non-Fatal Overdoses Reported by Month
Erie County 2022 - February 2026

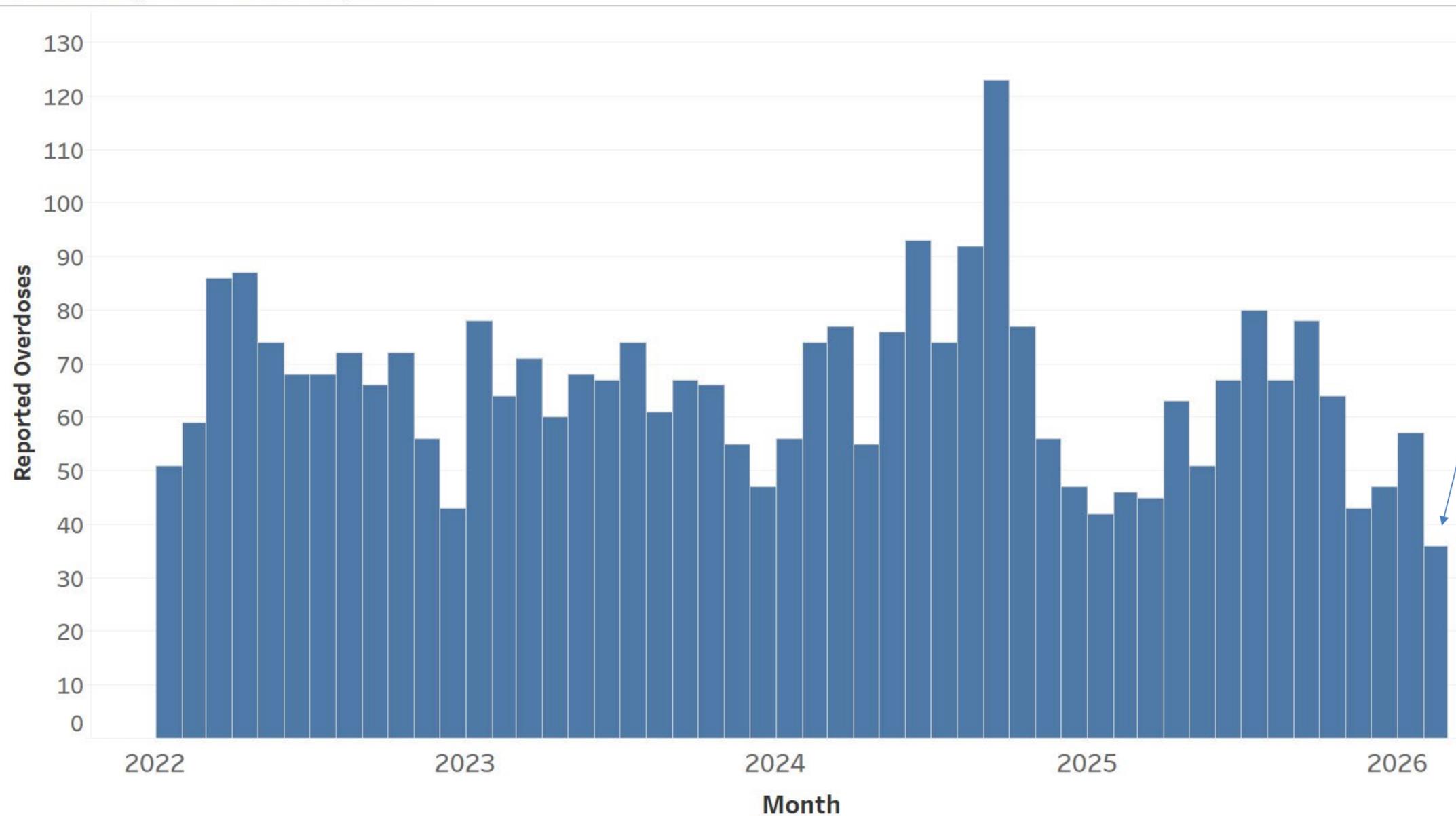


- OHR receives OD reports daily from HIDTA
- Aggregated from law enforcement reports and EMS calls
- Used for follow-up after OD and planning outreach
- Not all overdoses are reported

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY HIDTA OFFICE, REPORTS AS OF 2/28/2026

Non-Fatal Overdoses, 2022 to Present

Non-Fatal Overdoses Reported by Month
Erie County 2022 - February 2026



- Significant decrease in February, after increase in January
- February was among quietest months on record

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY HIDTA OFFICE, REPORTS AS OF 2/28/2026

Overdose Trends vs. Recent Drug Busts

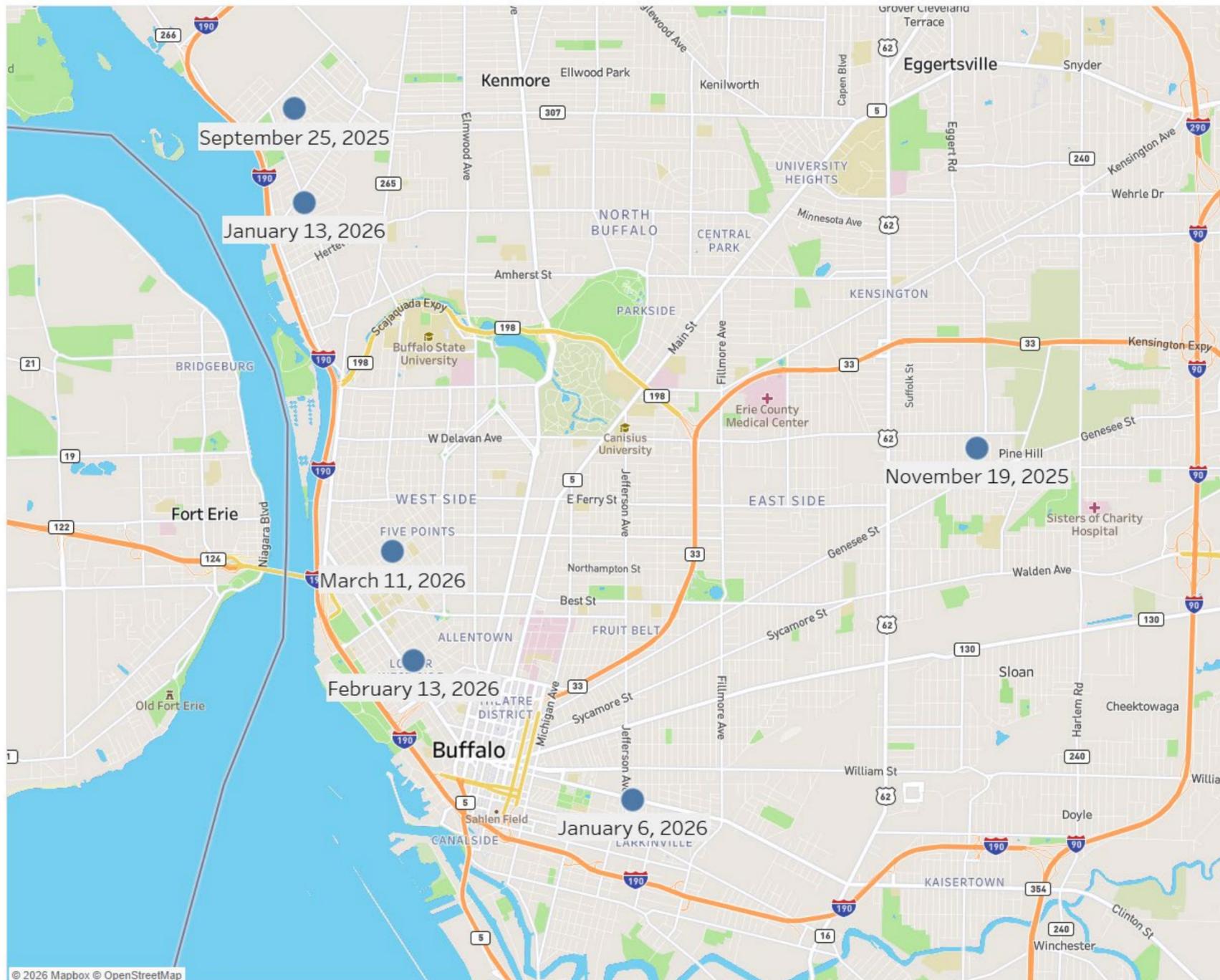
Spatiotemporal Analysis Exploring the Effect of Law Enforcement Drug Market Disruptions on Overdose, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2020–2021

[Spatiotemporal Analysis Exploring the Effect of Law Enforcement Drug Market Disruptions on Overdose, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2020–2021 | AJPH | Vol. 113 Issue 7](#)

- Study published in 2023 showed increased clustering of overdoses after the occurrence of law enforcement drug seizures
- We are investigating if we see similar trends in Erie County data

Overdose Trends vs. Recent Drug Busts

Locations of Recent BPD Drug Busts



- Drug busts conducted by law enforcement are publicized via press releases
- We will use heat maps to investigate bust occurring on 11/19/2025
 - Locations of overdose reports 6 weeks before vs. 6 weeks after

Overdose Trends vs. Recent Drug Busts



CHRISTOPHER P. SCANLON
Mayor of Buffalo
ALPHONSO WRIGHT
Commissioner

BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2025

CONTACT: Timothy Richards
tdrichards@bpdny.org

BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES a search warrant was conducted on Erb Street on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Three loaded weapons, \$1,016 in cash, approximately 69 grams of fentanyl, approximately 6 grams of cocaine, a bag of multi-colored pills, three scales, and narcotic packaging materials were recovered. Two arrests were made.

The search warrant was signed by the Honorable Judge Carrie Phillips and conducted by E district detectives, Narcotics detectives, and Buffalo Police SWAT. The weapons recovered were a SCCY 9mm handgun loaded with 8 rounds, a Maverick 12-gauge shotgun loaded with 4 rounds, and a Savage 243 Rifle loaded with 3 rounds.

- Press release includes approximate location, date, all materials seized
- 11/19/2025 bust on Erb St. found fentanyl, cocaine, assorted pills, and packaging materials

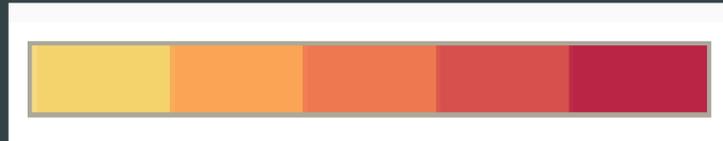


Heat Map Overview

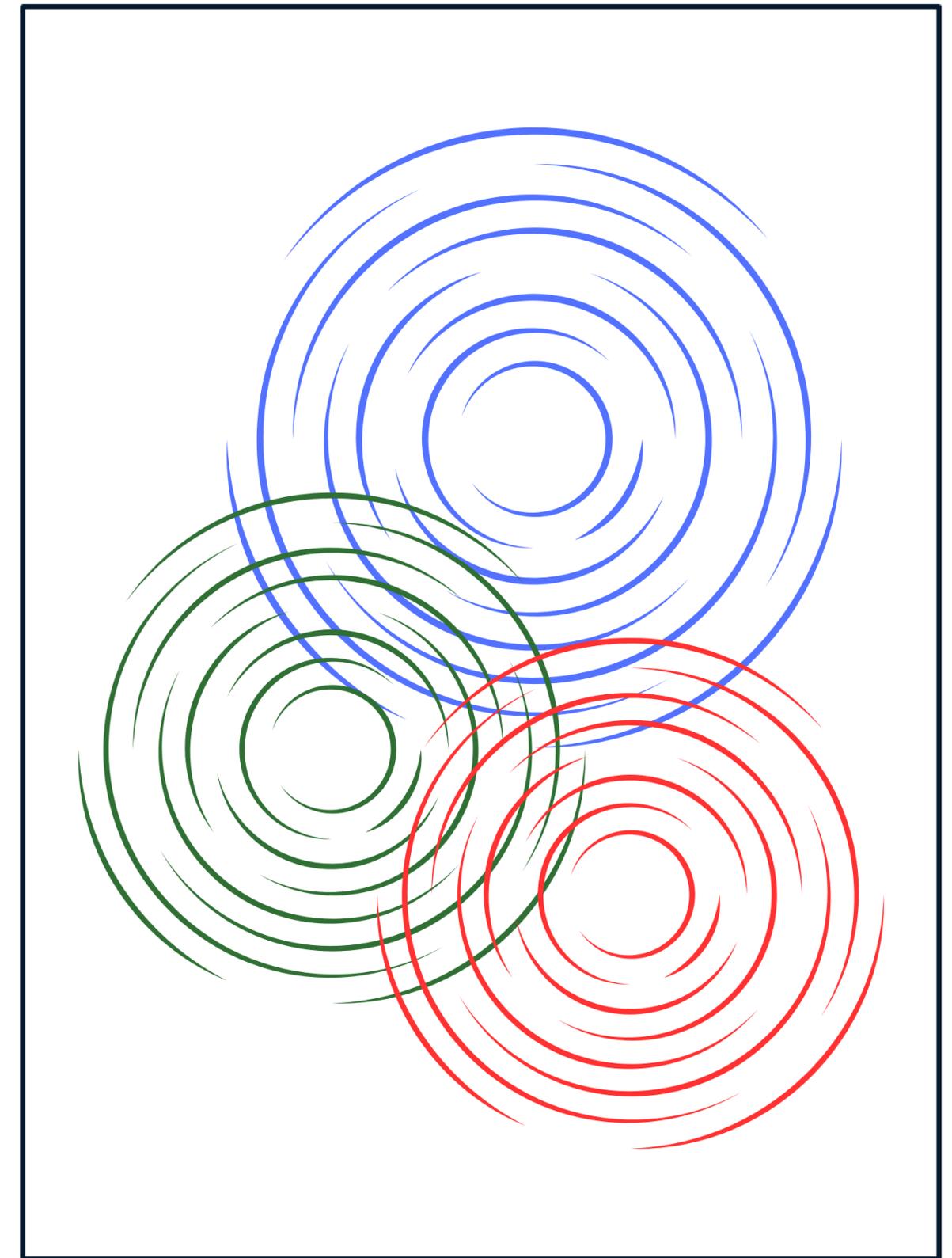
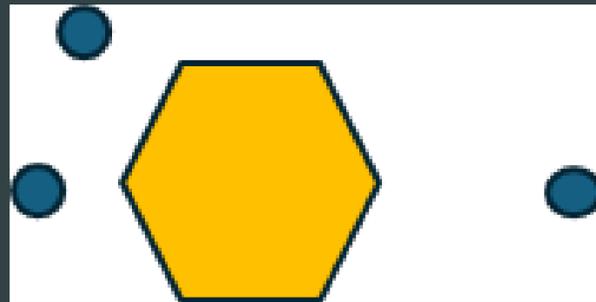
- What are heat maps and why are they useful?
 - Use color to represent intensity
 - More specific than the ZIP code level, while still maintaining privacy
 - Allow us to monitor shifts in overdose reporting
 - Heat maps are specific to a specific area and timeframe
 - Ex: overdose reports within a six-week time window on the East Side
- How do we use heat maps?
 - Help decide on outreach locations
 - Change outreach locations based on current trends

Helpful Analogy

- Overdose reports = pebbles dropped in water
- We can show where ripples overlap
- More ripples overlap = “hotter” cluster

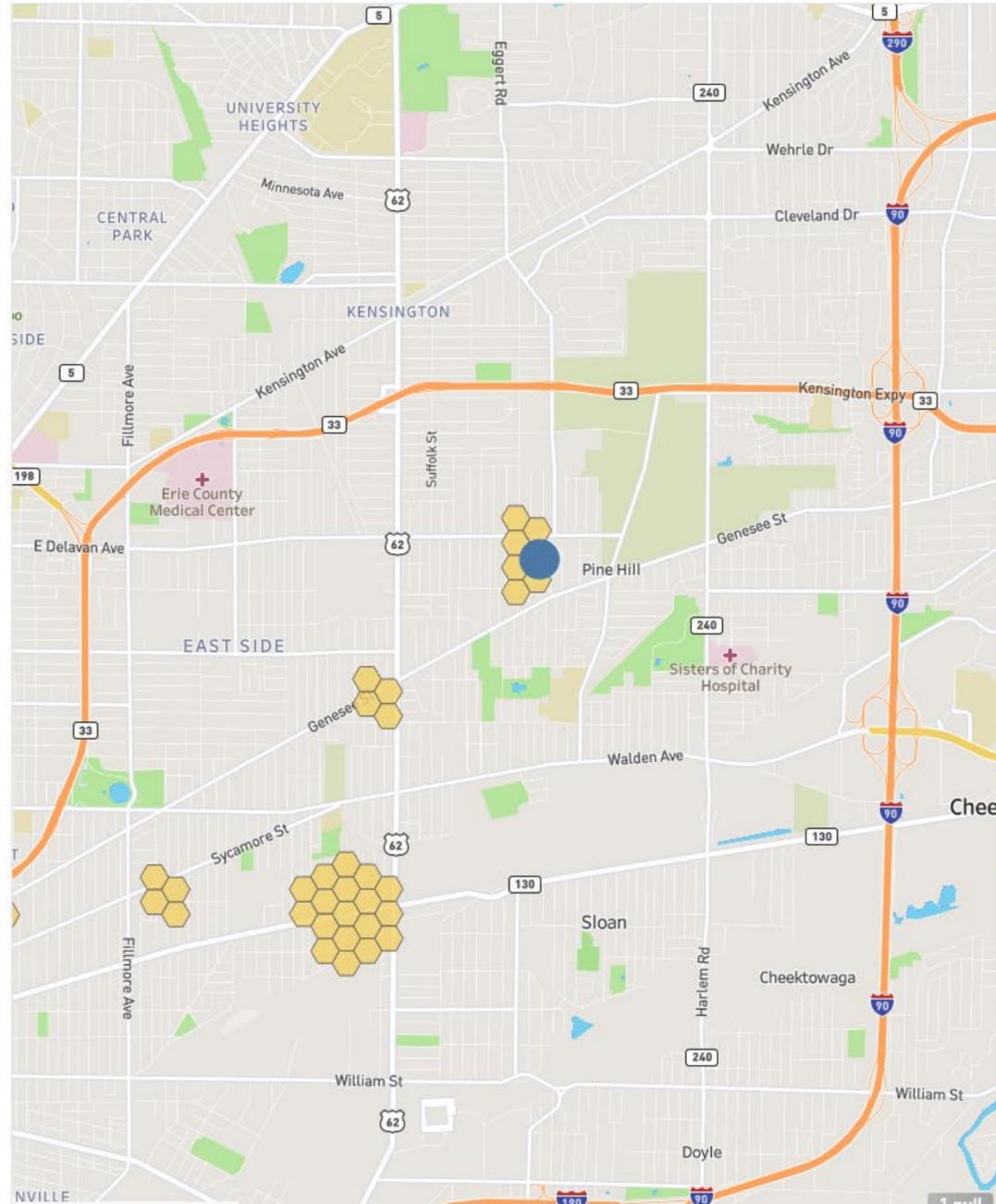


- Locations are not exact

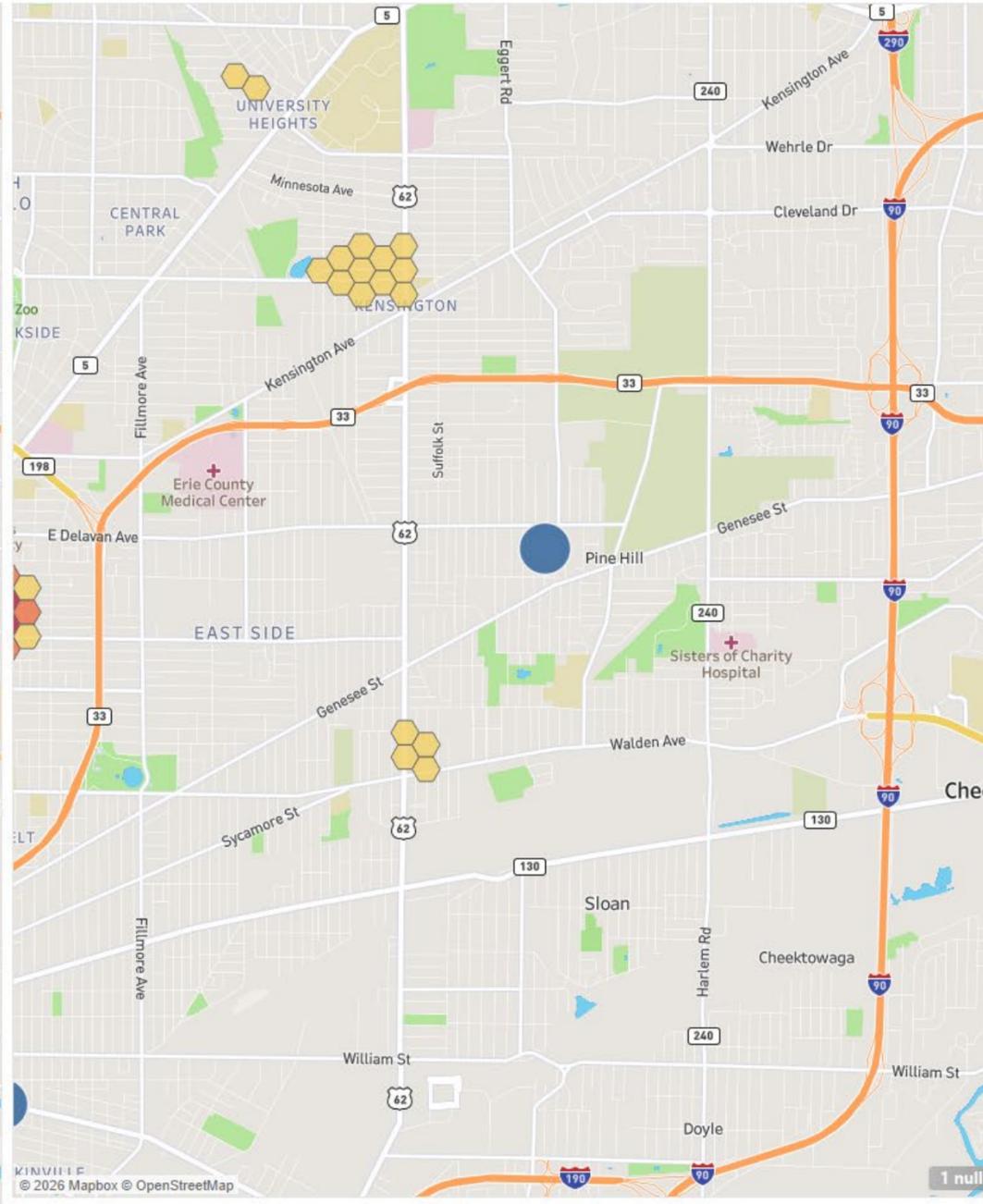


Overdose Trends vs. Recent Drug Busts

6 Weeks Before 11/19/2025 Bust



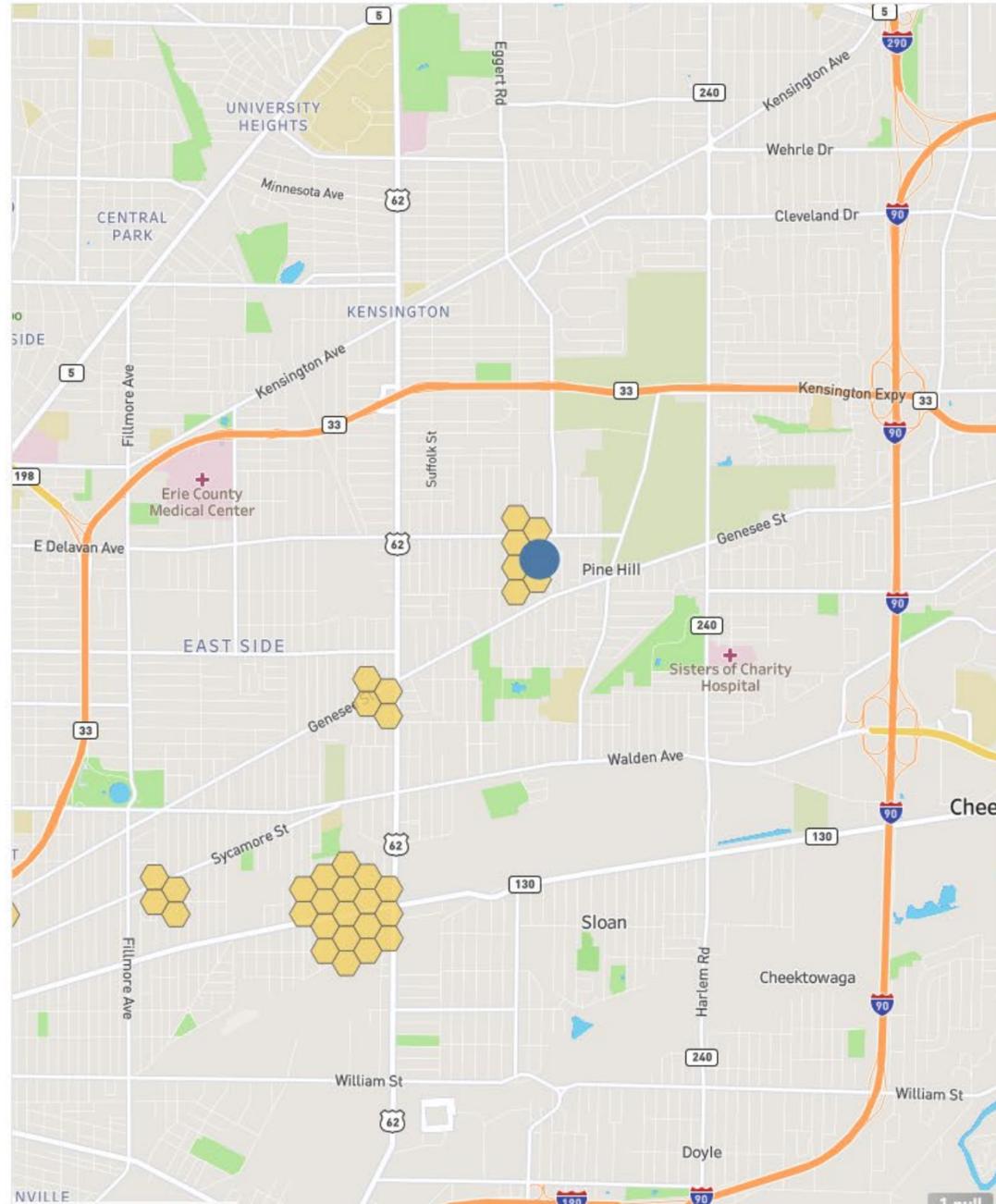
6 Weeks After 11/19/2025 Bust



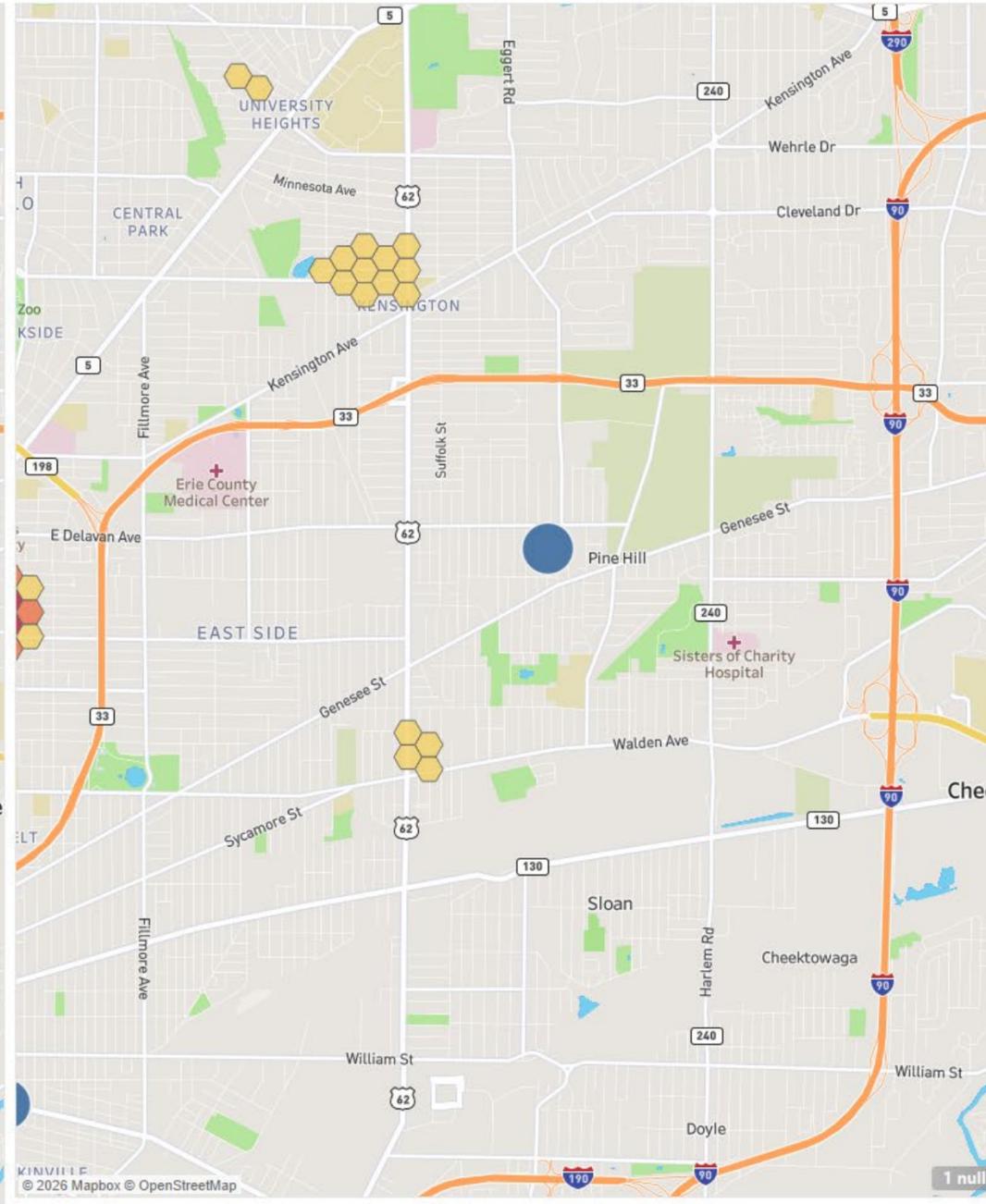
- Location of bust (blue dot) on 11/19/2025 corresponds to an overdose cluster
- Cluster no longer present after bust
- Reduced activity on East Side, activity moved further from bust location

Overdose Trends vs. Recent Drug Busts

6 Weeks Before 11/19/2025 Bust



6 Weeks After 11/19/2025 Bust



- Correlation does not mean causation, this could be coincidental
- We will continue to investigate other drug seizures in the future
- Attend data webinars to see more heat maps!

Summary

- Moderate increase in overdose deaths among 30-39 age group, while 50-59 continues to decline
- Alcohol is present in around 20% of overdose deaths
- Unusually low number of non-fatal reports in February 2026
- Locations where overdose deaths increased quarter-quarter:
 - City of Buffalo: 14207 (Black Rock/Riverside), 14213 (West Side), 14202 (Downtown)
 - Other areas: Orchard Park (14127), Lackawanna (14218), Kenmore (14217)
- Locations of law enforcement drug busts may be related to shifts in locations of overdoses
 - Based on correlation with bust occurring on 11/19/2025
 - Will be investigating further

Upcoming Events

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Participants will learn about the science of opioid use disorder, trends in Erie County overdose data, and how and when to administer naloxone.

Participants will also be equipped to conduct their own independent trainings.



May 6th 9AM - 12PM

September 9th 9AM - 12PM

November 4th 9AM - 12PM



Erie County Training & Emergency Operations Center

3359 Broadway Ave, Room 113
Cheektowaga, NY 14227



Erie County Office of Harm Reduction



Scan the QR code to register or call
(716) 858-7695

- Learn how to conduct Narcan trainings for your organization or community!
- **Next session: May 6**

[ECDOH Opioid Overdose Recognition and Naloxone Administration Train the Trainer Class Registration | Erie County Dept of Health](#)



Questions? Call 716-858-7695 or email
Narcan.training@erie.gov



Upcoming Events



Overdose Data Review for Community Partners

By understanding drug involvement, we can better identify appropriate prevention and response activities throughout Erie County.

- Analyze City of Buffalo data from 2024-2025
- Use heat-maps to identify clusters
- Establish significant changes over period of time
- Support proactive outreach efforts

Dates Available

October 20, 2025, 2-3pm
February 23, 2026, 10-11am
May 21, 2026, 2-3pm
July 16, 2026, 10-11am

Scan QR Code to Register
or reach out to harm.reduction@erie.gov

erie.gov/harmreduction

Quarterly Webinars for Community Organizations

- Heat maps of overdose reports
- Ask questions, request specific maps
- Sign up for monthly heat map updates!
 - Must sign and return MOU

Next webinar: 5/21/2026



SCAN ME



[Or click the link here](#)



Public Health

Data Webinar QR Code:



ToT Registration QR Code:



Thank You!
Questions or
Comments?