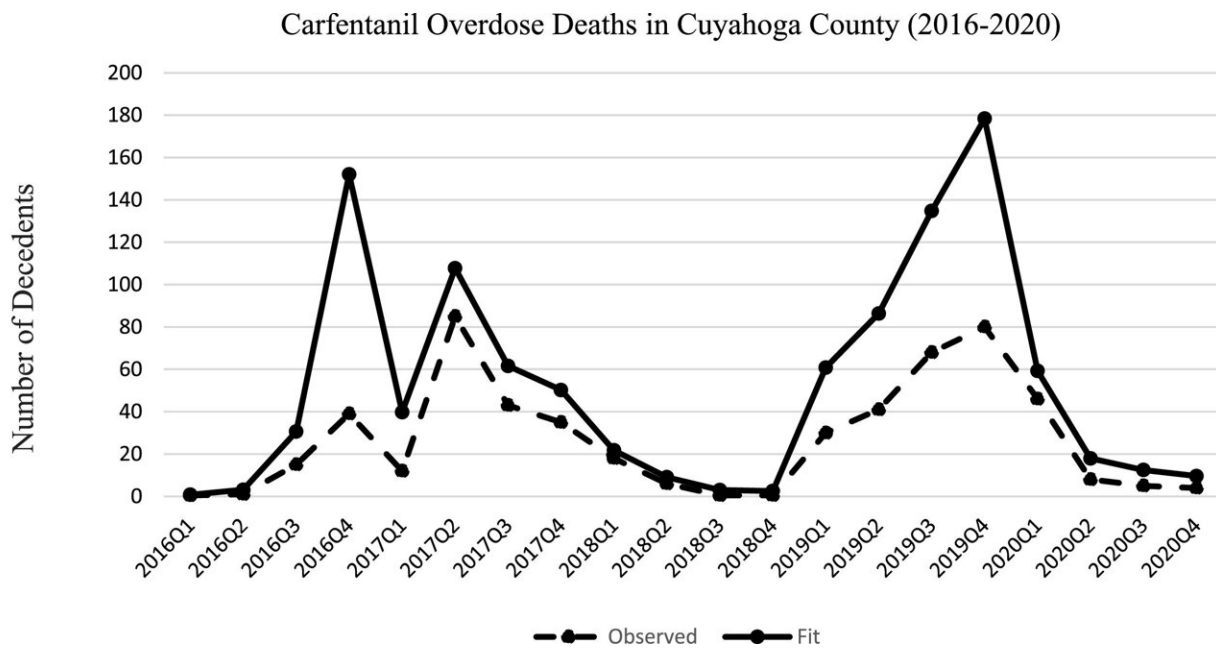


Preventing fatal overdoses in the local community

September 15 2023



Joinpoint analysis of carfentanil overdose related deaths from 2016 to 2020 with the observed and fit values. Credit: *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports* (2023). DOI: 10.1016/j.dadr.2023.100187

Partnerships between the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) and the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education has allowed for the creation of a comprehensive database of more than 250 variables to understand fatal overdoses in the county.

A team of researchers recently published an article on the importance of using local medicolegal and seizure data for [surveillance](#) to prevent fatal overdoses in [local communities](#). They found that the local drug supply in Cuyahoga County continues to be unsafe, particularly with the role of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in the drug supply and decedents' toxicology.

The researchers emphasized the importance of harm-reduction strategies (e.g., fentanyl test strips, narcan, not using alone) to help decrease fatal overdoses.

Their paper, titled "[A case study for local data surveillance in opioid overdose fatalities in Cuyahoga County, OH 2016-2020](#)," was published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*.

More information: Ivette Noriega et al, A case study for local data surveillance in opioid overdose fatalities in Cuyahoga County, OH 2016-2020, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports* (2023). [DOI: 10.1016/j.dadr.2023.100187](#)

Provided by Case Western Reserve University

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