

Joining Forces Lancaster County Data Update

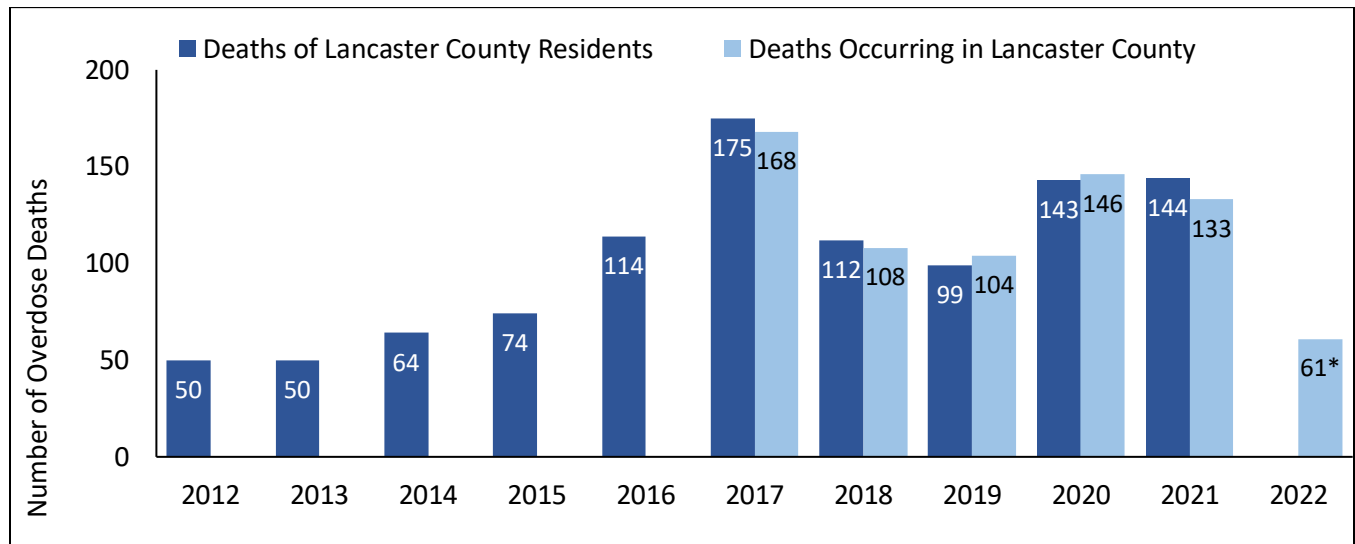
September 20, 2022

Summary

Based on preliminary data, overdose deaths in Lancaster County are declining from higher levels in 2020 and 2021. Fewer overdose deaths (108) occurred in Lancaster County in the 12-month period ending June 2022 than any 12-month period since December 2019. Emergency department visits have declined in 2022 for opioid overdoses and all drug overdoses. Overdose death rates are highest among ages 25-54, males, and Black and Hispanic individuals. In 2021 to date, there was evidence of a bystander present in 59% of the deaths and evidence of naloxone administration in 19%, demonstrating an opportunity to save additional lives. New data show the decline in use of drug and alcohol services by Medicaid patients during the pandemic in 2020.

Drug Overdose Deaths

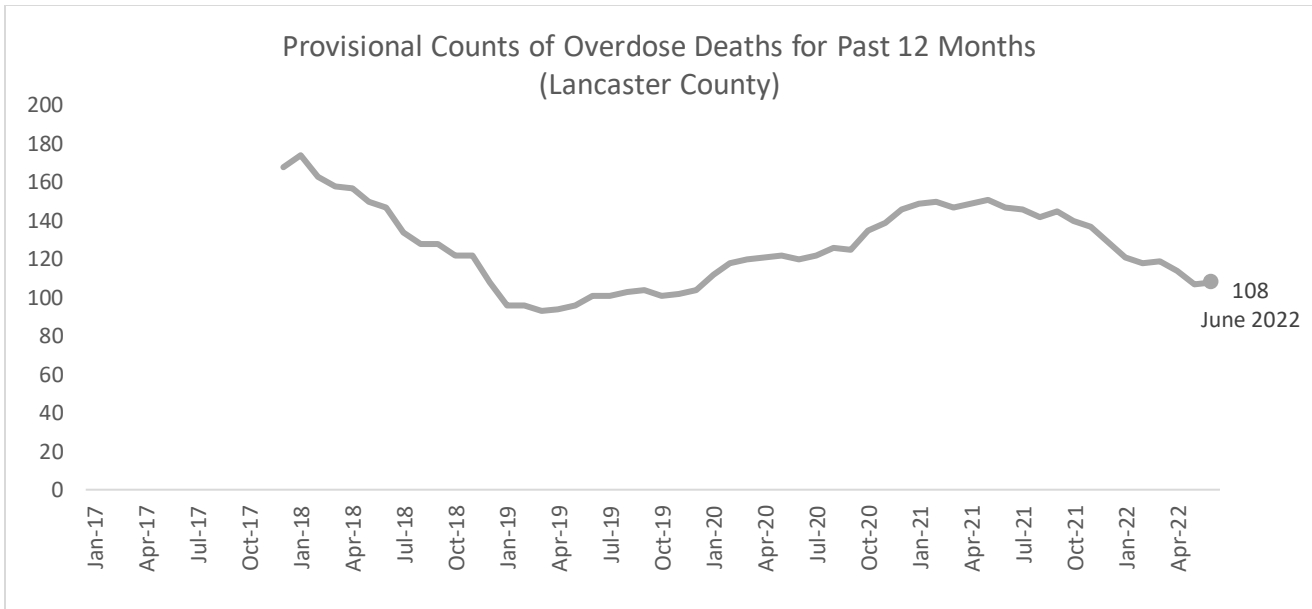
Overdose deaths in Lancaster County began increasing in 2014, reached a peak in 2017, declined for 2 years, and then increased again in 2020 and 2021. The chart below shows deaths of Lancaster County residents (that occurred in Lancaster or elsewhere) and deaths that occurred in Lancaster County. There were 144 overdose deaths of Lancaster County residents in 2021, the highest total since 2017. There were 133 overdose deaths that occurred in Lancaster County. In 2022, a total of 61 overdose deaths have been reported in Lancaster County by the Coroner's Office as of September 13.¹



Sources: Pennsylvania Office of Drug Surveillance; Lancaster County Coroner's Office (*Preliminary data)

Based on preliminary reports from the Lancaster County Coroner's Office, fewer overdose deaths (108) occurred in Lancaster County in the 12-month period ending June 2022 than any 12-month period since December 2019. It is important to note that all data for 2022 is preliminary, but overdose deaths are clearly trending down from the higher levels in 2020 and 2021.

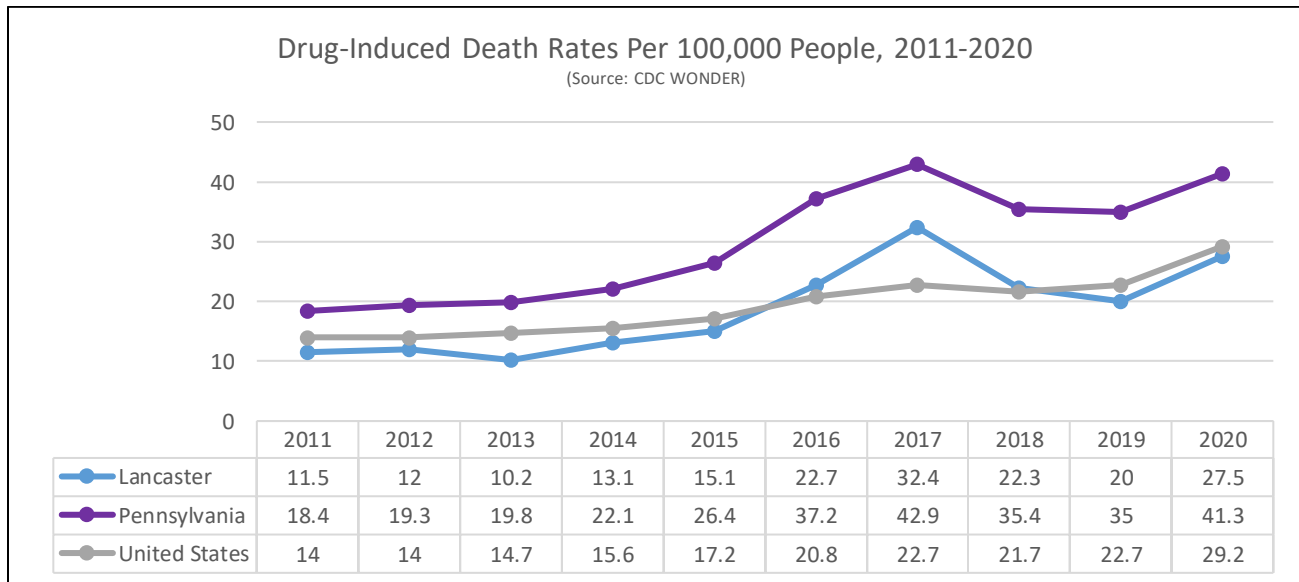
¹ Note: Death reports may take 2-6 months; the data for 2022 are considered preliminary.



Source: Lancaster County Coroner's Office

Comparison to State and National Trends

The most current final state and national statistics, shown below, are from 2020. In 2020, Lancaster County had a slightly lower death rate from drug overdoses than the U.S. overall and a considerably lower rate than the state of Pennsylvania.



In 2021, Lancaster County’s rate of overdose deaths continued to improve relative to the state and national rates. According to preliminary predicted data, there was a 16.3% increase in United States overdose deaths and a 3.7% increase in Pennsylvania overdose deaths between 2020 and 2021. Lancaster County experienced an 8.9% decrease in overdose deaths during this time period.²

Preliminary Overdose Death Counts: National, State, and County

	2020	2021	Percent Change
Lancaster County	146	133	8.9% decrease
Pennsylvania	5,297	5,492	3.7% increase
United States	93,655	108,886	16.3% increase

Decedent Place of Residence

	2020	2021	2022
Lancaster	130 (89%)	115 (89%)	48 (79%)
Berks	2	1	
Cambria		1	
Cecil		1	
Chester	2	1	
Cumberland		1	
Dauphin	3	1	
Luzerne		1	
Northumberland	1		
Somerset			1
York	1	2	3
Unknown	3	4	7
Delaware	1		
Florida		1	
Maryland			1
New Jersey	1		
New York	1		
Puerto Rico	1		
Texas			1

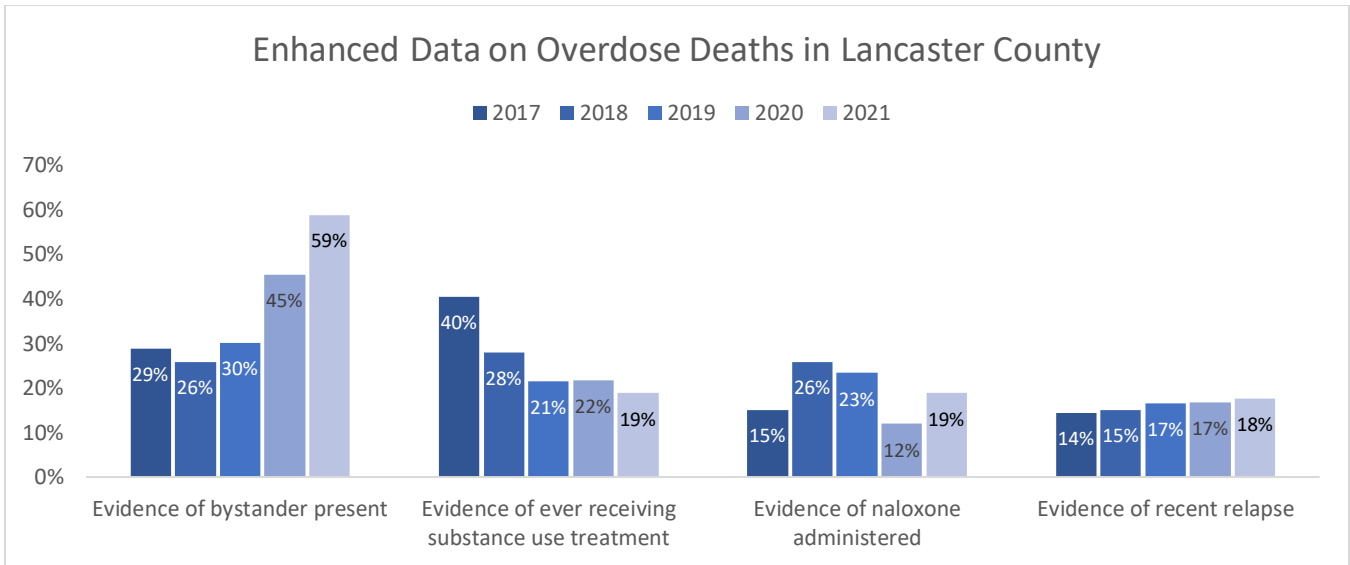
The majority of deaths that occur in Lancaster are Lancaster County residents. Other individuals who have died in recent years were from other counties in Pennsylvania, other states, and Puerto Rico as shown in the table at left. There most common places of residence outside Lancaster County are neighboring counties: Berks, Chester, York, and Dauphin.

Source: Lancaster County Coroner’s Office

Risk and Protective Factors in Overdose Deaths

The Department of Health provides additional detail from death investigation reports about risk factors and protective factors for overdoses. In 2021, 19% of the people who died had received substance use treatment, and 18% had evidence of a recent relapse, meaning they had returned to use after at least one week of not using. There was evidence of naloxone administration in 19% of cases, and evidence of a bystander present in 59%.

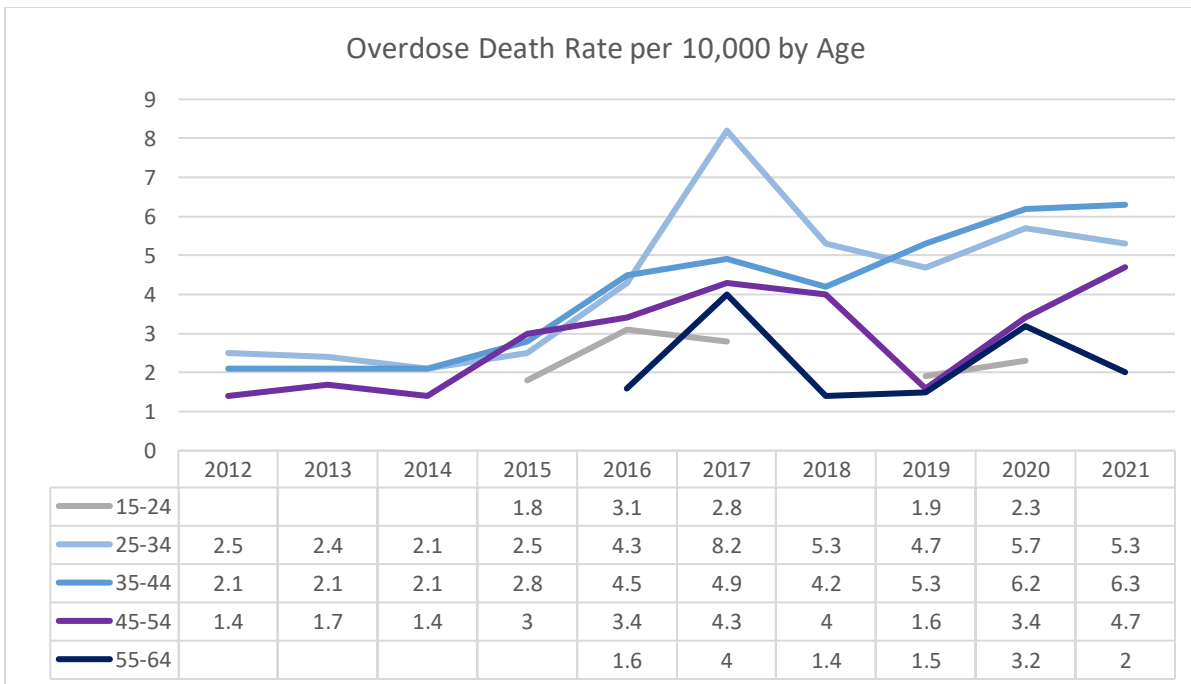
² CDC National Center for Health Statistics Provisional Overdose Counts 12-Month periods ending December 2020 and December 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>; Lancaster County Coroner’s Office for Lancaster County



Source: Pennsylvania Office of Drug Surveillance, accessed September 19, 2022. 2021 data is preliminary and does not include all deaths.

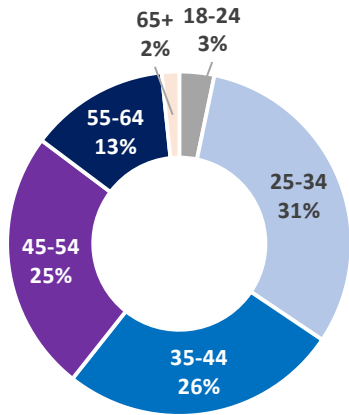
Demographics of Overdose Deaths

As of 2021, overdose death rates are highest in Lancaster County among ages 35-44, followed by 25-34 and 45-54. Based on preliminary 2022 data to date, 82% of the overdose deaths that occurred in Lancaster were among people in the age groups 25-34, 35-44, and 45-54.



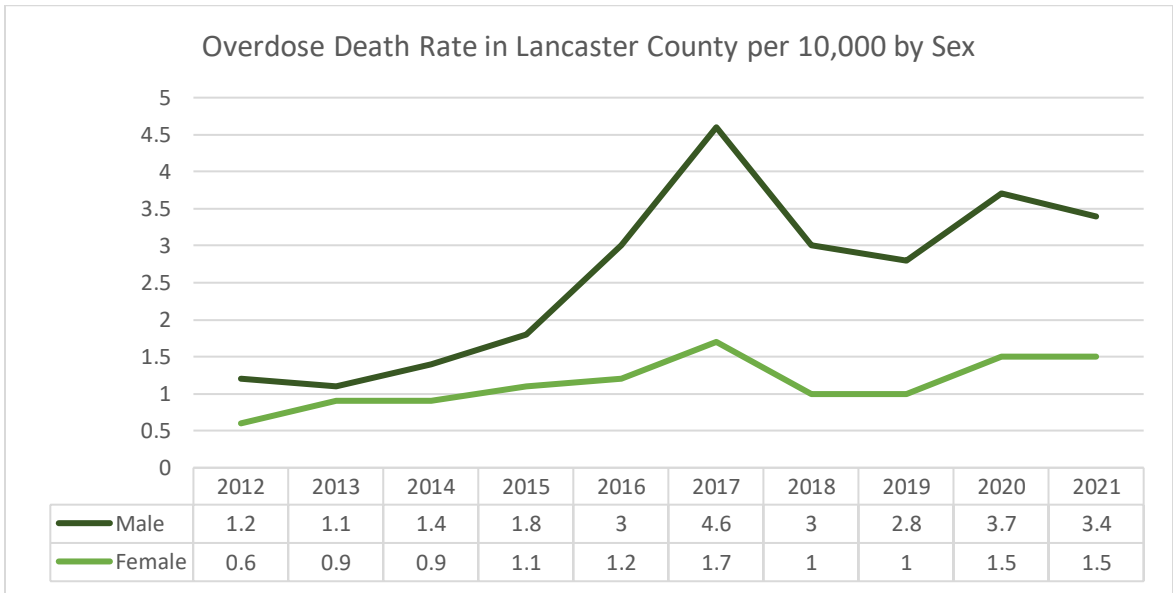
Source: Office of Drug Surveillance, accessed September 20, 2022.

Percentage of 2022 Deaths (n=61) by Age

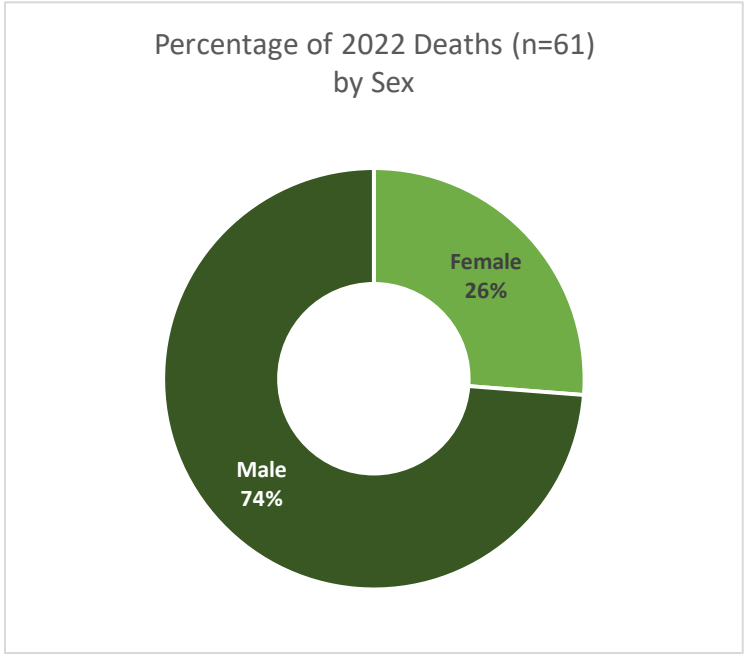


Source: Lancaster County Coroner's Office, reported as of September 19, 2022

The overdose death rate is higher among males than females in Lancaster County. There was a moderate decrease in the death rate between 2020 and 2021 among males, while it remained stable among females. In 2022 to date, more than 7 in 10 overdose deaths (72%) are among males.

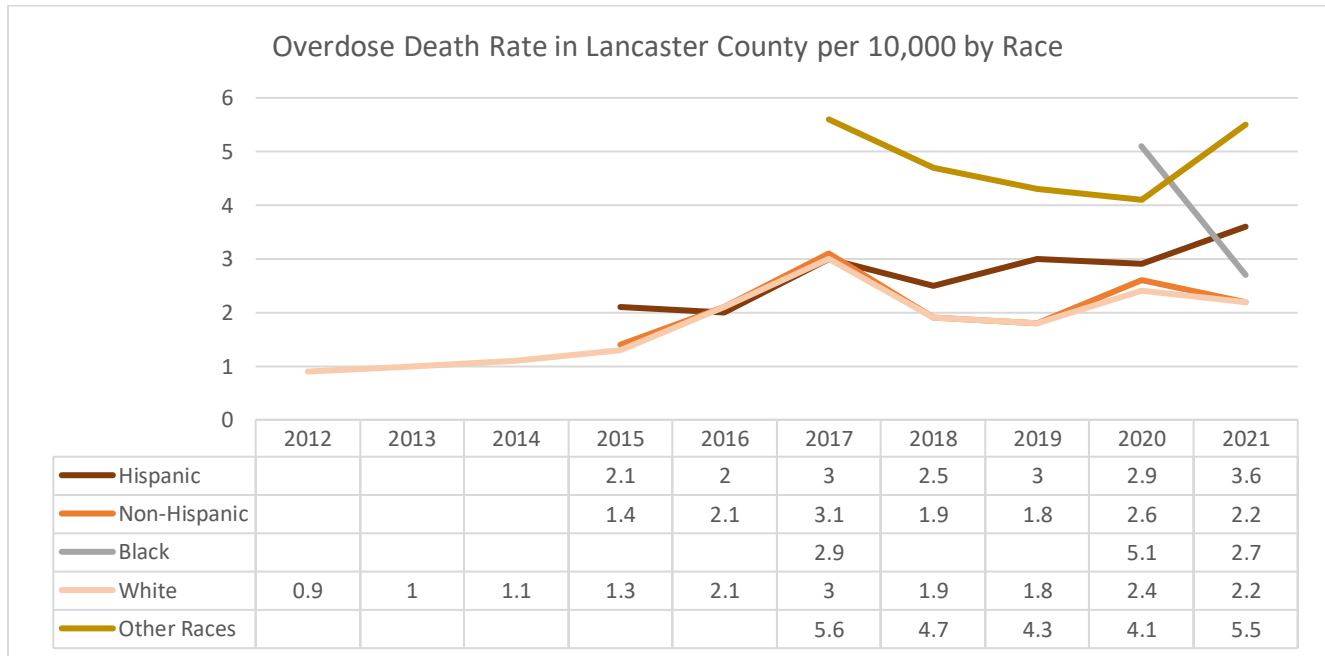


Source: Office of Drug Surveillance, accessed September 20, 2022.

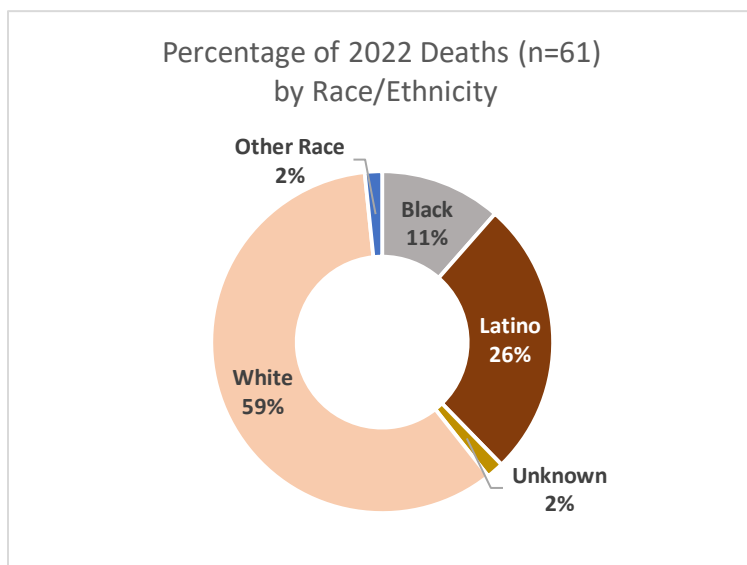


Source: Lancaster County Coroner's Office, reported as of September 20, 2022.

Overdose death rates are higher among People of Color than among White, non-Hispanic individuals in Lancaster County. There has been a steady increase in the death rate in the Hispanic/Latino population from 2015 to 2021. Based on preliminary 2022 data, 26% of the deaths have been Hispanic/Latino individuals, while they only account for 10.8% of the total county population.³ Similarly, Black individuals account for 11% of the 2022 overdose deaths and only 4% of the overall population.



Source: Office of Drug Surveillance, accessed September 20, 2022.

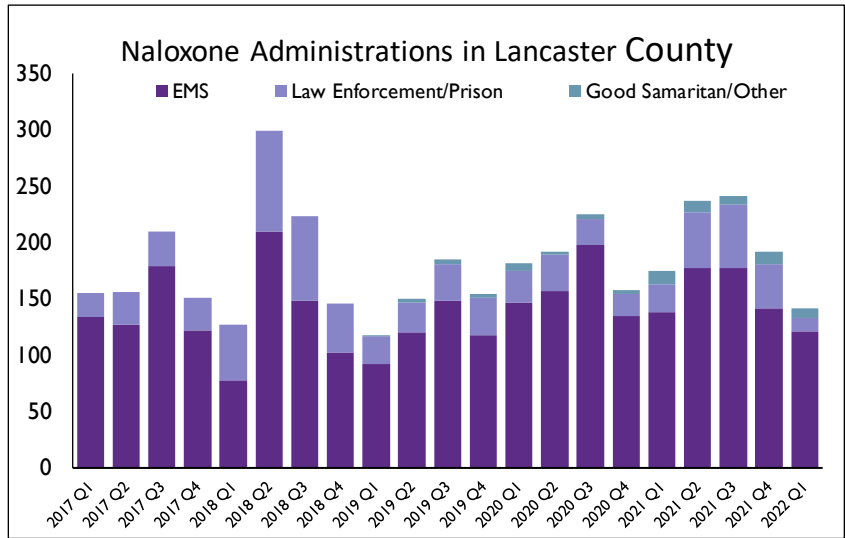


Source: Lancaster County Coroner's Office, reported as of September 20, 2022.

³ American Community Survey, 2020 5-year estimates.

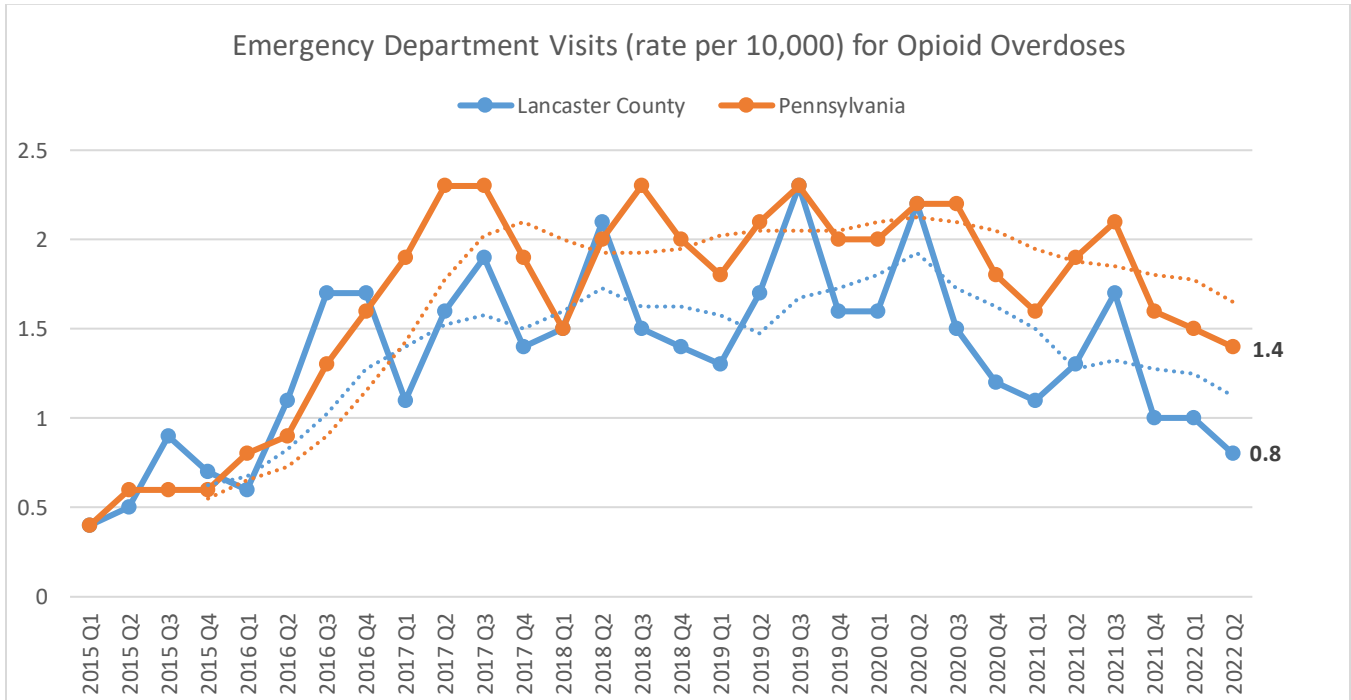
Emergency Response

In the first quarter of 2022 (January-March 2022), there were 121 incidents when emergency medical services provided naloxone in Lancaster County. This is the lowest number of naloxone administrations since the last quarter of 2019. Law enforcement reported 12 uses of naloxone, and there were 9 uses reported by bystanders. Reports from law enforcement and bystander good Samaritans are not required and likely significantly underestimated.



Emergency Department Visits for Overdose

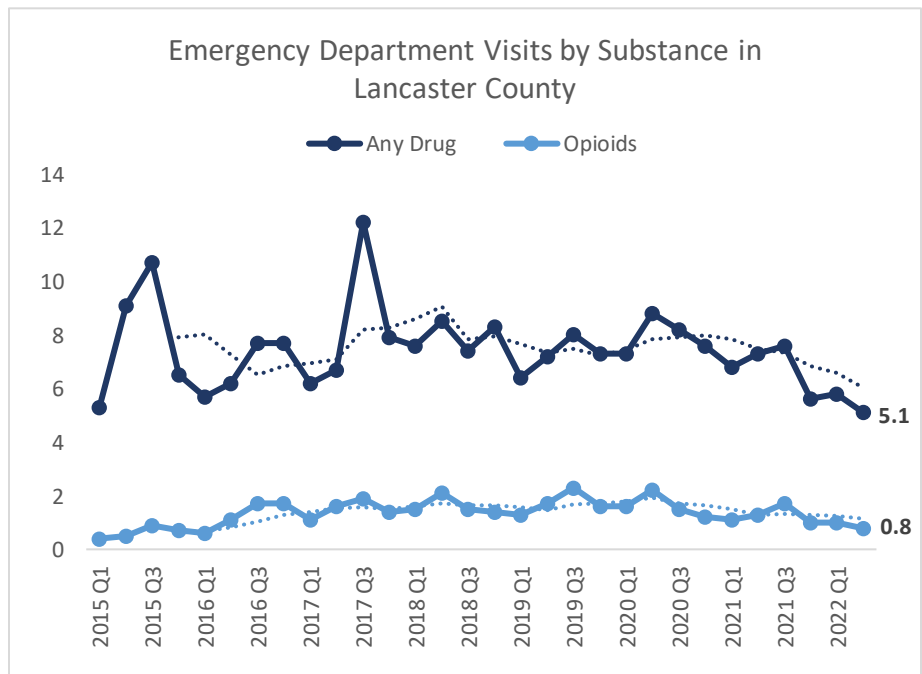
Overall, emergency room visits have declined in Lancaster County in early 2022. In April-June 2022, Lancaster County had 0.8 ED visits per 10,000 people for opioid overdoses, compared with 1.4 per 10,000 across Pennsylvania. For Lancaster County, this rate was lower than the previous quarter, and the lowest rate since before 2017.



Source: PDMP Interactive Data Report, accessed September 20, 2022.

Most ED visits for overdoses are **not** related to opioids. In Lancaster County, the rate of ED visits for all drug overdoses was 5.1 per 10,000 in Q1 of 2022. This is lower than the Pennsylvania state rate of 7.4 per 10,000 for the same quarter. In Lancaster County, the rate of ED visits for all overdoses was lower than the previous quarter and the lowest since 2017.

Source: PDMP Interactive Data Report, accessed 9/20/22



Males have a higher rate of ED visits for opioid overdoses and all drug overdoses than females. Ages 25-44 have the highest rates of ED visits for overdoses, both opioids and all drugs.

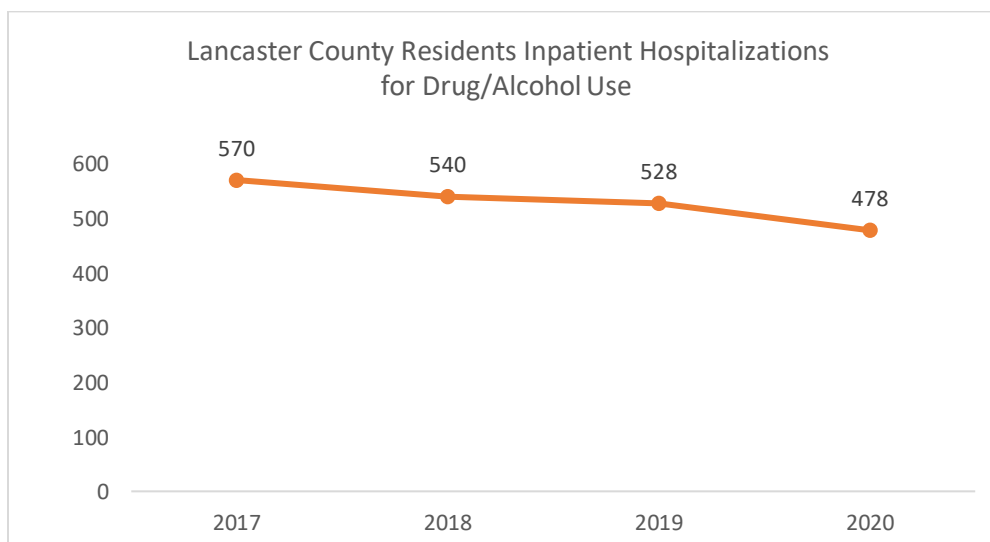
Lancaster County ED Visits for Overdoses (rate per 10,000)		
Demographic Group	Opioid Overdoses Q1 2022	All Drug Overdoses Q1 2022
Males	1.1	5.6
Females	0.5	4.6
Age 0-14	Not available	2.3
Age 15-24	0.7	6.6
Age 25-34	2.1	8.3
Age 35-44	1.8	8.2
Age 45-54	0.8	6.0
Age 55-64	Not available	3.8
Age 65+	Not available	2.8

Source: PDMP Interactive Data Report, accessed September 20, 2022.

Treatment Data

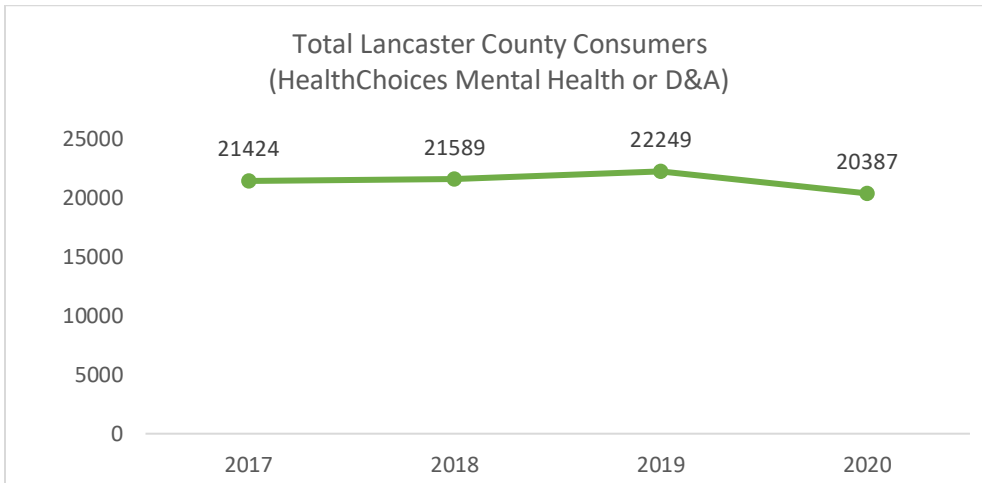
Data are available on hospitalizations for drug and alcohol-related diagnoses and services provided through Medicaid-funded HealthChoices in our region. Data are not publicly available on privately funded outpatient services and other types of treatment except hospitalization.

The total number of Lancaster County residents hospitalized (inpatient) for drug or alcohol use has declined from 570 in 2017 to 478 in 2020, as shown in the chart below.



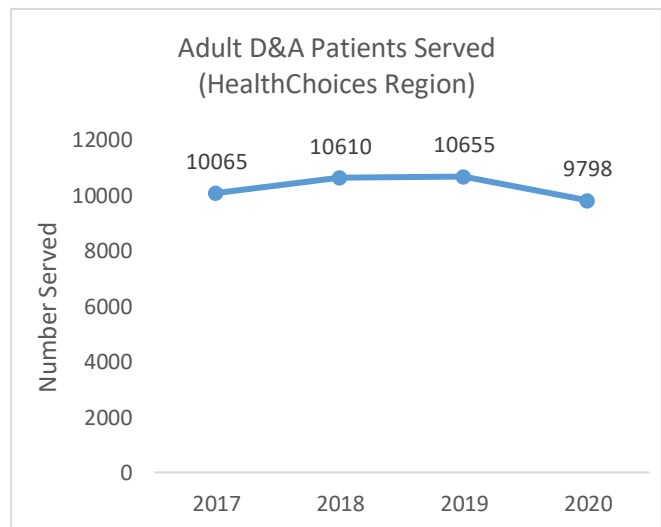
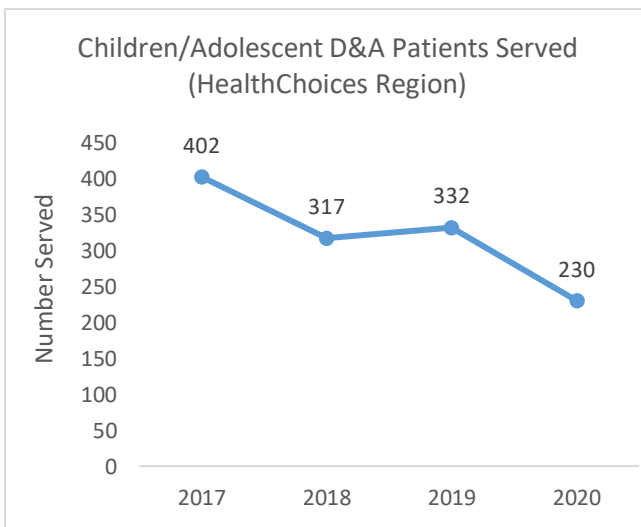
Source: PHC4 Inpatient Utilization Reports, accessed September 20, 2022.

The total number of Lancaster County residents with Medicaid who used mental health or drug and alcohol services is shown in the chart below. The number of individuals receiving services increased from 2017 through 2019, then declined in 2020 by 8%.



Source: Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Reports, 2017-2020

In our HealthChoices region, which includes Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Perry Counties, the numbers of adults and children receiving drug and alcohol treatment services declined from 2019 to 2020. These services include a range of treatment types, including withdrawal management (detox), outpatient treatment, case management, etc. The decline was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrates that some people may have experienced disruptions in care or lack of access to services during this time. Lancaster accounts for 42% of the patients in this region.



Source: Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Reports, 2017-2020