# Lucas County Substance Use Response Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 1:30 P.M. Lucas County EMS Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

### Agenda:

Call to Order & Welcome-Tony Dible, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

- 1. Announcements & Introductions
  - Chalk The Walk 2025
  - Stay or Go Interactive Human Trafficking Training (10/2/25 from 10AM 12 PM)
- 2. Discussion Topics
  - Lucas County Coroner's Office 2024 Overdose Fatality Data
  - Monitoring Street Drug Supply
    - i. Medetomidine, Nitazene, Kratom (OH-7)
  - Resources and Solutions
    - i. Coalition Google Drive
  - Additional Topics (Time Permitting)
    - i. Needs of Coalition Members
- 3. Organizational Updates

Next Coalition Meeting:

November 5, 2025, 1:30pm

Location: Lucas County EMS Training Center



For questions and other inquiries, please email opiateresponse@co.lucas.oh.us





# Lucas County Substance Use Prevention Coalition Meeting

Lucas County EMS Training Center 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 6, 2025

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Wednesday, August 6, 2025 1:30 P.M. Lucas County EMS Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

### **Meeting Minutes**

### In Person Attendance: 33

Tony Dible	TLCHD	Lt. Steve Rogers	LCSO DART
Angie King	TLCHD	Pam Hines-Dunn	Unison
Alyssa Wells	TLCHD	Chelsea Diedrich	Arrowhead
Joe Wood	TLCHD	Angie Szymanski	Arrowhead
Mahj Berryman	TLCHD	Phil Snyder	Arrowhead
Karim Baroudi	TLCHD	Antoinette O'Connor	MHRSB
Kami Bruner	TLCHD	Juanita Halbig-Sanchez	MHRSB
Noelle Roerig	Team Recovery	Jennifer Peer	MHRSB
Josh Dressel	Talbot Health	Elijah Jones	MHRSB
Josh Elchert	Talbot Health	Jeff Streeter	U Toledo Recovery
			Services
Henry Garcia	Care Net	Veronica Reynaga	Sofia Quintero Art &
			Cultural Center
David Nalls	Reconciliation Recovery	Christine Ezepue	Health Partners
Tamara Robinson	Brightview	Kim Rex	Health Partners
Victoria Graham	Ohio Guidestone	Daniel Huesman	TLAS
Joelle Huber	Braeburn	Christina Green	TLAS
Kim Priestamp	Ohio Attorney General	Jodi Phelan	Ethan Crossing
	Office		
Kandice Kravetsky	Charlie Health		

Call to Order & Welcome-Tony Dible, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

### 1. Announcements & Introductions

- Chalk The Walk 2025
  - i. Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Change of date from Aug. 31st due to Labor Day weekend.
  - ii. Printed fliers available for pick up / drop off. Contact Joe to be connected: TH woodj@co.lucas.oh.us
  - iii. Vendor registration free, due by Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. Vendors are required to bring an engagement activity for public.

**Public Health** 

- Vendor Sign Up <u>Link</u>
- iv. Memorial Submission Due by Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Memorial Submission Link
- v. Volunteer Sign Up Link To be sent out closer to event.
- Stay or Go Interactive Human Trafficking Training
  - i. October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 12pm at Lucas County EMS Training Center. Invitation for RSVP will be sent to Coalition emails.

### 2. Discussion Topics

- Lucas County Coroner's Office 2024 Overdose Fatality Data
  - i. Lucas County had 28% reduction for drug related deaths in 2024.
    - Opioid related deaths down 35%; Fentanyl related deaths down 40%.
    - Drug and opioid related deaths remain very high.
  - ii. Positive Drug Findings All Counties
    - Methamphetamine increased 46% in positivity from prior year.
    - 6 MAM, a metabolite of heroin, is up 200% from prior year, although absolute number remains low.
  - iii. Lucas County Demographics of Drug Related Fatalities 2024
    - Significant increases for age ranges 55 64 (increased 6%) and 65+ (increased 5%).
    - Gender: 67% male, 33% female.
    - Race / Ethnicity:
      - a. White / Caucasian 72% (reduction of 2%)
      - b. Black / African American 28% (increase of 3%)
      - c. Hispanic / Latino 8.5 % (increase of 2%)
- Monitoring Street Drug Supply (All Fact Sheets Attached)
  - i. Nitazene
    - Strong synthetic opioid; potency widely varies, can be 500x stronger heroin.



- Often mixed with fentanyl, found in common street drugs.
- Fentanyl test strips do NOT detect Nitazene. Nitazene test strips are available now at NOSS.

### ii. Medetomidine

- Veterinary sedative, similar to xylazine NOT an opioid.
- Causes heavy sedation; Often found mixed with fentanyl.
- Naloxone will not work, but it will work on any co-laced opioid(s). Focus should be on monitoring breathing and/or rescue breathing.
- New test strips becoming available.

### iii. Kratom

- Herbal substance that can produce opioid and stimulant-like effects.
- Can become addictive to some people, can cause side effects.
- Kratom is unregulated at the federal level, each state controls legality. Kratom is currently legal in Ohio, found locally at many gas stations.

### Resources and Solutions

### i. Coalition Google Drive

- As themes and issues have arisen at previous meeting it has been difficult to provide follow up on a quarterly schedule.
- A goal of the coalition moving forward is to create a google drive that would allow members to share resources and education around topics that come up in meetings.
- Would also serve to give members the opportunity to have a public facing contact list with key coalition members, their agency, their position, and contact information to facilitate further connections.
- Completed resource guide from the Resource Committee could be housed here for members to view and reference as needed.



### • Additional Topics

- i. Needs of Coalition Members
- ii. Inviting Local Policy Makers
  - Discussion on best way to engage local policy makers (Toledo City Council, County Commissioners).
  - Priority Survey will be sent out before next Coalition meeting to survey needs and priorities of all agencies.
  - Discussion resulted in an agreement that the Coalition should have priorities, and a clear ask, prepared before inviting policy-makers.
  - Could also develop a survey for providers to have completed by their participants so that those with lived experience can have a voice in what barriers exist and where they need more support.

### 3. Organizational Updates

- Sofia Quintero Arts & Cultural Center
  - i. Asking Hispanic residents, as well as anyone who lives or works in South Toledo to fill out community survey Flier Attached.
  - ii. Community Townhall on Sept  $11^{th}$ , 5 6:30pm.
- Attorney General Office update on state grant opportunities addressing substance use in the jails.
  - i. CCNO applied and awarded \$162k grant last month to hire new staff for SUD treatment onsite.
    - Application cycle is still open for rest of year for correctional facilities.
  - ii. Purdue Pharma settlement finalized recently. Ohio to receive \$198 million as part of the One Ohio Foundation.
- Brightview
  - i. Nurturing Recovery Training with CEUs
  - ii. Flier Attached (8/20/25 @ 12 PM)
  - iii. Response to an observed increase in pregnant patients
- Reconciliation Recovery

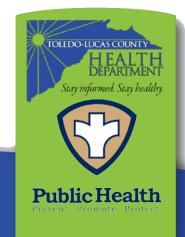


- i. Hosting weekly recovery workshops Wednesday evenings at Thomas Wernert Center.
- U Toledo Recovery Services
  - i. Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> Recovery is Beautiful @ Friendship Baptist Church
    - Accepting items at Wernet Center by Aug 28<sup>th</sup> to be included into the bags for attendees. 300 bags to be distributed with community resources.
  - ii. October 17<sup>th</sup> Tent City
- Braeburn Brixadi announcement.
- TLCHD
  - 8 harm reduction vending machines have been in place throughout county since January – remain very popular.

Next Lucas County Opiate Coalition Meeting: November 5, 2025, 1:30pm Location: Lucas County EMS Training Center



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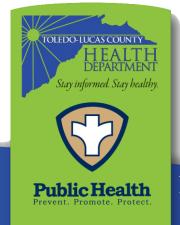


# 2024 Overdose Fatalities

Lucas County Coroner's Office

Drug Related Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties							629	626	604	577	422, 26.85%
Lucas Only							344	306	259	309	223, 27.83%
Opioid Related Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties	145	215	288	342	433	501	556	552	506	472	397, 15.89%
Lucas Only	86	113	150	165	227	265	296	276	231	246	159, 35.37%
Fentanyl Deaths											
Location of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Counties							461	481	462	445	364, 18.20%
Lucas Only							278	249	215	236	140, 40.68%
Frequency of Common Drugs of Positive Findings – ALL COUNTIES											
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fentanyl	45	100	196	187	282	372	502	481	458	456	317, 30.48%
Morphine	186	175	244	119	127	100	61	44	28	41	54
Oxycodone	75	103	108	98	67	44	43	62	41	67	67
Hydrocodone	66	43	64	67	33	18	21	22	19	43	32
6 MAM	146	150	152	83	85	50	41	22	12	5	15, 200%
Methadone	23	28	23	12	9	20	23	18	17	25	26
Cocaine	90	104	160	132	96	120	212	261	258	354	243, 31.36%
Amphet/Methamphetamine							72	120	136	192	281, 46.35%
MDMA/MDA									1	2	2
Ethanol	240	252	311	382	315	368	419	465	488	487	436, 10.47%
Carfentanil			7	38	4	11	3	1			2
Mitragynine				3	1	5	4	3	8	2	5
Acetyl Fentanyl						35	37	20	13	17	2, 88.24%
Parafluorofentanyl							1	44	43	8	10
Etizolam						1	1		1		
Xylazine						1			3	4	2

<sup>\*</sup>Note that the Lucas County Coroner's Office oversees a 22 County region in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan



# 2024 Overdose Fatalities

Lucas County Coroner's Office

### **Frequency of Common Drugs of Positive Findings Guide:**

### 6-MAM

6-Monoacetylmorphine is an opioid and one of three active metabolites of heroin. Morphine is also an active metabolite of heroin.

### Carfentanil

Carfentanil is an extremely potent opioid analgesic used in veterinary medicine to anesthetize large animals such as elephants and rhinoceroses.

### Mitragynine

Mitragynine is one of two major psychoactive ingredients in Kratom. Kratom is mostly used orally in the form of a tablet, capsule, or extract. Low doses of Kratom produce stimulant effects. At high doses, users experience sedative effects.

### **Acetyl Fentanyl and Parafluorofentanyl**

### Fentanyl analogs

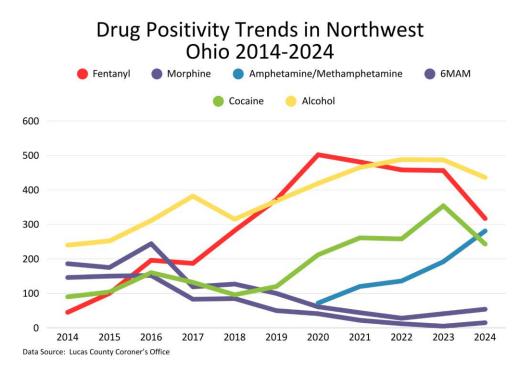
Acetyl Fentanyl is an opioid estimated to be 15 times more potent than morphine.

Parafluorofentanyl is an opioid estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

### **Xylazine**

Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that has been found in some illicit drug supplies. Xylazine can slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. Overdose reversal medications do not reverse the effects of xylazine. Experts recommend that people give opioid overdose reversal medications to

those experiencing symptoms of an overdose with suspected xylazine exposure, since opioids are often present with xylazine. In addition to risk for overdose, repeated xylazine use is associated with skin wounds, such as open sores (ulcers) and abscesses.



20	24 Drug	Related	Fataliti	es Occu	rring in L	ucas Co	ounty by	Month/	Age Grou	ıp/Gend	er/Race	/Ethnici	ty (Lucas C	ounty Cor	oner's Office)
2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Total	Trends
Total	21	21	26	24	30	18	17	17	13	20	6	11	224	%	2023, % DIFF
0-18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	>1%	1.2%
18-24	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.78%	6.37% 👢 -5%
25-34	6	7	3	3	4	3	5	2	1	4	1	3	42	18.75%	22.71% 👢 -4%
35-44	3	4	4	7	7	7	4	7	5	7	1	3	59	26.34%	25.5% <b>† +1%</b>
45-54	5	2	12	6	7	3	3	4	0	3	1	1	47	20.98%	23.51% 👢 -3%
55-64	5	3	2	6	8	4	2	2	3	5	2	4	46	20.54%	14.74% 1 +6%
65+	2	4	3	1	3	1	3	2	4	1	1	0	25	11.16%	5.98% <b>1 +5%</b>
Male	13	10	20	16	21	12	13	12	10	14	2	8	151	67.41%	70.92% 👢 -4%
Female	8	11	6	8	9	6	4	5	3	6	4	3	73	32.59%	29.1%
White	18	13	15	18	22	13	11	14	11	13	4	9	161	71.88%	74.1% 👢 -2%
Black/AA	3	8	11	6	8	5	6	3	2	6	2	2	62	27.68%	24.7% <b>1 +3%</b>
H/L	1	2	2	0	3	1	1	5	2	2	0	0	19	8.48%	6.37% <b>† +2%</b>
Other/Unk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	>1%	>1% NO CHANGE

# KRATOM FACT SHEET

- "Kratom" commonly refers to an herbal substance that can produce opioid and stimulant like effects.
- Naloxone is not effective in reversing the effects of a Kratom overdose because Kratom does not
  act on the opioid receptors in the same way that traditional opioids do.



### IS KRATOM ADDICTIVE?

Like other drugs with opioid-like effects, kratom can become addictive for some people. Withdrawal symptoms include muscle aches, irritability and jerky movements. <u>Source</u>

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU MIX KRATOM AND ALCOHOL?

Mixing kratom and alcohol increases the risk of overdose. Since both substances are depressants, combining the two can lead to respiratory arrest, kidney failure or coma, among other risks. Source





# WHY IS KRATOM SO CONTROVERSIAL?

Kratom has fierce advocates, who defend it as a pain reliever and safer alternative to opioids. Critics, such as the FDA, say its effects are unproven, and that the risks, such as addiction, outweigh the benefits. <u>Source</u>

# WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Kratom can cause vomiting, chills, sweating, itching and loss of appetite. Long-term use can cause extreme weight loss, skin darkening, frequent need to urinate, constipation, muscle pain, and liver damage. <u>Source</u>





### IS KRATOM LEGAL?

Kratom is unregulated at the federal level, which means states control the legality. Some states have banned the substance, while others have passed regulations, such as a minimum age. <u>Source</u>



# **Community Alert:**



# Medetomidine was found in Philly's dope supply

# **Drug description & effects**

- Medetomidine is a veterinary sedative, similar to xylazine (Tranq) detected in Philadelphia's drug supply. It is not an opioid.
- The most important effect of Medetomidine is heavy sedation. During an overdose, it is important to give rescue breaths and place the person in the recovery position. The drug can also cause low blood pressure and slow heart rate, which causes symptoms like dizziness, extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, nausea, blurred vision and confusion.

## Where has it been found?

- Medetomidine was first identified in a Philly dope sample between April 29 and May 1, 2024.
- It is similar to xylazine, but is stronger and can cause longerlasting effects.
- At this point, medetomidine has only been confirmed in dope, but people who use other substances should be cautious and use safety measures just in case.

People who sell or supply drugs or pills don't always know if there's been a change in the product. Even if they say the drug doesn't have medetomidine or another contaminant in it – they can't be sure.

## Stay alert and take precautions

- There is not a test strip that detects medetomidine at this time.
   Use other precautions to keep yourself safe.
- Medetomidine is not an opioid, so <u>naloxone (NARCAN®)</u> will not reverse a purely medetomidine overdose. However, because medetomidine is almost always found in combination with opioids, including fentanyl, naloxone (NARCAN®) should still be administered. Get naloxone at <u>substanceusephilly.com/get-supplies</u>.
- Try to use with someone you're comfortable with and can help you
  if needed.

# **Universal precautions**



carry Narcan (naloxone)



start low and



tell someone you're using



find treatment

### **Never Use Alone**

English hotline: (877) 696-1996

**SafeSpot** 

800-972-0590



Find substance use treatment at <a href="mailto:substanceusephilly.com/treatment">substanceusephilly.com/treatment</a>

Created by the PDPH Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction (SUPHR). For more information on medetomidine, view the health alert at <a href="mailto:substanceusephilly.com/alerts">substanceusephilly.com/alerts</a>

# **NITAZENES: THE FACTS**

# **QUICK FACTS**ABOUT NITAZENES

- · Nitazenes are extremely strong synthetic opioid drugs. They can be up to 500 times stronger than heroin.
- There is no known safe dose of nitazenes.
- · The strength and purity of nitazenes can vary even in the same batch.
- · Nitazenes have been found in many parts of the illicit drug supply including MDMA, heroin, cocaine, benzos and ketamine.
- There is a very high risk of overdose if you take nitazenes always carry naloxone.
- Fentanyl test strips cannot detect nitazenes.

### **WHAT ARE NITAZENES?**

Nitazenes are a group of extremely strong, synthetic opioid drugs like Fentanyl. They act in a similar way to natural opioids (that come from the opium poppy), like morphine or codeine and semi-synthetic opioids such as heroin. However, they are much more dangerous – they can be up to 500 times stronger than heroin and are more likely to stop your breathing than other opioids. They are only found in the illicit drug market, so their purity can vary widely, even in the same batch. Overdosing on nitazenes is very easy.

Nitazenes were originally developed for medical use in the 1950s, but they were never brought into medical use due to the high risk of overdose. They recently re-emerged in the illicit drug market. There is no known safe dosage of nitazenes. Some nitazenes recently found in local and international drug markets are:

- Etazene (etodesnitazene)
- Isotonitazene
- Metonitazene
- Protonitazene
- Protonitazepyne (N-pyrrolidino protonitazene)

Nitazene strength is highly variable. Recently, people believing they were taking one type of nitazene actually took a much stronger type, causing them to overdose.

Nitazenes are commonly found in powders or crystals - some are white, brown or yellow. However, they can be indistinguishable from other drugs. They sometimes are found in pills, liquids or vape refills. Sometimes, when people have bought other drugs such as heroin, cocaine or MDMA (ecstasy), they have been contaminated or completely substituted with nitazenes. They have also been found in counterfeit tablets like benzodiazepines and other types of opioids. This can cause them to be taken unknowingly. Drug warnings have been released in NSW, and around Australia warning of nitazenes in other drugs. People have had very severe illness and some deaths have been linked to nitazenes.

### **EFFECTS OF NITAZENES**

Nitazenes' effects are similar to other opioids like heroin but are much stronger.

The effects depend on:

- · The amount used and its strength
- The method used, such as snorting, swallowing, smoking, vaping or injecting
- People's size, weight and general health
- Whether combined with other drugs
- User tolerance

### **IMMEDIATE EFFECTS**

The effects of nitazenes include:

- Euphoria, feeling relaxed
- · Short term pain and stress relief
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever and sweating
- Drowsiness
- Slowed and shallow breathing and heart rate
- Small pupils (pinpoint pupils)
- · Sleepiness, drowsiness and coma

### LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Nitazenes' long-term effects are not well known as they haven't been studied as much as other opioids. However, they may have similar long-term effects, such as:

- Tolerance (needing more of a drug to feel the same effects)
- Dependence
- Long-term and severe constipation
- Heart and lung problems



Join partners of the Lucas County Substance Use Response Coalition for this public art memorial in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day.

Scan the QR code for additional event information and to submit a loved ones name and photo.







# JOIN US FOR A FREE VIRTUAL FORUM!

# **Nurturing Recovery**

NAVIGATING TREATMENT CHALLENGES FOR PREGNANT PATIENTS

Addiction does not discriminate, and this includes expectant mothers. Pregnancy brings a second set of health risks for a patient in treatment. But unfortunately, the stigma and myths around having an SUD while pregnant stop many from seeking help.

Join Dr. Greg Johnson, MD, a BrightView Medical Director with extensive experience practicing obstetrics, as he calls out the myths and focuses on the unique considerations that treatment programs must consider when helping expectant mothers with a substance use disorder.

### **ATTENDEES WILL:**

- Understand how to provide compassionate and effective treatment
- Identify the health risks for mother and baby
- Detail the mental and social considerations for patients
- Learn how myths and stigma impact patient outcomes

### ATTEND AND EARN A CEC

Attending this FREE event is worth one continuing education credit (CEC) from the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC). Please check with your state board to confirm CEC eligibility.





### **REGISTER NOW!**

Scan the QR code or <u>click</u> <u>here</u> to register, and visit <u>bit.ly/BVpregnantVF25</u> to learn more!



Join

# El Centro SMART Community Conversation

Conversation
Comunitaria del
Old South End

# We want your input!

Scan the QR code for a short survey! The survey is **ANONYMOUS** but you can identify yourself for follow up.

Please take a few minutes and complete the survey.

¡Queremos su opinión!

¡Escanea el código QR para acceder a una breve encuesta! La encuesta es **ANONIMA** y puedes identificarte para recibir seguimiento si lo deseas.

Por favor, tómate unos minutos para seguir el código QR y completar la





BOSSAUL





Questions?

(567) 218-1540 Hub.sqacc@gmail.com