

# **ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

November 14, 2023

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **1. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Approval of October 10, 2023 Minutes

#### **2. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Smith)**

a. Opioid Fatality Data Review Presentation

b. Medical Examiner

- 2023 To-Date Stats

### **MEETING CONCLUSION**



Ulster County Board of Health  
November 14, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
Golden Hill Office Building  
239 Golden Hill Lane  
Kingston, NY 12401

**PRESENT:** Stephanie Turco, Dr. Marta Sanchez, Kathleen Rogan, Dr. Gina Carena, Naomi Stevens, Christy Keegan, Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean

**EXCUSED:**

**ABSENT:**

**UCDOH:** Dr. Carol Smith- Commissioner of Health, Kelly Perry - Data Surveillance Coordinator. Vincent Martello - Director of Community Health Relations

**GUEST:** Tara McDonald - Commissioner of Mental Health

**Call To Order:** 5:03 PM

**OLD Business:** A motion was made to approve the October minutes by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Dr. Saint Jean and unanimously approved.

**Special Guest Presentation:** Kelly Perry - Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH) Data Surveillance Coordinator, Vin Martello - UCDOH Director of Community Health Relations, and Tara McDonald - Commissioner of Ulster County Mental Health were introduced and presented the statistics for Opioid deaths over the past several years, as well as, presented on how the Opioid Settlement funding received is being utilized within the community. Ms. Turco thanked the guests for responding so quickly to a request made at last month's meeting for this presentation.

- a. **Opioid Fatality Review:** Ms. Perry gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board reviewing opioid fatalities 2017-October 2023 (see attached). Ms. Perry noted that there was a significant increase at the start of the COVID pandemic in 2021. In 2022 the number of opioid fatalities started to decline, with 2023 potentially having the lowest number of opioid deaths since 2019. The data demonstrates that the extensive harm reduction activities being done in the community are working as the number of fatalities in relation to total overdoses is trending down. In 2020 there has been an uptick in opioid use among the non-white population. Ms. Perry clarified that for the purposes of this data that non-white is defined as people of color, multiple races. The data also demonstrates that there is a decrease in heroin use while fentanyl use has increased. Ms. Perry noted that "we" are starting to see an increase in cocaine use, suspecting that the

cocaine is likely combined with fentanyl. Ms. Perry further explained that Xylazine is a tranquilizer used by veterinarians and is now being used with fentanyl to extend the effects of the fentanyl. Xylazine use is known for causing wounds and wound care is an issue. Ms. Perry encouraged the Board to email her if they have further questions.

**b. Opioid Settlement Funds:** Ms. McDonald presented on the opioid settlement funds the Ulster County (UC) Mental Health Department received. UC was awarded \$7.9 million to be received over the next 18 years, with the bulk of the funding being received within the first few years, trickling off in the latter years. Funding started in 2022 and ends in 2040. In late 2022 Requests for Proposals (RFP) were released for opioid response projects. The Ulster County Opioid Strategic Action Team (OSAT) was responsible for determining strategies to address the number of overdoses and fatalities within the community. Out of this Team, RFPs which focused on harm reduction, prevention, treatment, recovery, and technology were gathered and reviewed. The following RFPs were awarded:

- Samadhi to receive funding to establish the first Outpatient Detox Program in Ulster. This Program will be a medically assisted program.
- LaSalle School for establishing a mental health program within a school setting, reaching youth that typically would not be reached without and official diagnosis.
- Cornerstone was awarded funding for street outreach which ultimately was not as effective as planned for a variety of reasons such as engagement and retention. The Cornerstone contract expires at the end of 2023 and the Mental Health Department will issue a new RFP for the street outreach component.
- Ellenville Regional Hospital was awarded funding to help with coordinate all the opioid reduction efforts happening within the community.

\$2 million of the funding will go towards the new Crisis Stabilization Center located at 368 Broadway, Kingston. The Center is a combine effort with Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services.

**c. Narcan Training and Kits:** Mr. Martello addressed the Board's question about the appearance of reduced Narcan trainings in the community. Mr. Martello explained that trainings and kits are more readily available now than before. Trainings are being conducted throughout the community in different venues, as well as being offered online. The Ulster County Sheriff's ORACLE Team (Opioid Response as County Law Enforcement) will conduct trainings

upon request, and they also have Narcan kits available to distribute.

- d. **Medical Examiner Update:** The Medical Examiner report was distributed to the Board (see attached).

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Sanchez, seconded by Dr. Saint Jean, and unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Turco', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Turco, Chair

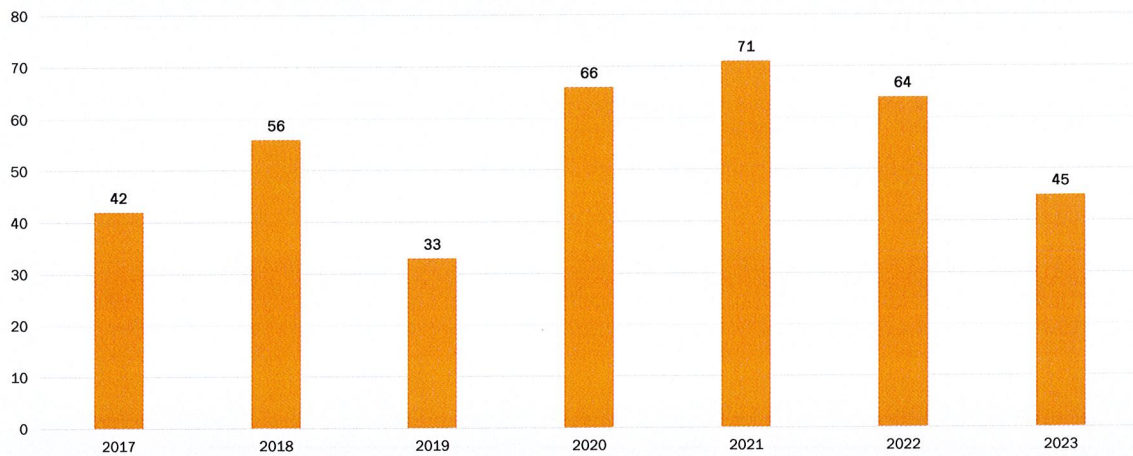


# Opioid Fatality Data Review

ULSTER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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## Opioid-Related Fatalities, Ulster County 2017 – October 2023

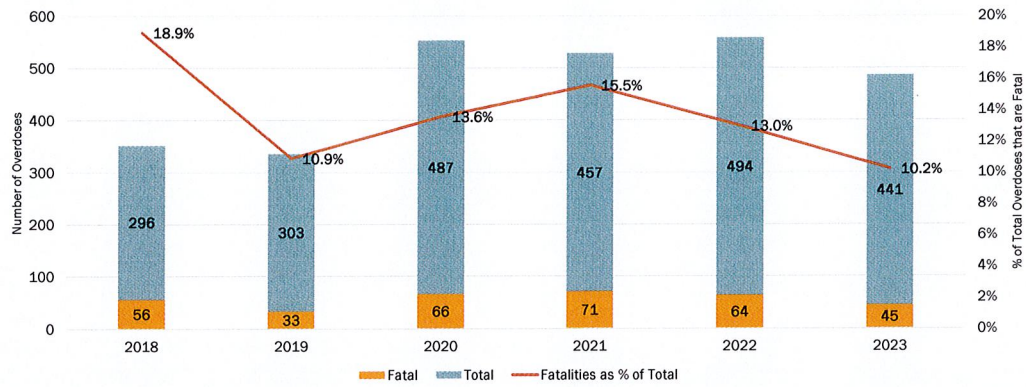


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### Opioid-Related Fatalities vs Total Overdose, Ulster County, 2018 – October 2023

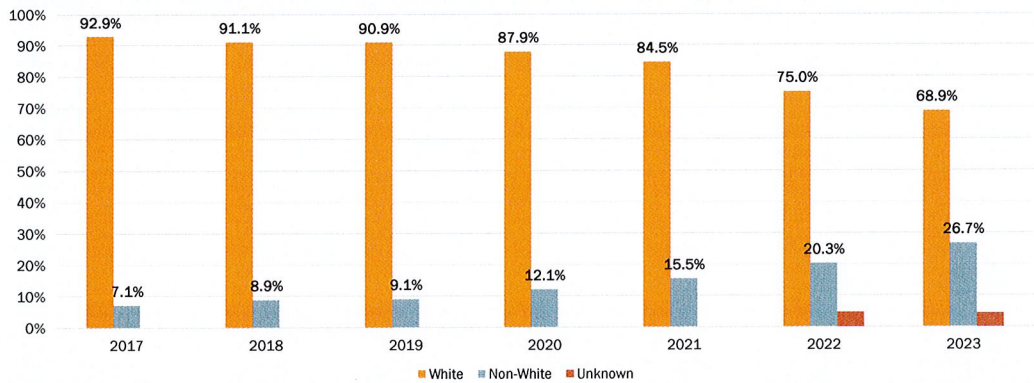


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### Opioid-Related Fatalities by Race, Ulster County, 2017 – October 2023

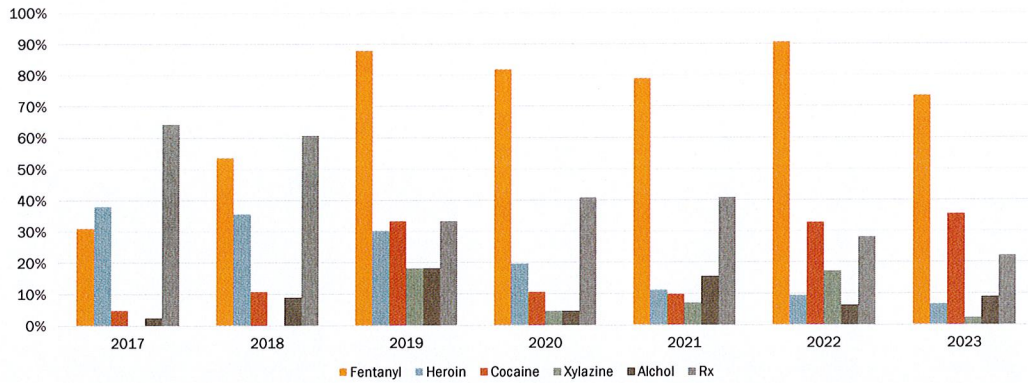


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## Opioid-Related Fatalities, Selected Substances Present, Ulster County, 2017 – October 2023



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# Thank you!

Kelly Perry  
Data Surveillance Coordinator  
Ulster County Department of Health  
[kper@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:kper@co.ulster.ny.us)

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# Ulster County Department of Health

## Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2023 and 10/31/2023

Total Number of Cases: 178

<i>Cases by Gender</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
F	4	5	6	3	5	9	3	3	2	4	0	0	44
M	12	13	17	13	15	8	17	13	11	15	0	0	134
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178</b>

<i>Cases by Manner</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	7	7	12	5	7	9	10	4	7	3	0	0	71
Homicide	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Natural	6	7	6	6	9	8	6	11	3	4	0	0	66
Pending	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	11
Stillborn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Suicide	2	2	5	4	2	0	3	1	1	3	0	0	23
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178</b>

<i>Cases by Category</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Alcohol	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Blunt Force Trauma - non-MVA	0	2	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	4	4	1	3	5	5	2	5	1	1	0	0	31
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	10
Cardiovascular and Obesity	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	8
Diabetes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Gunshot Wound	2	2	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	0	15
Hanging	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	7
Infant	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	9
Non-Opioid Substance	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Alcohol	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid-Related	4	2	7	4	6	4	6	3	4	0	0	0	40
Other	1	4	5	1	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	18
Pending	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Pending - Suspected Opioid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	6
Smoke Inhalation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178</b>