

Toledo-Lucas County



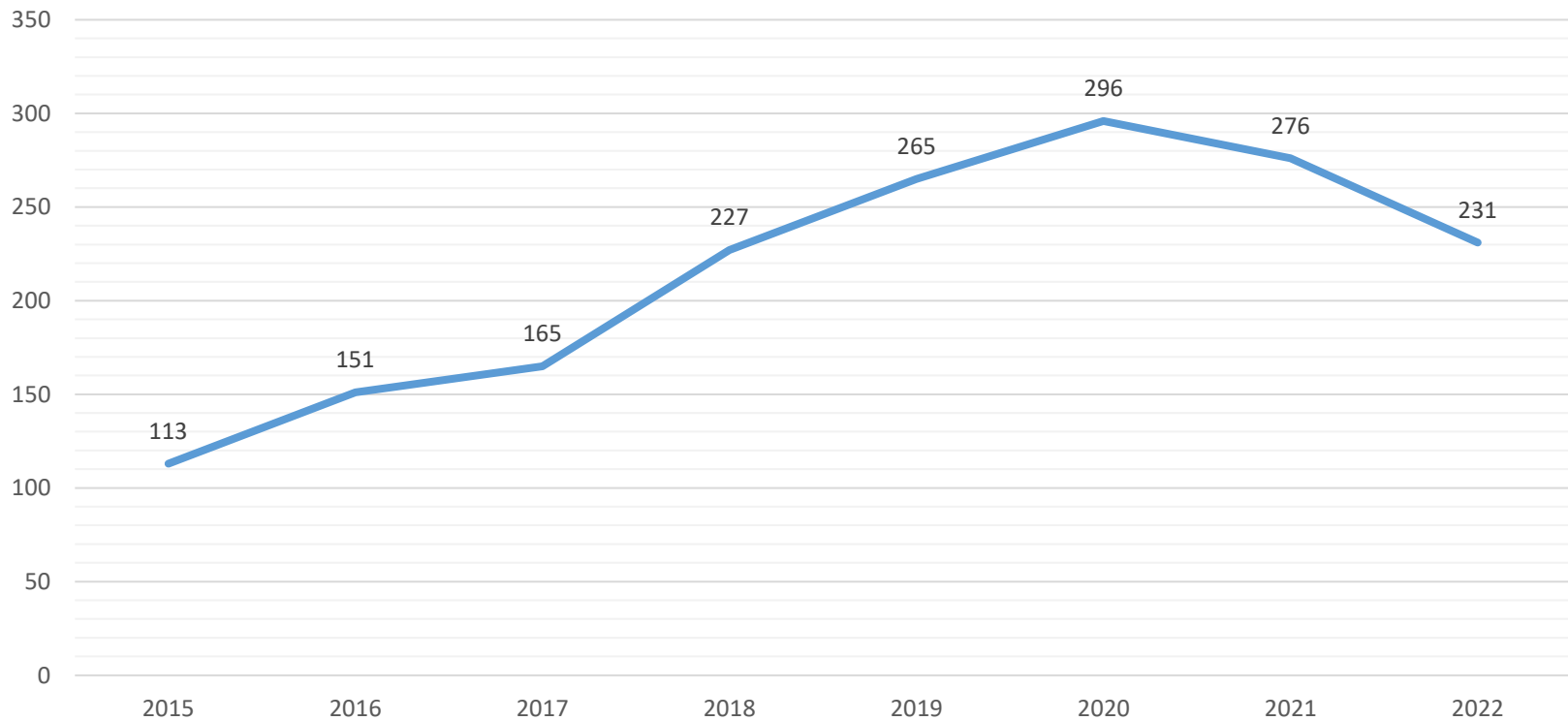
Lucas County has a population of ~426,643

Toledo, the counties largest city, has a population of
~266,301

In 2022, there were 231 opioid related fatalities
reviewed by the Lucas County Coroner occurring in
Lucas County

Approximately 83% of fatal opioid overdoses
occurred in the City of Toledo

Total Number of Opioid Related Deaths Occurring In Lucas County (2015-2022*)



The CDC's Guiding Principles for Overdose Prevention

1. Know your epidemic, know your response.

Opioid overdose is driven by many different mechanisms and human experiences, and people may follow a variety of paths toward opioid misuse and overdose. The realities faced by people who use drugs may be common across regions or vary within tight social groups.

2. Make collaboration your strategy.

Effectively responding to the opioid overdose epidemic requires that all partners be at the table. Make collaboration your strategy by ensuring that all community entities are able to fulfill their necessary roles.

3. Nothing about us without us.

Prevention strategies need to take into account the realities, experiences, and perspectives of those at risk of overdose. Those affected by opioid use and overdose risk should be involved in developing the solutions. The design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions help assure those efforts are responsive to what's happening in the local community and can achieve the desired goals.

4. Meet people where they are.

The guiding principle of “meet people where they are” means more than showing compassion or tolerance to people in crisis. The principle also asks us to acknowledge that all people we meet are at different stages of behavior change. Recognizing these stages helps set reasonable expectations for interacting with people.

TLCHD Injury Prevention

Current Funding:

Ohio Department of Health

Integrated Harm Reduction Grant

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

State Opiate and Stimulant Response (SOS 3.0)

State Opiate Response – Minority

Local Tax Levy

University of Toledo Medical Center

Ryan White (HRSA)

CDC and NACCHO

Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level (IOPSLL)

Past Funding:

Ohio Department of Health

Drug Overdose Prevention Grant (2019-2023)

HEALing Community Study Wave 1 County (2019-2021)



Harm Reduction 101

What is *harm reduction*?

Harm reduction is an **evidence-based** approach that is **critical** to engaging with people who use drugs and equipping them with life-saving tools and information to create positive change in their lives and potentially save their lives.

Harm reduction is a **key pillar** in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Overdose Prevention Strategy.

Individuals inherently deserve services that promote health, **regardless of whether they use drugs.**

Evidence-Based Harm Reduction Strategies Highlighted by TLCHD:

- Targeted Naloxone Distribution
- Syringe Service Programs

Targeted Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone- a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effect of an opioid overdose when administered in time. Targeted naloxone distribution programs seek to train and equip individuals who are most likely to encounter or witness an overdose- especially people who use drugs and first responders- with naloxone kits, which they can use in an emergency to save a life.

Target Populations:

- People who use drugs
- Friends and family of people who use drugs
- People coming out of incarceration
- People who recently experienced an overdose
- Minority populations disproportionately affected by overdose

Methods of Distribution:

- Using data surveillance to determine geographical locations that need targeted naloxone intervention (with and without a mobile unit)
- Naloxone vending machines or directly working with correctional facility staff to distribute naloxone to people coming out of incarceration
- Providing naloxone to syringe service programs
- Leave it Behind programs that collaborate with first responders
- Collaborating with agencies that serve people who use drugs and friends and family of to supply naloxone
- Mail order

Targeted Naloxone Distribution in Action

TLCHD, with the help of many community agencies, distributed **10,187** naloxone kits in 2022.

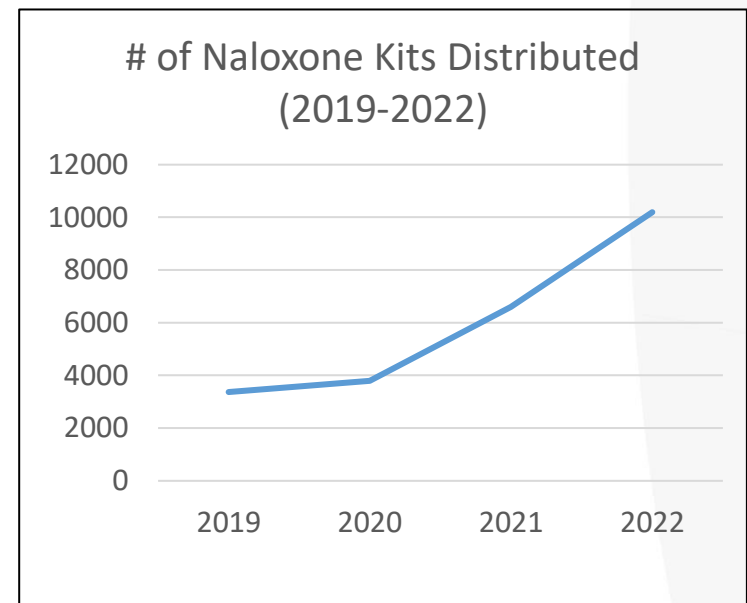
A **service entity** is any organization, agency, or business that partners with TLCHD to receive naloxone and distribute it within their own setting. Service entities agree to complete data collection measures with each kit distributed in exchange for access to no-cost naloxone for their clients, patients, or patrons.

Current Number of Service Entities: 22

- First Responders (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Jails)
- Syringe Service Program (NOSS)
- Health Service Programs
- Community Groups
- Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Lay Distributors

Benefits to Adding Service Entities

- Allows increased access to naloxone
- Helps meet people where they are at
- Helps with meeting targeted population



Targeted Naloxone Distribution in Action

Leave it Behind Programs

Leave it Behind programs allow first responders who participate to leave behind a naloxone kit when in a situation where they believe there is risk of opioid overdose.

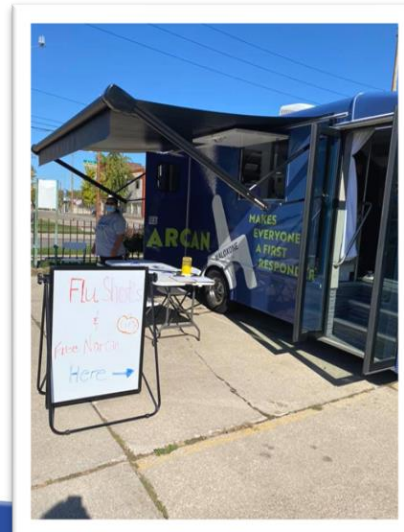
Lucas County has 5 participating Leave it Behind programs including Toledo Fire and Rescue Department



Targeted Outreach Efforts

TLCHD staff use surveillance programs such as ODMAP and stats provided from local first responders to determine urgent locations to perform OEND efforts.

This can be done through pop-ups or partnerships can be formed with local businesses, agencies, or community centers that may allow pre-scheduled naloxone distribution. **This can be done with or without a mobile unit.**



Syringe Service Programming

Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) are community-based prevention programs that can provide a range of services, including linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.

Nearly thirty years of research shows that comprehensive SSPs are **safe, effective, and cost-saving, do not increase illegal drug use or crime, and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV and other infections.**

Syringe Service Programs...

- Help prevent transmission of blood-borne infections
 - Using sterile injection equipment for each injection can reduce the risk of acquiring and transmitting infections and prevent outbreaks
- Help reduce or stop substance use
 - The majority of SSPs offer referrals to medication for opioid use disorder. New users of SSPs are 5x more likely to enter drug treatment and three times more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use the programs. SSPs teach people who use drugs how to prevent overdose and how to recognize, respond to, and reverse a drug overdose with naloxone.
- Helps support public safety
 - SSPs protect first responders and the public by providing safe needle disposal and reducing the presence of discarded needles in the community.

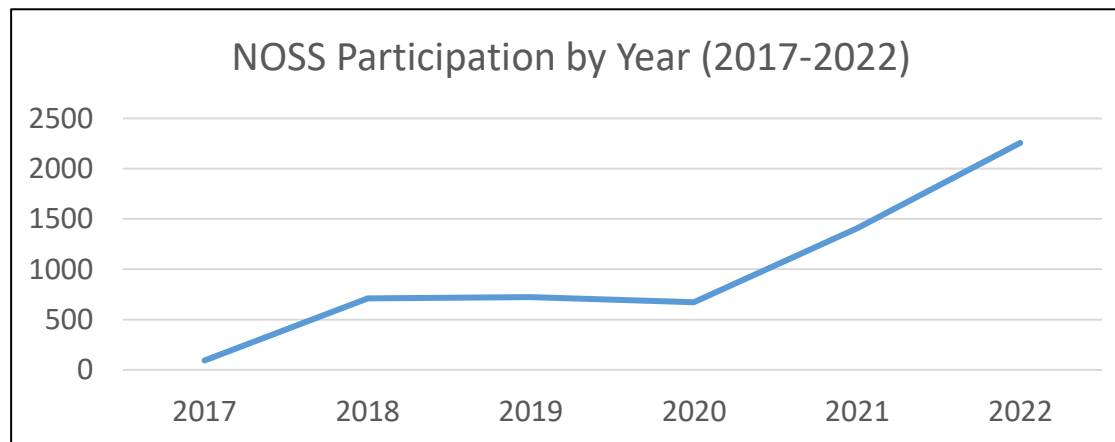
Syringe Service Programming in Action

Northwest Ohio Syringe Services (NOSS)

NOSS is an anonymous, judgement free, **needs-based** syringe service program offering people who use drugs:

- Sterile injection equipment, including syringes and syringe disposal supplies
- Linkage to care, including MOUD and other social services
- Overdose prevention tools like fentanyl test strips and naloxone
- HIV, Hep C, Syphilis and pregnancy testing and treatment options
- Wound care evaluation and injection site review
- Hygiene supplies
- Xylazine test strips
- Warm meals, water, and hydration packets
- ... and more!

NOSS began at the end of 2017 and currently operates at 7 locations per month.



Syringe Service Programming in Action

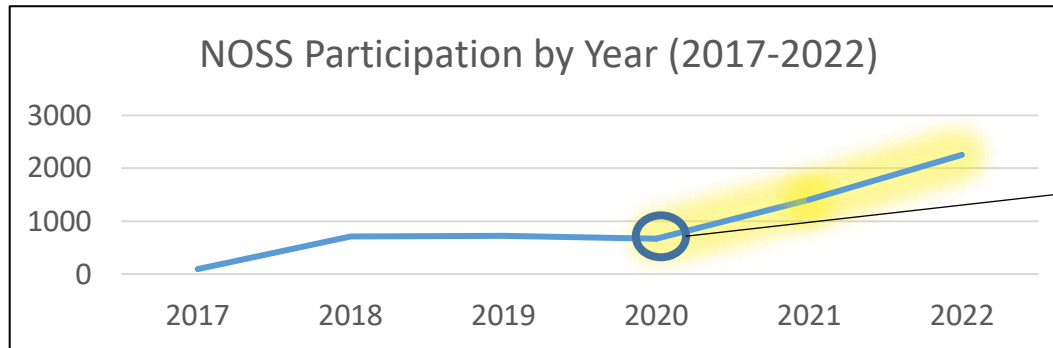
In 2022, NOSS...

- Distributed 245,832 new syringes
- Collected 30,645 used syringes
- Distributed 4,894 fentanyl test strips
- Distributed 2,276 naloxone kits
- Performed 26 HIV tests, 26 Hep C tests, and 15 syphilis tests
- Recorded 541 self disclosed overdose reversals
- Performed 1,451 injection site reviews
- Referred 31 people to housing services, 42 people to treatment and recovery services, 105 people to STD services, 31 people to other medical services, and countless others to peer support, human trafficking, and domestic violence services, among others.
- Served individuals from 65 different zip codes and 4 different states



Syringe Service Programming in Action

Small wins with big impact: Needs-based services are **best practice**



The COVID-19 pandemic caused many challenges to service during 2020. In fact, there was a decrease in participation from 2019 to 2020 even though syringe service programming was growing across the country.

In 2021, participation doubled, and NOSS saw another 52% increase in 2022.

Why?

Needs-based services with allowance for secondary distribution.

Needs-based syringe distribution provides people who use drugs access to the amount of syringes that they need to ensure that a new, sterile syringe is available for **each injection**.

A needs-based approach provides sterile syringes with no restrictions, including **no requirement to return used syringes**.

This is the best practice for reducing new HIV and viral hepatitis infections.

Secondary distribution allows SSP participants to distribute to their peers, who do not or cannot use the SSPs, furthering the impact of a needs-based approach.

Through secondary distribution NOSS reached an estimated additional 1,552 individuals

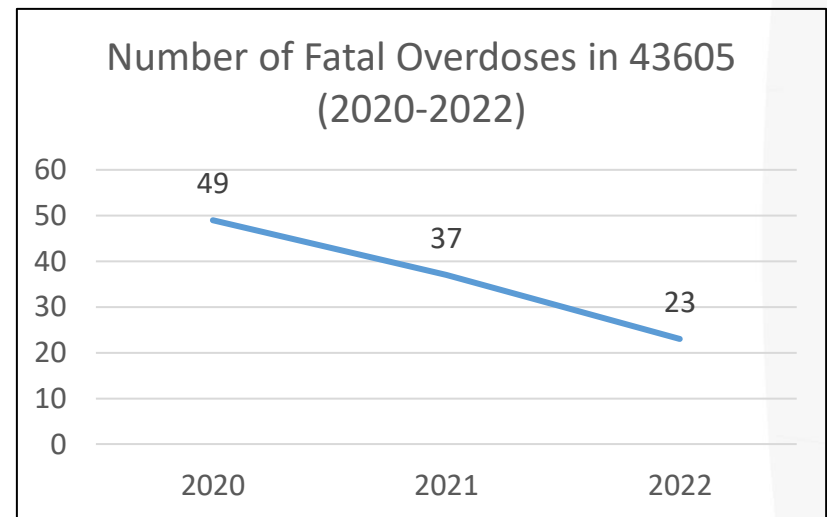
Syringe Service Programming in Action

Harm Reduction Works

The 43605 zip code, also known as the East Side, has notoriously been the leading zip code for both fatal and non fatal overdoses

Talbot Clinical Services is an original NOSS location, in operation since 2017. Being in the heart of an East Side neighborhood and a walkable site, it's the most well attended SSP location. Over 31% of NOSS participants reside in 43605.

2022 marked the first year in many that the East Side, 43605 was not the leading zip code for fatal overdoses.

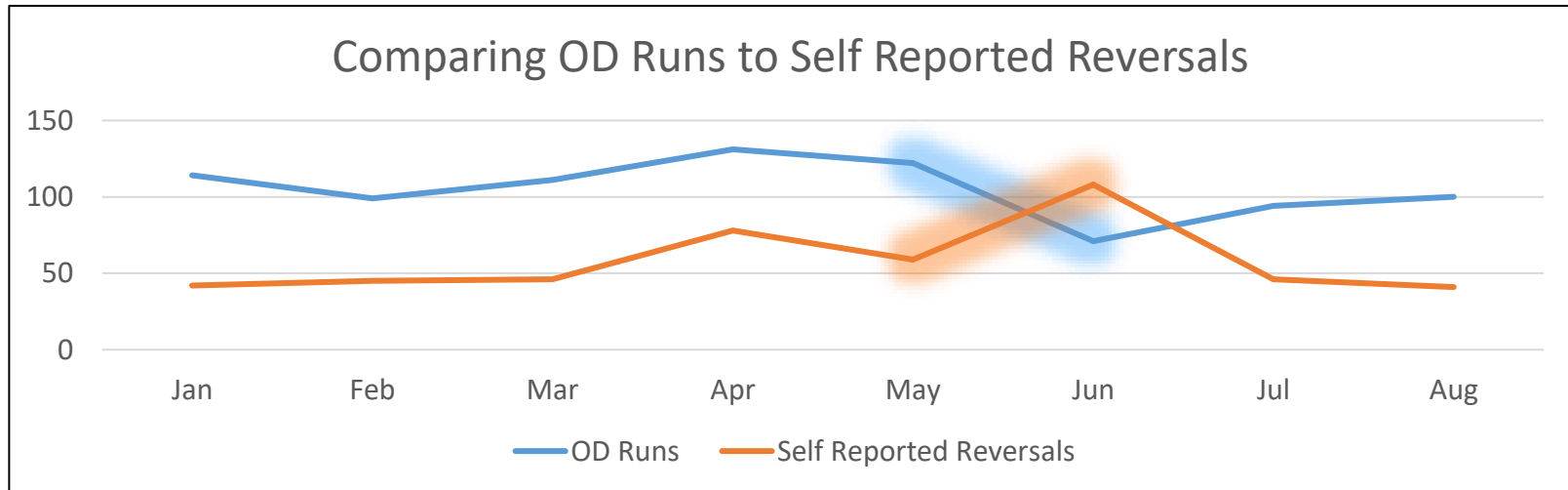


Syringe Service Programming in Action

Harm Reduction Works

Daily run reports are provided to the health department by Toledo Fire and Rescue Department. Reports like these help strategies stay informed by:

- Showing us new trends based on demographics and location
- Helping decide focus areas for targeted outreach services



In June 2023, TFRD reported a record low of overdose runs. The same month, NOSS reported a record high of self reported overdose reversals.