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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To: Local Media and Press Release Subscribers
From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer
Date: October 26, 2023

Rock County Public Health Announces New Overdose Dashboard

ROCK COUNTY, WI – Rock County Public Health (RCPH) has recently unveiled an updated and improved [online Overdose Data Dashboard](#). This dashboard is intended to show data related to drug overdoses in Rock County as well as overdose changes over the past several years. As the dashboard demonstrates, the most recent rise in overdose deaths was driven by the increase of fentanyl in the drug supply. In 2015, fentanyl was involved in 8% of overdose deaths and by 2022, that trend rose to 74%. In the confirmed overdose deaths so far in 2023, 89% have involved fentanyl, often in combination with other drugs like cocaine.

Through a grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO), RCPH staff received access to expert technical assistance in support of the creation of this dashboard. With an easy-to-understand format, the goal is to provide useful information that can be used by local agencies to track changes and respond to trends in the prevention of overdose deaths.

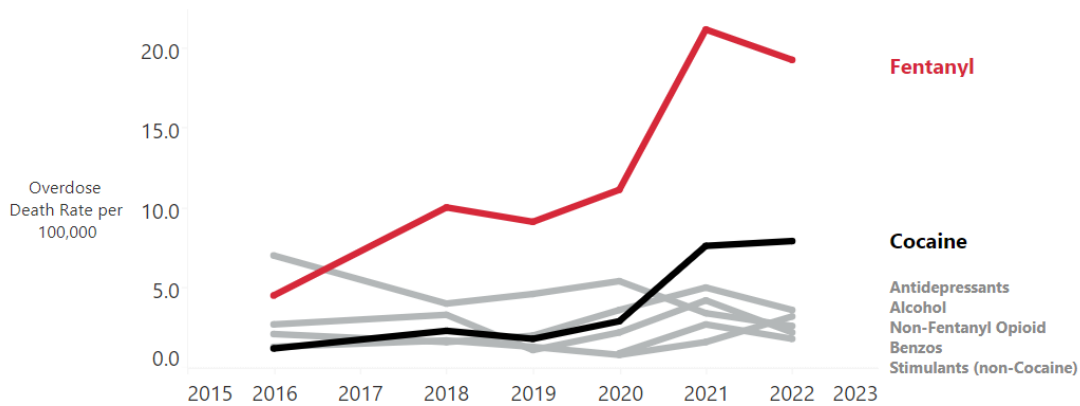
The data compiled in this dashboard includes mortality data and toxicology information from vital records and/or death certificates, emergency room data, ambulance and emergency medical services data, and prescribing data relevant to understanding overdose trends in Rock County.

There are two upcoming informational opportunities for the community to learn more about this issue:

- **November 2:** Fentanyl Townhall and NARCAN training held at the [Beloit Public Library](#), 6-7 p.m.
- **December 5:** ACEs and Opioids - A public awareness and education opportunity held at [Mercyhealth Trauma Preparedness Center](#), 6-7:30 p.m.

Fatal overdoses have increased **due to fentanyl**, which has been increasingly mixed with **cocaine**. Fentanyl is also mixed with other drugs like meth, heroin, and pills.

Overdose Death Rate by Substance Involved (including polysubstance use) in Rock County



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services Vital Records Reports

Sign up to receive Rock County Overdose Spike Alerts on [Rock County's website](#). Enter your email, then select any or all of our newsletter topics. Overdose Spike Alerts are issued when there is an unusually high number of overdoses reported by several sources in Rock County.

If you or a loved one uses prescription opioids or any illicit drugs, please consider carrying [NARCAN®](#) in case of an accidental overdose. For help and treatment for addictions, contact the [Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline](#), a statewide resource for finding treatment services and recovery supports. This free service is available 24/7. [Call 211](#) or 833-944-4673.

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Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health Department [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please send all media inquiries to:

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