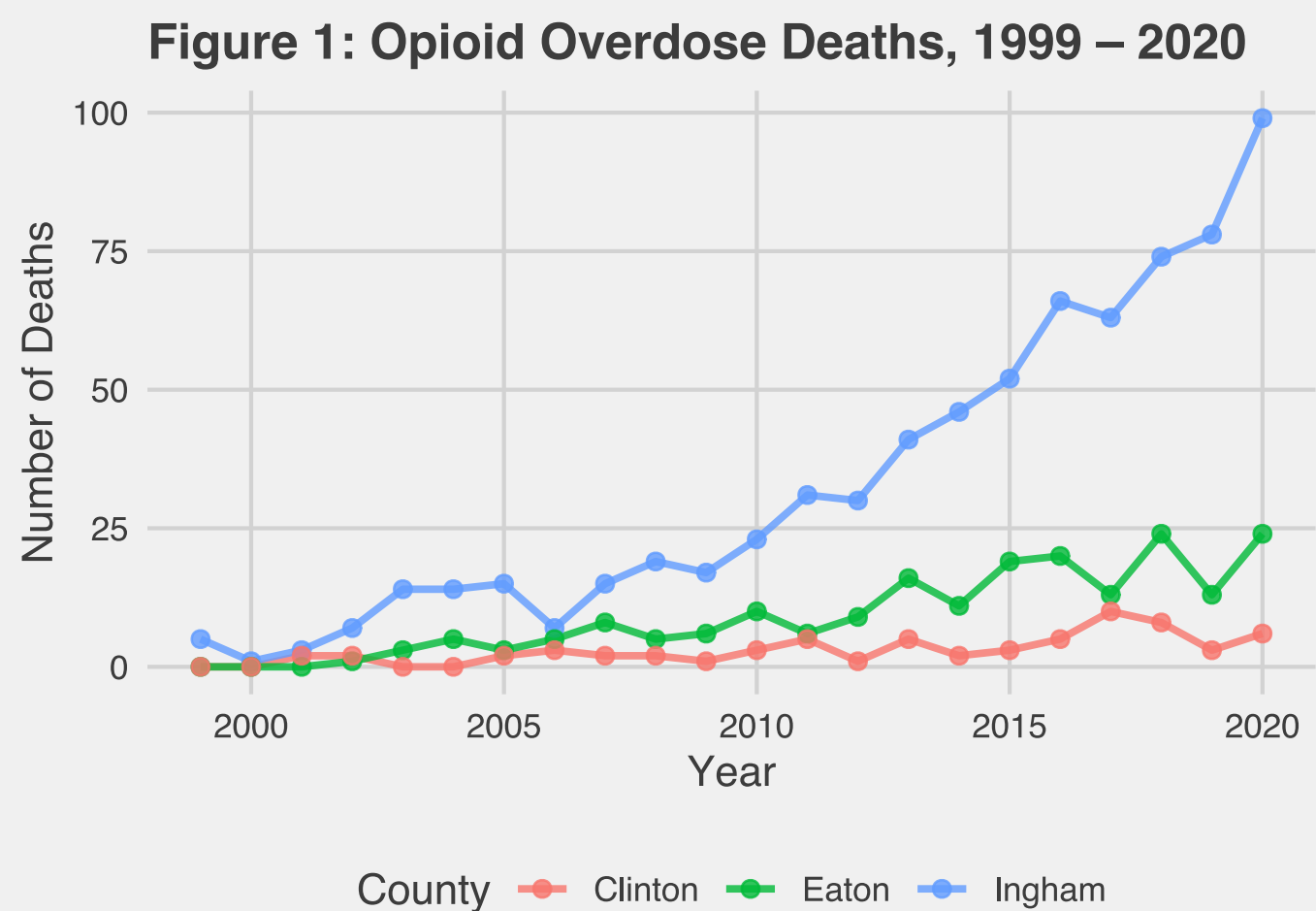


Michigan Capital Area Counties – Opioid Overdose Factsheet, 1999 – 2021

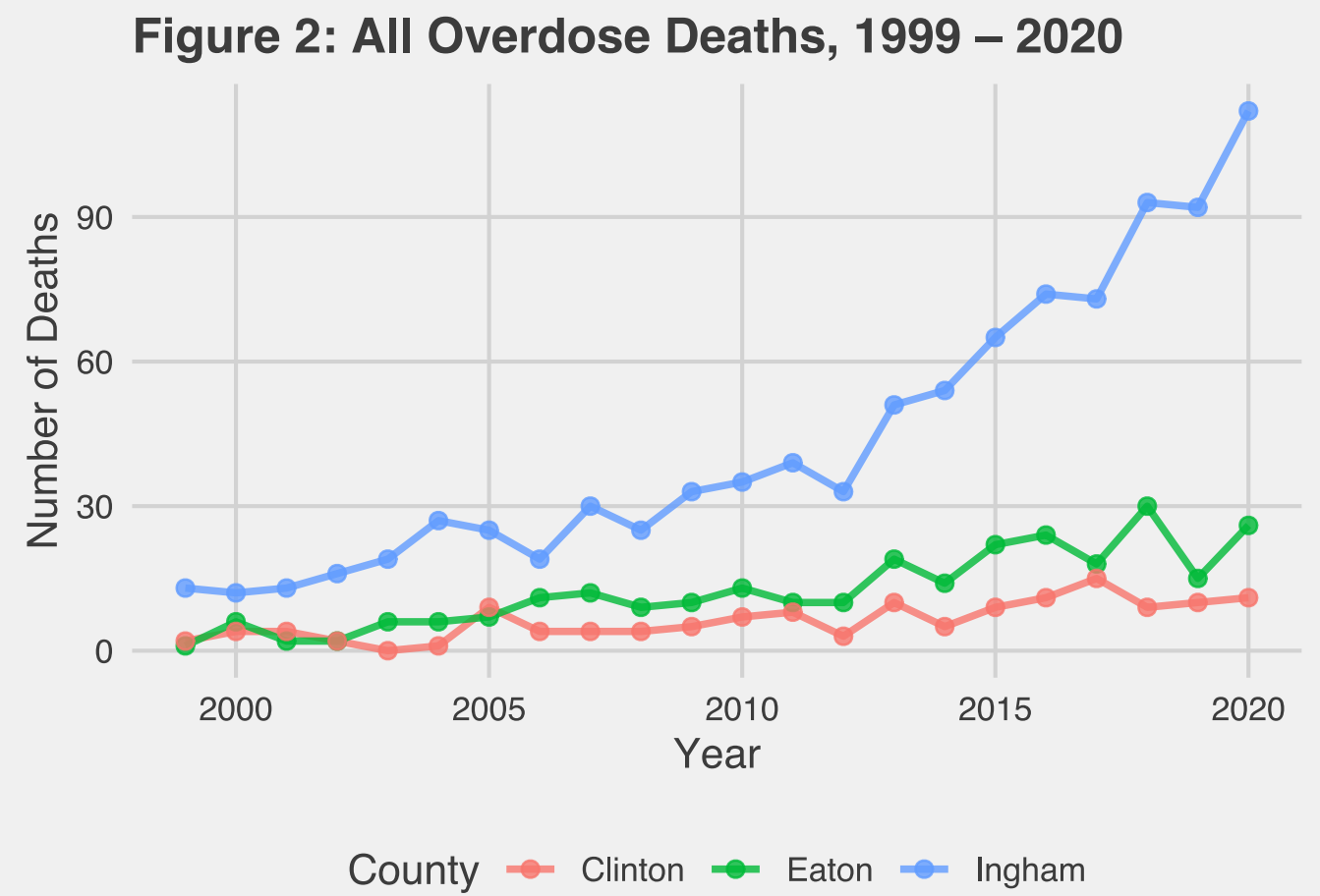
What is the Opioid Crisis?

- This term commonly refers to the massive increase in opioid prescriptions and overdose deaths that has occurred across the country since the 1990s.¹
- Since the 2010s, there has continued to be a rise in overdose deaths. This has been largely attributed to the increase in popularity of heroin and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl.¹
- Opioids are all drugs that are used to treat pain. Opioids can take the form of prescription drugs provided by a doctor, or they can be obtained illegally.²

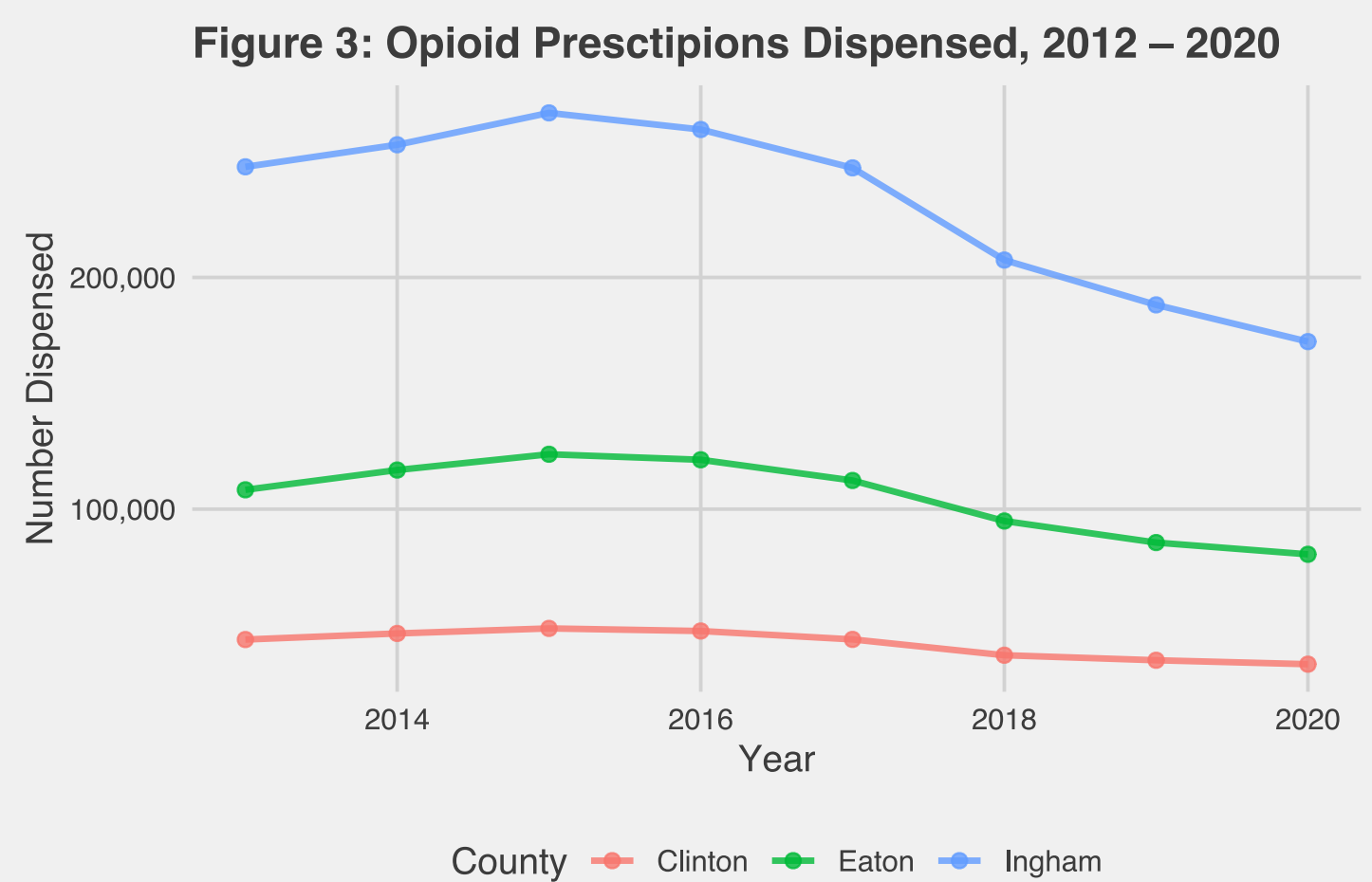
County Trends



- The Capital Area Counties of Michigan follow a similar pattern to statewide and national trends.¹
- As of 2020, Ingham County's total number of deaths due to opioid overdose has more than quadrupled since 2010.

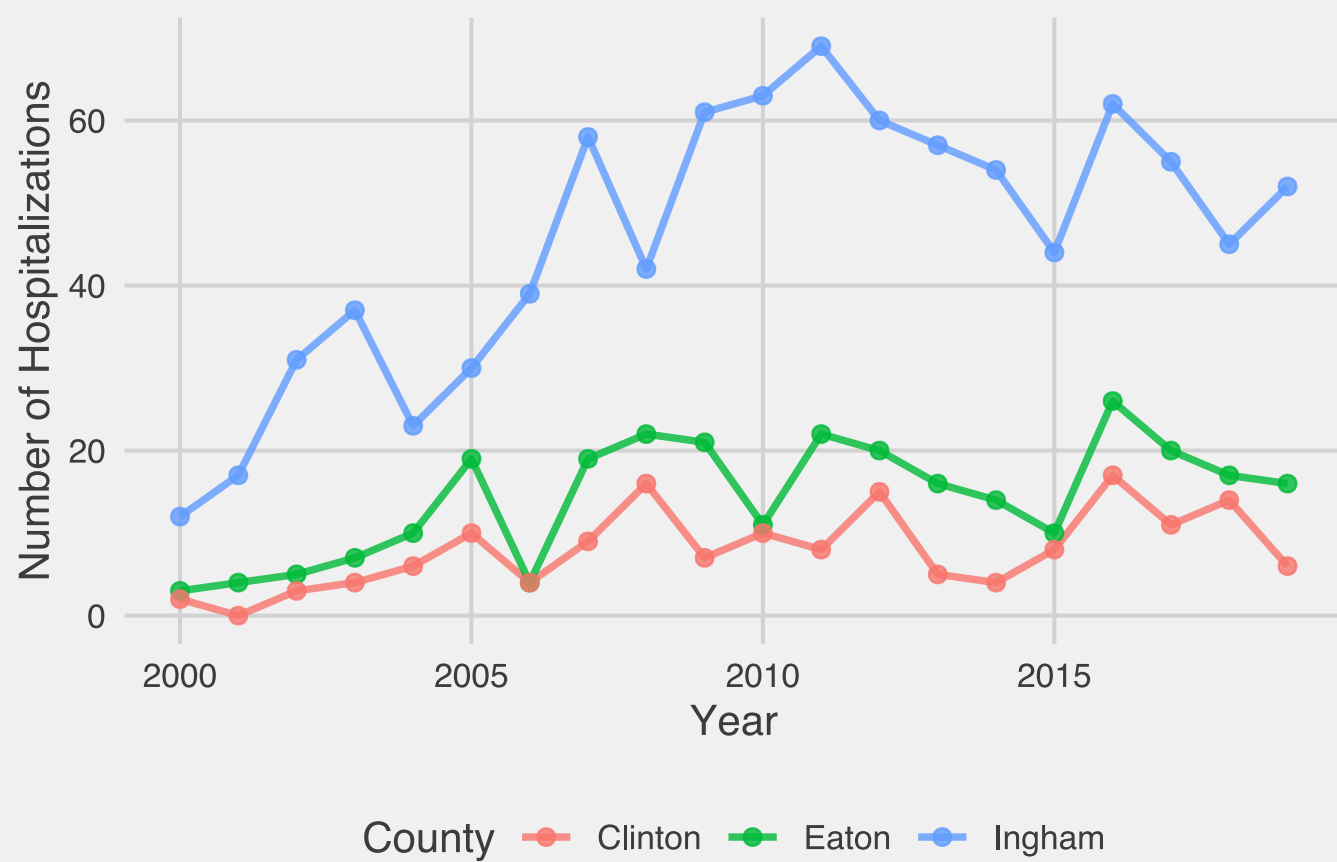


- These same trends of growth are mirrored when we examine all overdose deaths.
- While Clinton and Eaton Counties' number of deaths has increased by smaller margins, this skew is in part due to differences in population size.



- While cases of overdoses have soared, the number of opioid prescriptions being dispensed has mostly remained constant for Clinton and Eaton Counties, with some slight decline.
- In 2015, Ingham County had over 271,000 opioid prescriptions dispensed. By 2020, this metric had decreased to just over 172,000

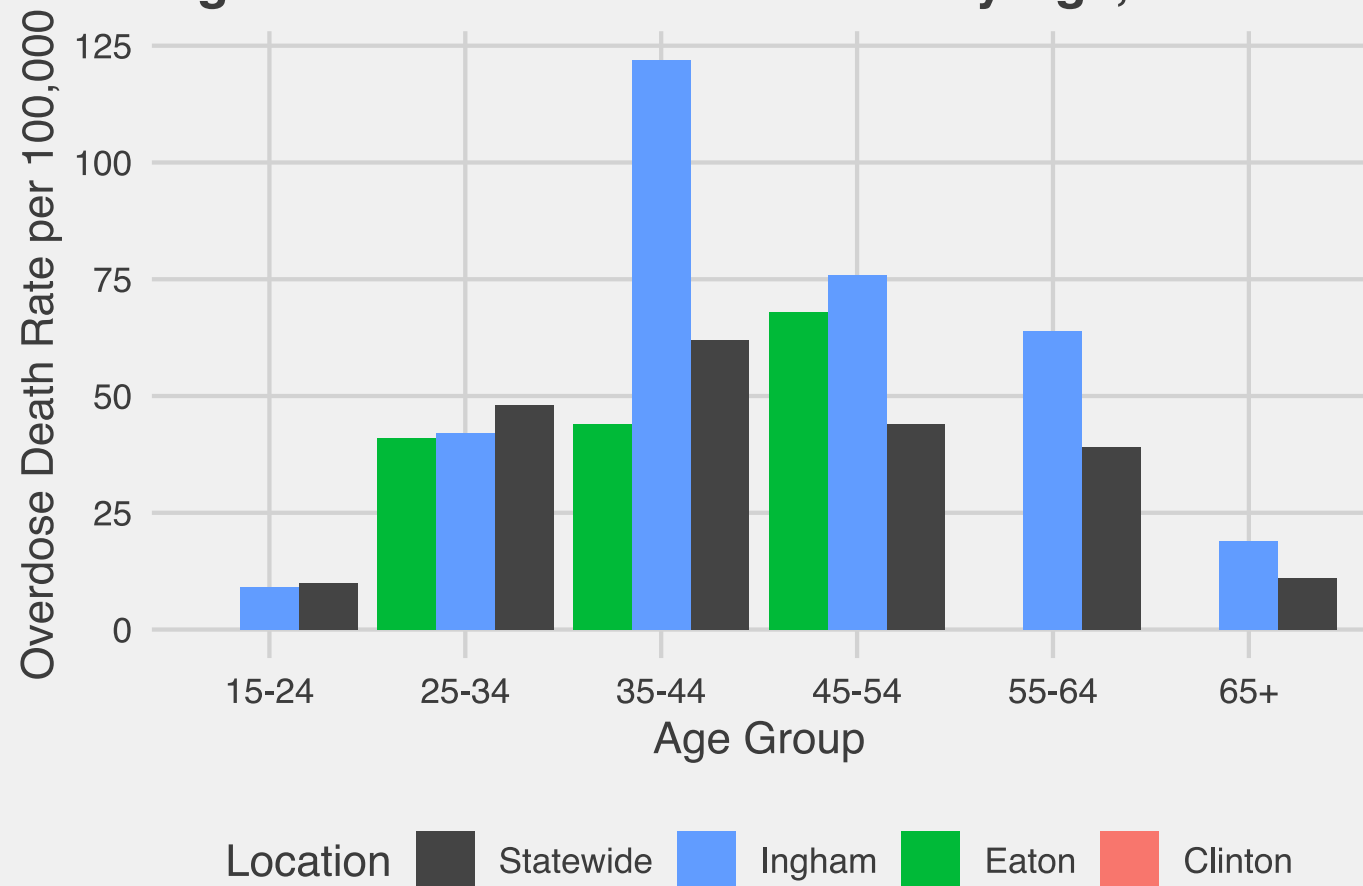
Figure 4: Opioid Related Hospitalizations, 2000 – 2019



- Opioid related hospitalizations have also been on the rise over the past two decades. While not as steep, this increase still shows the increasing concern of opioid abuse.

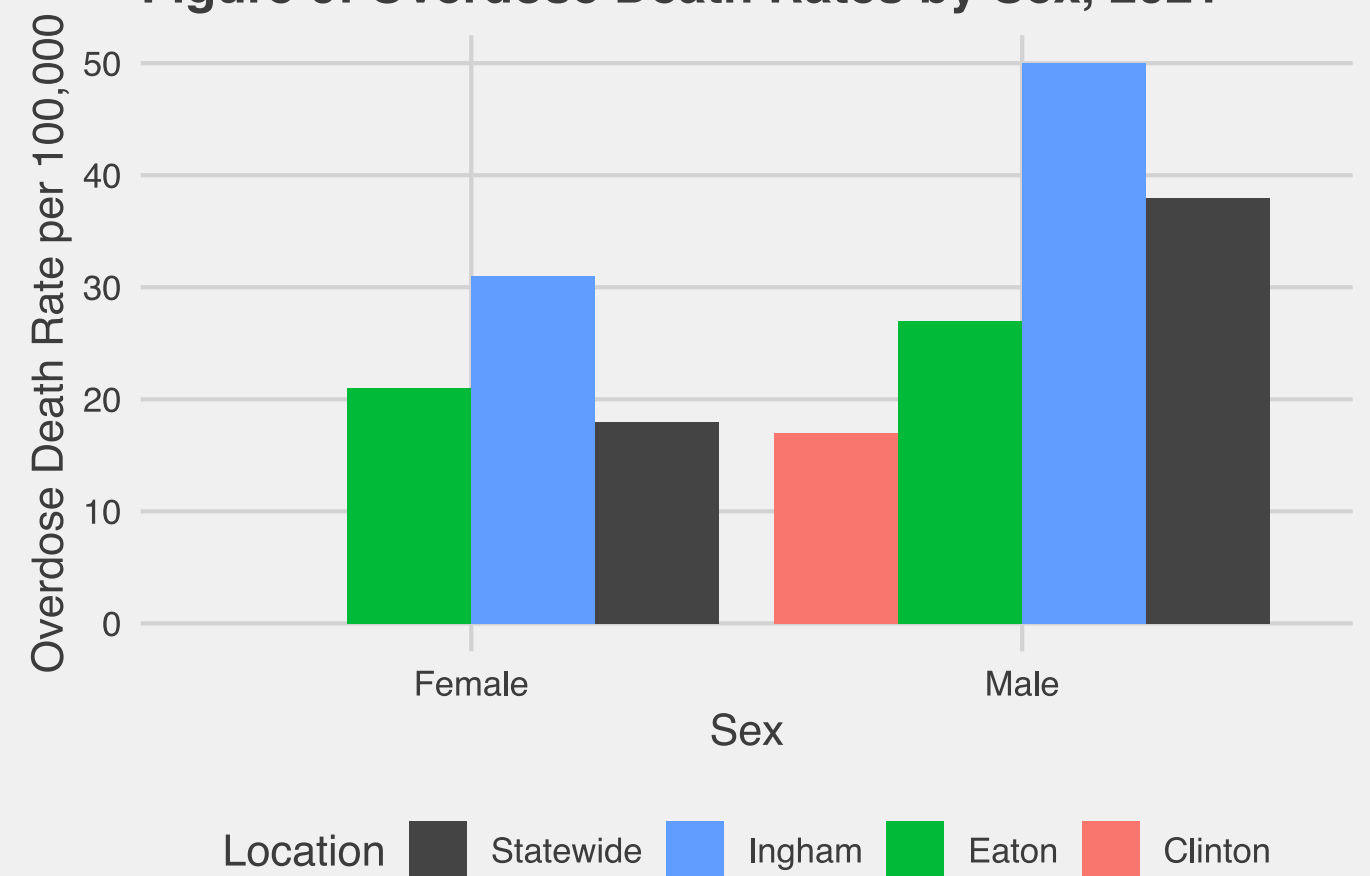
Current Demographics

Figure 5: Overdose Death Rates by Age, 2021



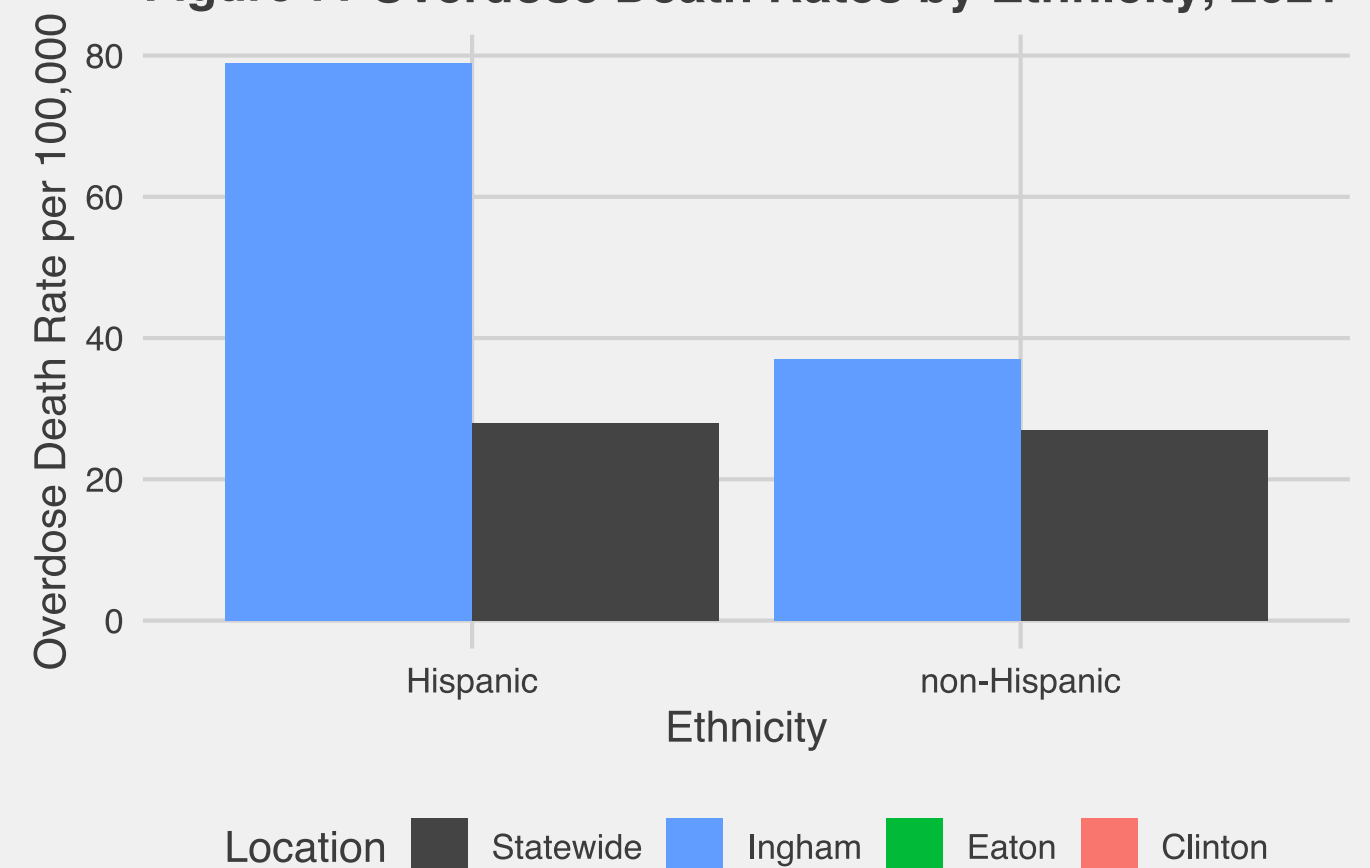
- The following graphs examine provisional overdose rates across different demographic groups.
- In nearly each age bracket Ingham County had the highest overdose rate per 100,000 people.
- By far the highest mortality burden falls on the age bracket of 35-44. This group experienced 122 deaths per 100,000 people. This is more than double the statewide rate of the same age bracket.

Figure 6: Overdose Death Rates by Sex, 2021



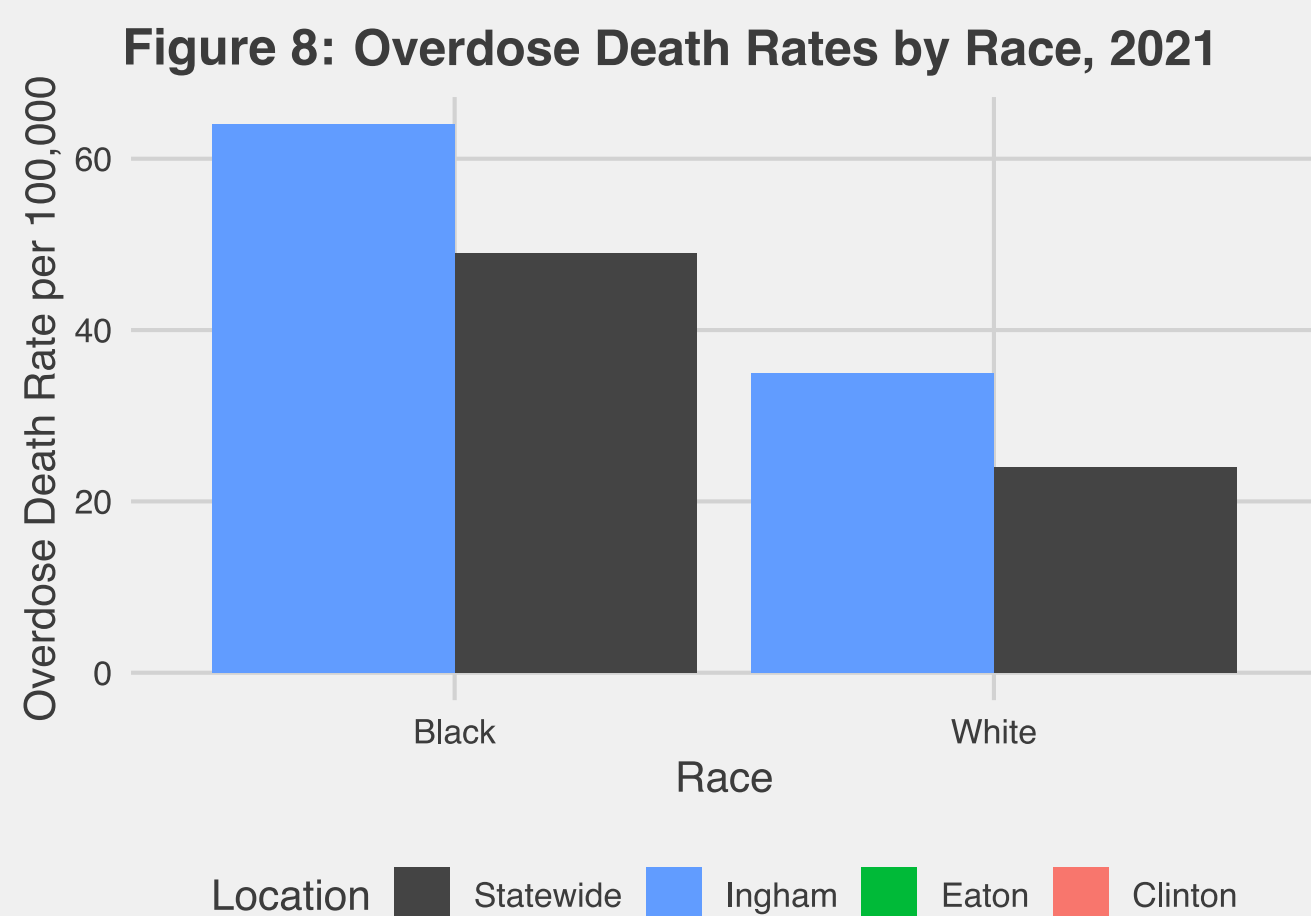
- When broken down by sex, Ingham County had the highest rate of overdose deaths.
- Ingham County continues to have a higher death rate than the statewide rate. Eaton County also has a higher rate among females when compared to all of Michigan.

Figure 7: Overdose Death Rates by Ethnicity, 2021



- Data on ethnicity was not available for Eaton and Clinton Counties.
- Compared to non-Hispanics, Hispanics in Ingham County had double the rate of overdose deaths in 2021. This disparity is not reflected in statewide rates in the same metric.
- This may reflect a target area for an intervention strategy in treatment or prevention.

Demographics, cont.



- Among race categories, disparities persist.
- The death rate among Black individuals in Ingham County is nearly double that of the White population.
- Again, Ingham County has a higher death rate than the state at large.

Implications

- Based on the data presented in this factsheet, and previous literature, it is clear that there has been a consistent rise in overdose deaths in the state of Michigan and in the Capital Area Counties.
- Despite the decrease in the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed, overdose deaths and hospitalizations have risen. This suggests that the spike in overdose related mortalities may be due to more illegal drug sources, such as heroin or fentanyl.
- This indicates a need for public health investment in prevention strategies and treatment options that deeply engage with communities struggling with this crisis.
- It is clear that Ingham County has much need for intervention strategies as its rate of overdose deaths and number of overdoses are greater than their surrounding counties respective metrics.
- Demographic analysis suggests equity is an important principle to guide future intervention and prevention efforts.

Data Sources

- Data presented in figures 1–4 were sourced from the Michigan Substance Use Disorder Data Repository.³
- Opioid prescription data were originally sourced from the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS). Hospitalization data were sourced from the Michigan Inpatient Hospitalization Files: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics.
- Data on overdose deaths were sourced from Michigan Death Certificates, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics/MDHHS.
- 2021 demographic and overdose death data were pulled from the Michigan Opioid Data to Action Dashboard. These data are sourced from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) and the Violent Death Reporting System (VDRS).⁴
- Visualizations were all created by Brenden Smith in R and R Studio using the following packages: tidyverse, ggthemes, readxl, and scales.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Understanding the Epidemic | CDC's Response to the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | CDC. www.cdc.gov. Published June 1, 2022. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioid Basics | CDC's Response to the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | CDC. www.cdc.gov. Published May 23, 2022. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/index.html>
3. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Data – Michigan Substance Use Disorder Data Repository. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://mi-suddr.com/data/>
4. 2021. *Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard Documentation*. [pdf] Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Available at: https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/-/media/Project/Websites/opioids/documents/MODA_Dashboard_Technical_Documentation.pdf?rev=b72f2e5d9b5d47a8a5fa630a16060500 [Accessed 23 June 2022].