

2025 Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Report

St. Clair County, MI

Purpose

The St. Clair County (SCC) OFR team focuses on preventing future drug overdose deaths by conducting confidential, multidisciplinary reviews of fatal overdose cases. These reviews help identify systemic gaps and missed opportunities for intervention.



Key Impact Metrics

Total Reviews:	Total Number of Active Review Members:	Total Number of Overdose Deaths	OFR Coordinating Agency
10	19	*19	St. Clair County Health Department

*Provisional data pulled from MI Celerity on 12/15/2025.

Demographics & Case Characteristics

Average Age: 44

Race/Ethnicity:

- 92% White
- 8% Black or African American

Case Indicators

- 77% involved poly-drug use
- 50% involved a history of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- 50% had a confirmed diagnosed medical condition
- 71% had interaction with the criminal justice system related to drug use

*Data from 2024 and 2025 reviews.

Cumulative Recommendations

Overview

The OFR group compiled a list of recommendations from each review meeting throughout 2025. As the recommendations were reviewed, common themes emerged. The group decided to prioritize these recommendations by theme, rather than ranking them individually.

A complete list of recommendations listed on the backside of this report.



Narcan

- Public education for family and friends of people who use drugs on signs of an overdose and how to use Narcan.
- Engage with individuals involved in the justice system.
- Ensure Narcan (naloxone) is readily available upon release and education is provided.
- Advance efforts to teach family members how to administer Narcan.
- Create short 2-3 minute video for general public on how the basics of administering Narcan.
- Coordinate with community partners to push out the video on social media and agency websites.

Mental Health

- Combat mental health and addiction stigma as a community with specific focus on stigma surrounding a relapse.
- Improve mental health services for individuals dealing with substance use.
- Ensure mental health support for household after suicide of a family member.
- Ensure mental health support for children after losing a parent to overdose.
- Explore support programming for family and friends of people who have died from a drug overdose.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

- Continue to educate public on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) as many of the reviewed cases have childhood trauma.
- Educate community on ACES to try and break cycle of addiction/trauma.
- Highlight existing programs that connect children experiencing turmoil at home with positive, supportive adults.
- Provide ACES education in schools.

Mobile Overdose Response Team (MORT)

- Explore utilizing MORT services at Lake Huron Medical Center.
- Referrals can then be made for patients of concern that have suspected or confirmed drug use.
- Strengthen MORT response to family members of person who is struggling with substance use.
- Specific focus on hospital partners for referrals.
- Increase patient access to MORT Services while in the ER.
- Continue early contact referrals with MORT from various community agencies.
- Also look to expand referral network.
- Health Engagement and Risk Prevention
- Expand outreach and preventive health services for individuals at increased risk of substance-use-related health complications, including access to routine screening and other preventative health services.
- Strengthen coordination between hospitals and the health department to ensure timely referral, follow-up, and connection to appropriate health and support services.

Huffing

- Educate youth about dangers of huffing.
- Educate parents on dangers of youth huffing and signs to look out for.
- Limit access of Whippets to public. Establishments who sell should have protocol if same person is regularly buying Whippets from them.

Miscellaneous

- Educate people who use drugs on fentanyl risk (other drugs being laced with fentanyl).
- Increased consequences for individuals with recurring drug use charges when all other options have been exhausted. Consequences may include longer jail/prison stays.
- Follow-up with clients periodically after they have been discharged from substance use related services.
- Ensure access to appropriate pain management resource, with an emphasis on safe and effective treatment options.
- Inform public about low to no cost health insurance options including Medicaid and plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Also promote the use of navigators who can assist residents for free on signing up for coverage.
- Education on who is investigating red flags in the MI Automated Prescription System (MAPS).
- Explore alternatives to suspension in school when student is found with substances.
- Integration of family court, circuit court, and district court.
- Clear path for what qualifies for mental health court or drug court.