



August 8, 2023

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Public Health Alert: Increased Overdose Deaths**

[Akron, OH] –The Summit County Public Health Department in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Board and the Summit County Medical Examiner’s Office is issuing a public health alert due to seven suspected overdose deaths in Summit County since Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> according to data from the Summit County Medical Examiner’s Office. In addition there has been a steady increase in Emergency Department (ED) visits related to overdose over the last five weeks.

At least 82% of all overdose deaths so far in 2023 have included fentanyl, a highly potent opioid synthetic often mixed into other illicit substances.

If you or someone you know is actively using or recovering from opioid addiction please consider developing a personal safety or harm reduction plan. This could include any or all of the following:

1. **Have Naloxone (Narcan) and fentanyl test strips ready.** Both of these are available through Summit County Public Health’s website for free here: <https://www.scph.org/counseling/mail-order> or through the Summit Safe anonymous Harm Reduction clinics at the following dates and times;

Summit County Public Health  
Fairway Center  
1867 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44313  
Fridays from 8:00am-3:00pm

1400 S. Arlington St. #28, Akron, OH 44306  
Mondays from 12:00pm-3:00pm  
Wednesdays from 3:00pm-6:00pm

2. **Never Use Alone:** The risk of fatal overdose is increased when using alone. Be sure someone you trust is nearby or call the National Overdose Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-484-3731 or the National Crisis Line at 9-8-8.
3. **Call 9-1-1:** An overdose is a medical emergency. Even if you are able to give the victim naloxone they should still seek medical attention. The Good Samaritan law provides immunity for drug possession or paraphernalia offenses for both the victim AND the person who calls for help.



4. **Reach out for help:** Addiction is a treatable disease and Recovery is possible. This journey looks different for each individual but help is available. For a list of resources please call the ADM Board 24/7 Addiction Helpline at 330-940-1133 or one of the following resources:

<https://www.admboard.org/alcohol-drug-addiction-mental-health-services.aspx>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

<https://relink.org/>

For more information regarding harm reductions strategies please visit:

<https://www.scph.org/counseling>.



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