

# Overdose Report

QUARTER 1

JAN 1 – MAR 31

2025



**CITY OF CLEVELAND**

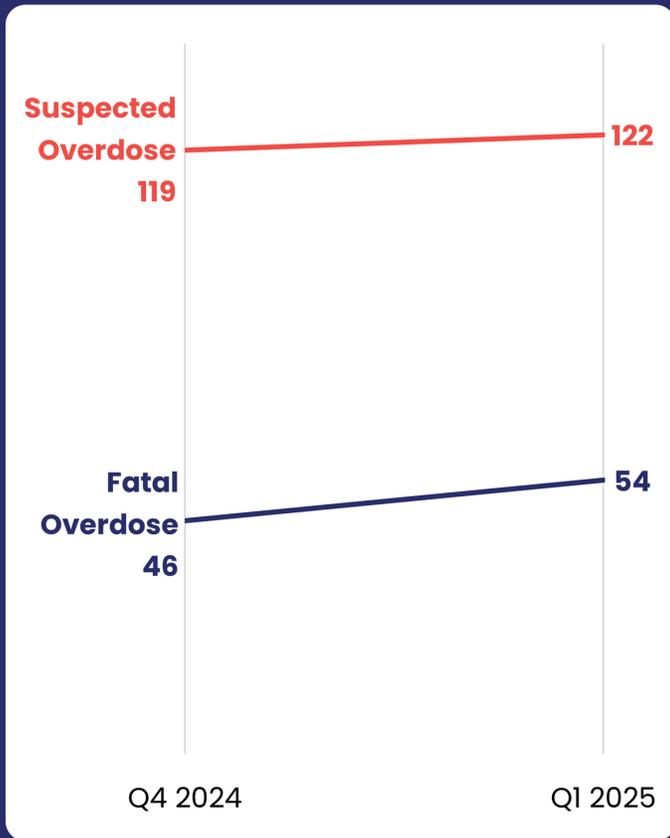
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Prepared by  
Office of Epidemiology and  
Population Health

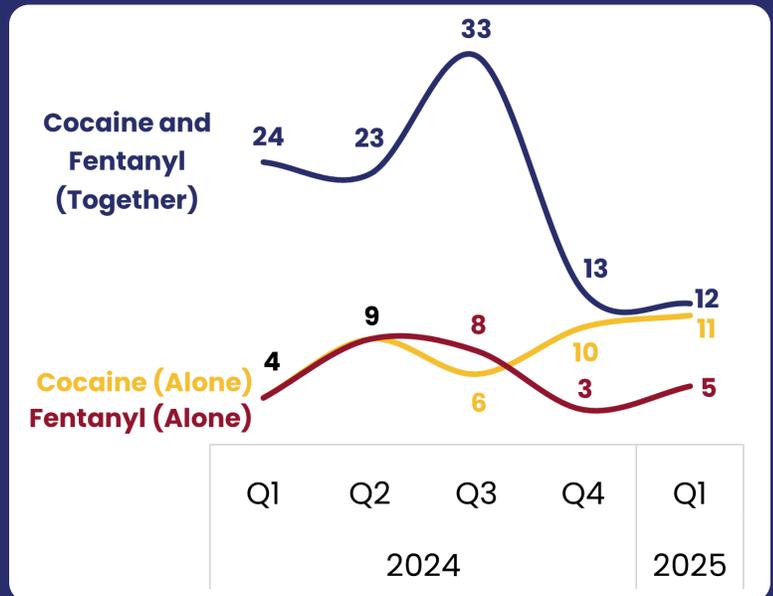
# Overdose Overview

## Quarter to Quarter Trends



Both **fatal overdoses** and **suspected overdoses** have remained fairly steady, only seeing slight increases from last quarter.

## Fatal Overdoses by Substance



Quarters 1-3 of 2024 were dominated by fatal overdoses due to polysubstance use of both **cocaine and fentanyl**. Since then, there has been a significant decline in the number of these fatal overdoses as well as those due to **fentanyl alone**. In this time, fatal overdoses due to **cocaine alone** have increased and in Q1 had just one less fatal overdose than for cocaine and fentanyl together.

- **Cocaine** was involved with **61%** of all Q1 fatal overdoses
- For Q1, **Hispanic** residents and residents **aged 60 and older** had overdose rates higher than their 5-year quarterly averages

### Report Notes

This report seeks to present the most current data for drug related overdoses for city of Cleveland residents.

### Data

Ohio Department of Vital Statistics and Health Monitoring System's EpiCenter program.

### Methods

Analysis of fatal and suspected overdose data for Q1 2025. Using comparison groups consisting of previous quarters, 5 year averages, and other demographic groups.

### Limitations

Data contained in this report is preliminary and subject to change.

### Contact

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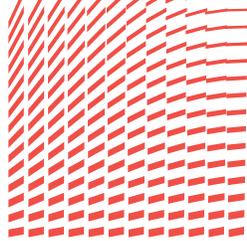
### Data Requests

For more data/reports or to make a data request, scan the following QR code.



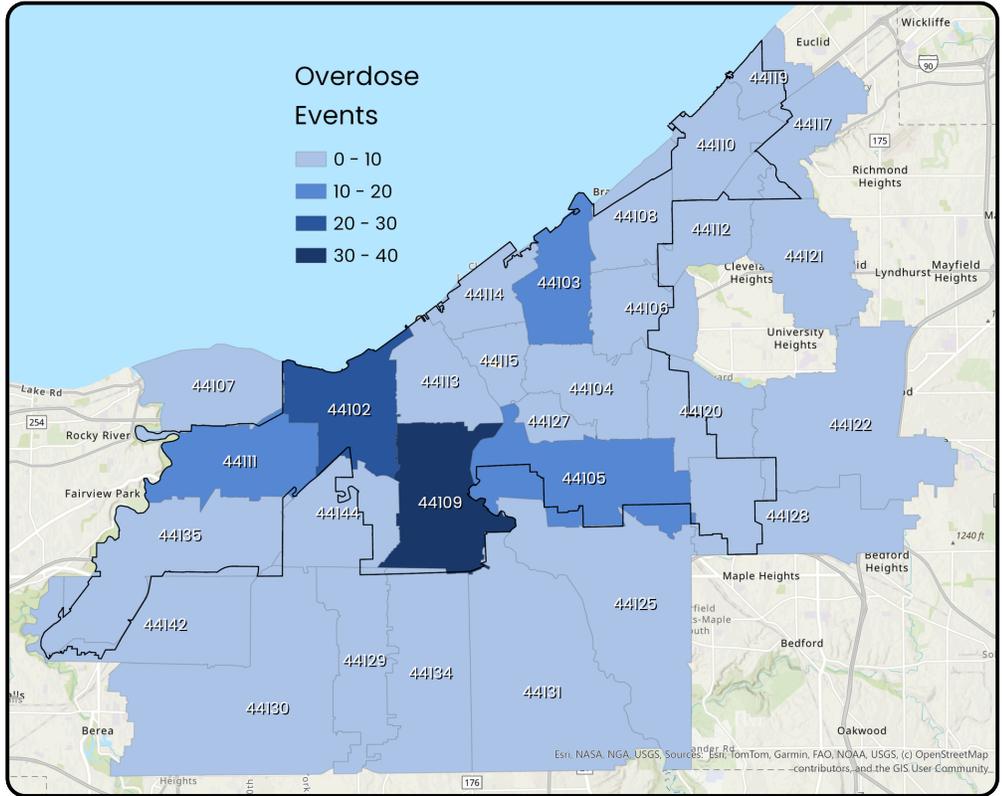
# Overdose Events

Includes fatal overdoses and suspected overdoses that visited an emergency department for Cleveland residents



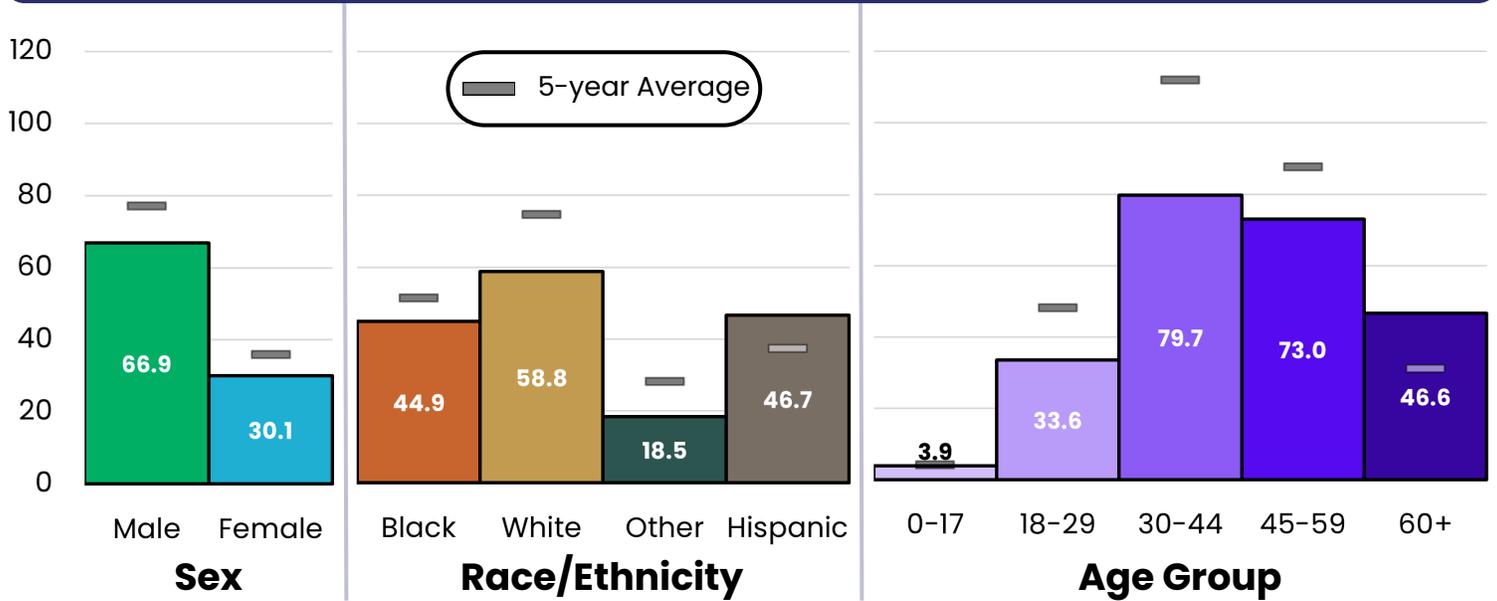
A majority of ZIP codes within Cleveland had 10 or less overdose events in Q1. Meanwhile, ZIP codes 44109 and 44102 had a combined total of 66 overdose events, accounting for 37.5% of all overdose events this quarter.

The rate of overdose events by sex, race/ethnicity, and age below highlight unique observations for these demographics. Only two of these groups had rates higher than their 5-year average trends, **Hispanic** and ages **60+**. These above expected rates reveal a shift where these demographics have jumped ahead of others they historically have been lower than. **Hispanic** residents had a higher overdose event rate than **Black** residents as well as residents age **60+** had overdose event rates higher than residents age **18-29**.



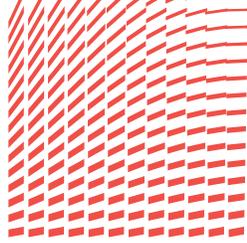
Note: All Cuyahoga County ZIP codes that have any area within the city limits of Cleveland are displayed

## Overdose event incidence rates per 100k residents (Q1 2025)



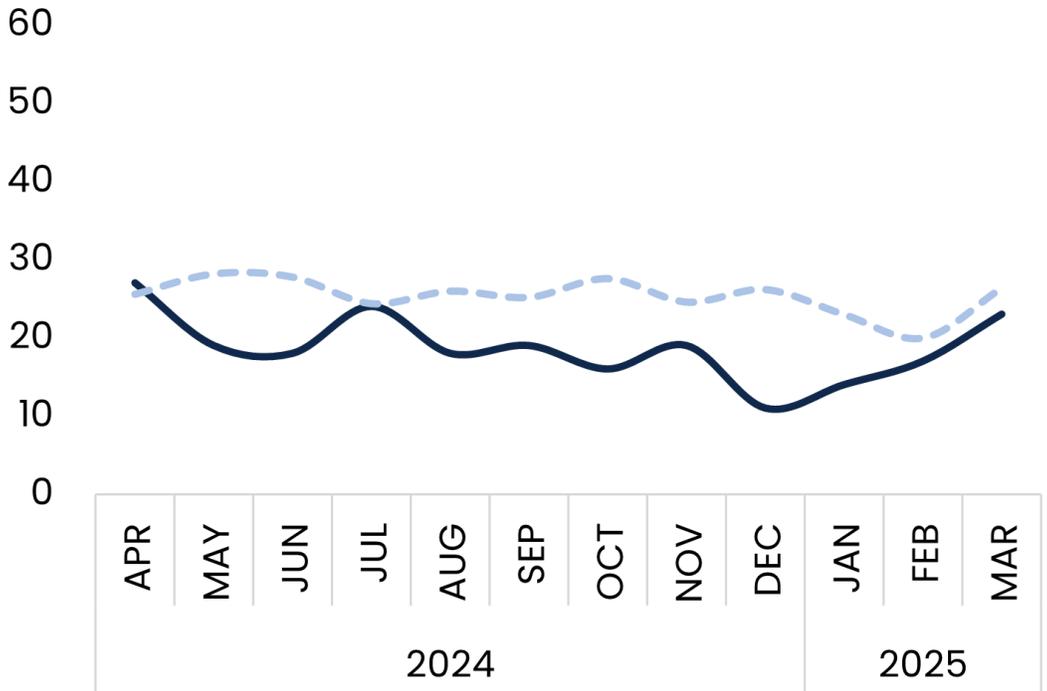
# Fatal Overdose

Identified as Cleveland resident deaths where drug poisoning was provided as a cause of death



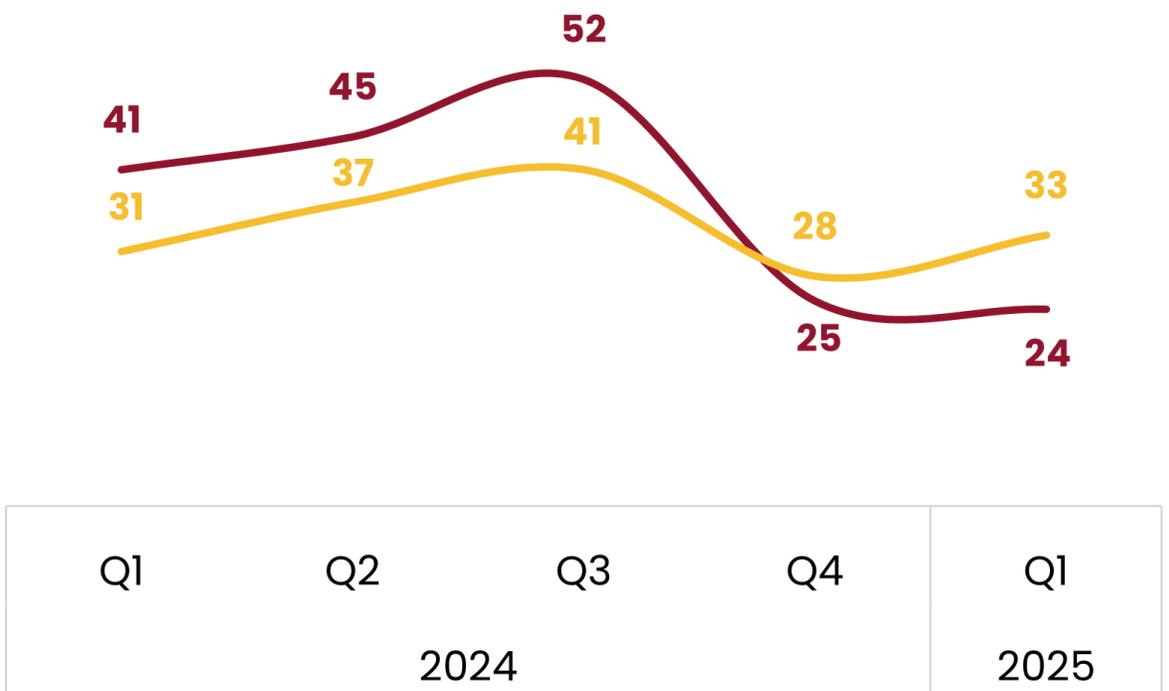
**Fatal overdoses** have mostly stayed under the **5-year average** over the last 12 months

**Fatal overdoses** in Cleveland residents has largely stayed under the **5-year average** over the past 12 months. The only exceptions to this are April and July 2024. Both of these months had totals very similar to their 5-year average. This would indicate that over the past 12 months, **fatal overdose** totals are maintaining at a rate lower than the past 5 years.



For the first time since 2015, **cocaine** has been identified in more fatal overdoses than **fentanyl** for two straight quarters. While there was a significant drop in fatal fentanyl overdoses, this drop was not as large for cocaine which actually saw an increase in Q1. This trend will be monitored closely to see if it continues throughout 2025.

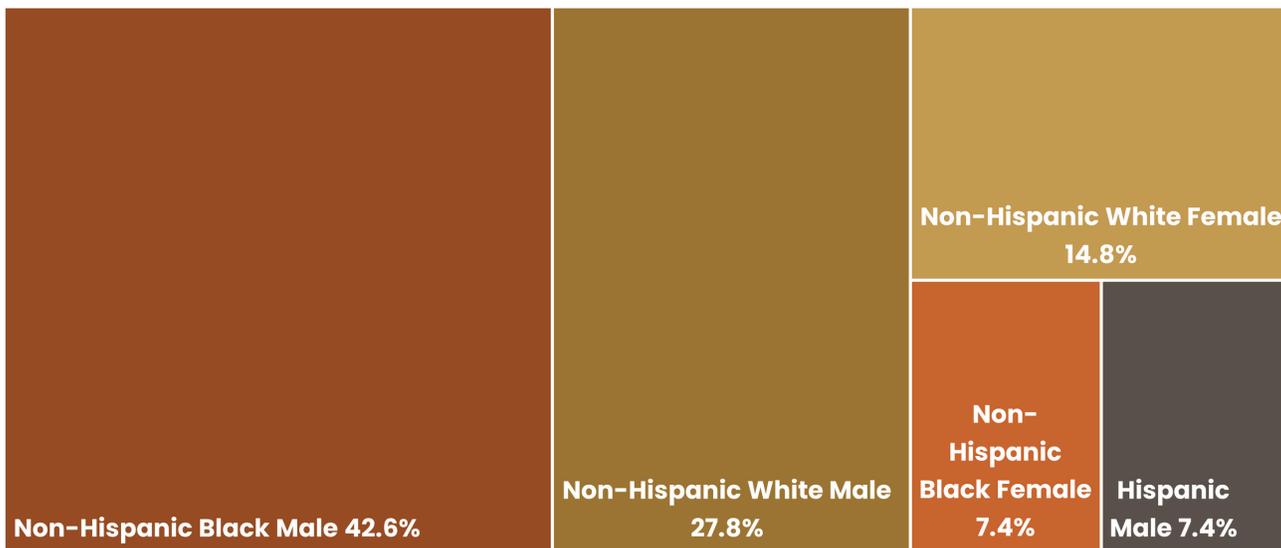
Fatal **fentanyl** overdoses were lower than fatal **cocaine** overdoses for a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive quarter



# Fatal Overdose continued

## Fatal overdoses by race, ethnicity, and sex (Q1 2025)

While fatal overdose numbers have been down over the past 12 months, a look at who these overdoses are impacting most tells a



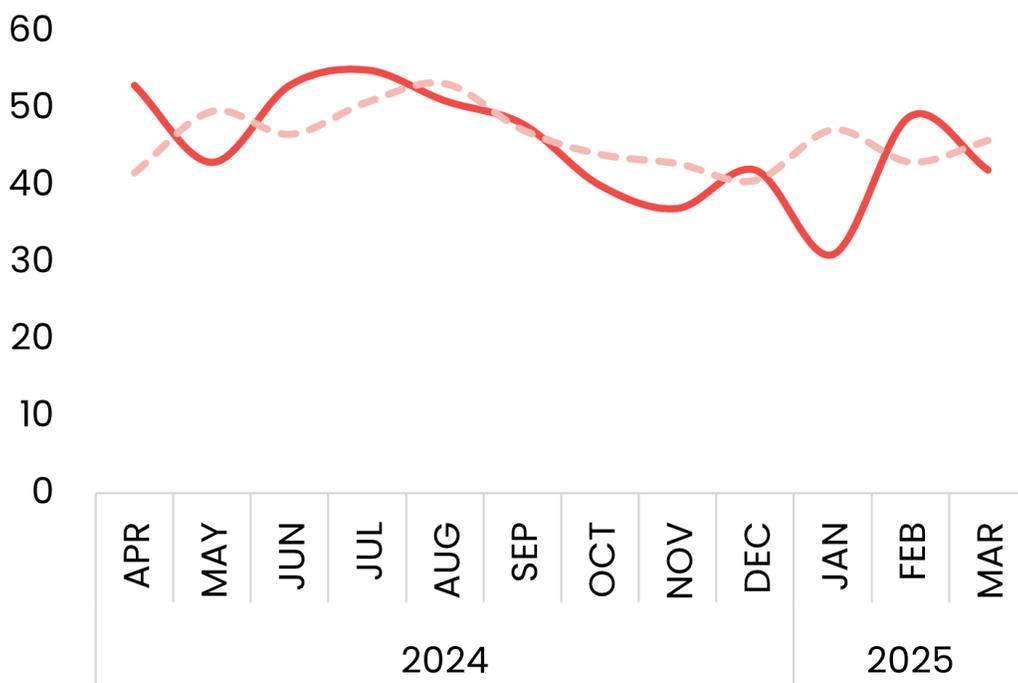
different story. In Q1 2025, 77.8% of fatal overdoses were male. With over half of these being Non-Hispanic **Black males**. For female fatal overdoses, 2 out of every 3 fatal overdoses were Non-Hispanic and **White**. There were no recorded fatal overdoses for **Hispanic Females** or any race not listed above.

## Suspected Overdose

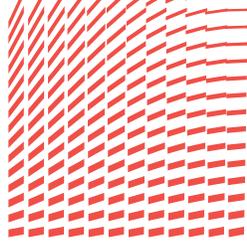
*Identified as Cleveland residents who visited an emergency department due to a suspected overdose*

Unlike fatal overdoses, **suspected overdoses** in Cleveland residents have fluctuated above and below the **5-year average** throughout the past 12 months. An even split where six months landed above and six months landed below the 5-year average. A key observation is that suspected overdoses were lower than the 5-year average four out of the past six months, showing an overall downward trend this past fall and winter.

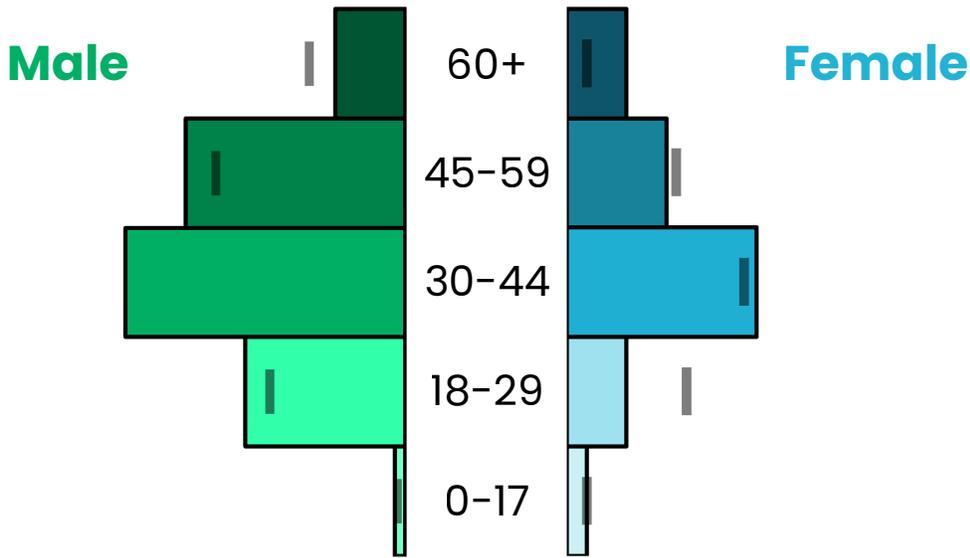
### Suspected overdoses and the 5-year average over the last 12 months



# Suspected Overdose continued



## Suspected overdoses by sex and age (Q1 2025)



The two graphs on this page compare suspected overdoses by sex/age (left) and race (below) against the 5-year average (represented by the gray bar).

— 5-year Average

50 40 30 20 10 0 0 10 20 30 40 50

For sex and age, Q1 saw rates substantially lower than the historical averages for **males 30-44** and **females 18-29**. Notably, **females 60+** reported six suspected overdoses in Q1, significantly exceeding their typical quarterly average of two.

For race and ethnicity, **Hispanic** populations show a sustained and growing disparity. While Q1 actually saw a decrease, the rate has increasingly exceeded its 5-year average with each subsequent quarter, indicating an acceleration of the problem relative to historical norms. Meanwhile, Q1 rates for both Non-Hispanic **Black** and **White** populations fell below their respective historical average.

## Suspected overdose incidence rates per 100k residents

