Department of Forensic Pathology

Office of the Medical Examiner

2023 Q4 (October 1 – December 31) Drug Report

Published March 27, 2024

Introduction

Drug-Related Deaths - Defined

We define drug deaths as those which result entirely or partially from the physiologic effects of acute toxicity. Therefore, included here are deaths which resulted from a combination of natural disease and acute intoxication (e.g. lung disease complicated by opioid intoxication). Our definition does not include deaths by violence, in which the violent behavior may have been caused or contributed to by intoxication (e.g. death due to injury from motor vehicle crash in which the at-fault driver was intoxicated). We also do not include deaths related to the effects of chronic substance use (e.g. deaths due to alcoholic liver disease or heart disease which may have been contributed to by chronic cocaine use) if not combined with acute toxicity.

Methods

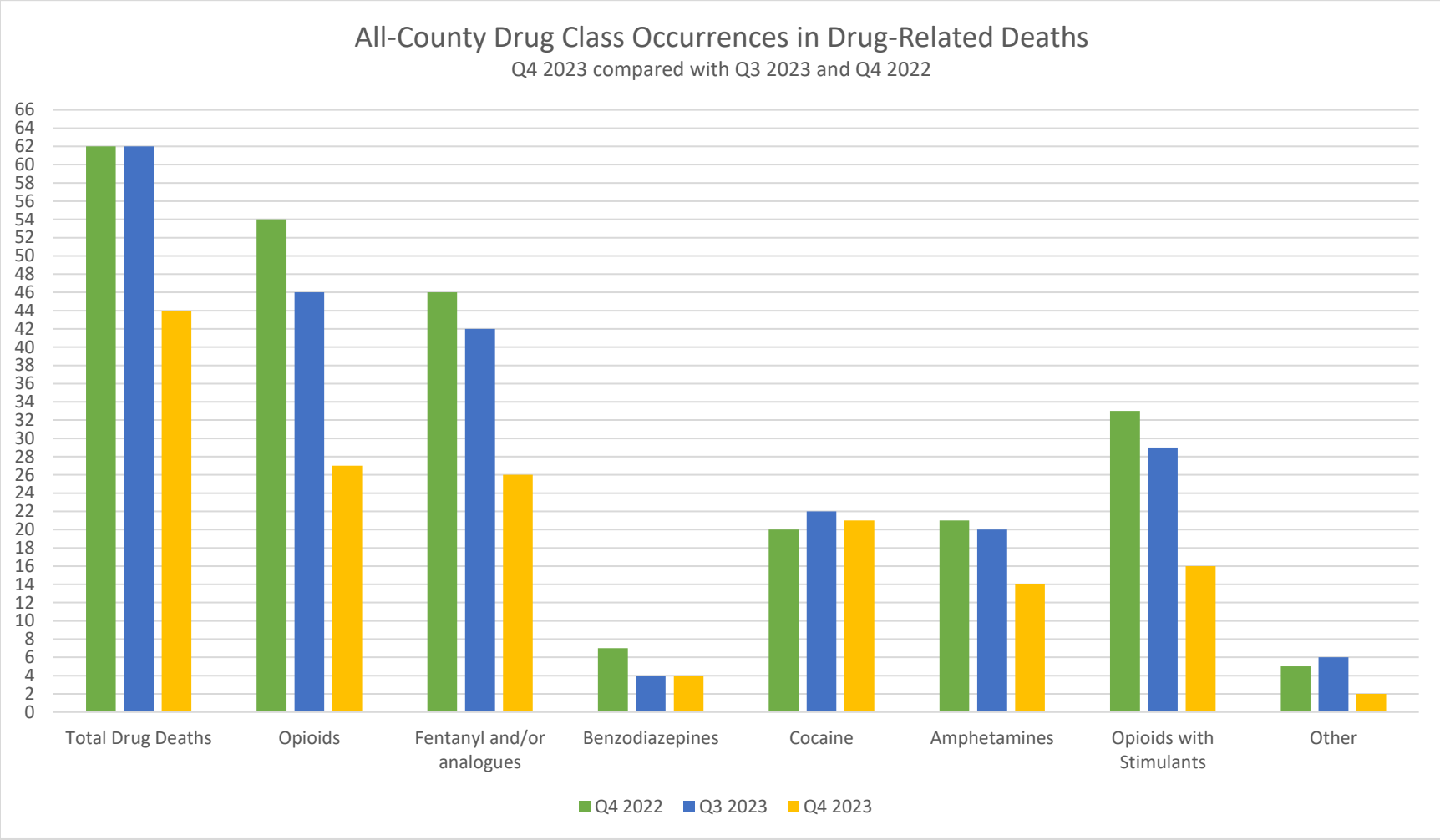
The majority of the drug deaths reported are due to more than one substance, as you will see in the detailed tables that follow. Often, decedents have even more substances present in their body at the time of death or overdose incident than just the substances listed as having caused or contributed to death. After autopsy and review of records, including toxicology report, the medical examiner assigned to the case determines which of the substances present played a causal role in the death. Thus, there may be substances present in a given case which are not included in the cause of death statement.

Occasionally, intoxicated decedents survive in the hospital for a time prior to death, following acute drug intoxication. In these cases, all efforts are made to obtain and test the earliest blood and urine available from their time in the hospital for the overdose incident, so that the toxicology results reflect what was in the body at the time the overdose occurred.

New information occasionally becomes available after a "final" cause and manner of death was determined, which sometimes, albeit rarely, results in a change to the "final" cause or manner of death. As such, the statistics contained herein may be subject to change at any time.

The extent of toxicology testing is determined by the medical examiner assigned to the case, based upon the circumstances of death. During the period reported, our office used Axis Forensic Toxicology for toxicology testing.[1]

[1] If you have questions about what drugs we are currently capable of detecting, please visit www.axisfortox.com or email michelle.fox@sparrow.org



This chart describes occurrences in one death of a given class of drug. As most drug-related deaths are due to two or more substances, the same death may fall into multiple categories (e.g. death due to fentanyl and alprazolam intoxication falls into the opioids, benzodiazepines, fentanyl and/or analogues, and opioids with benzodiazepines categories). Multiple of the same class of drug in the same death counts as only one occurrence of that class of drugs (e.g. death due to heroin and hydrocodone intoxication – both of these are opioids so this death falls only in the opioids category, as one occurrence). The "other" category is for occurrences of drug-related deaths due *solely* to drugs which do not fall into the other listed categories.

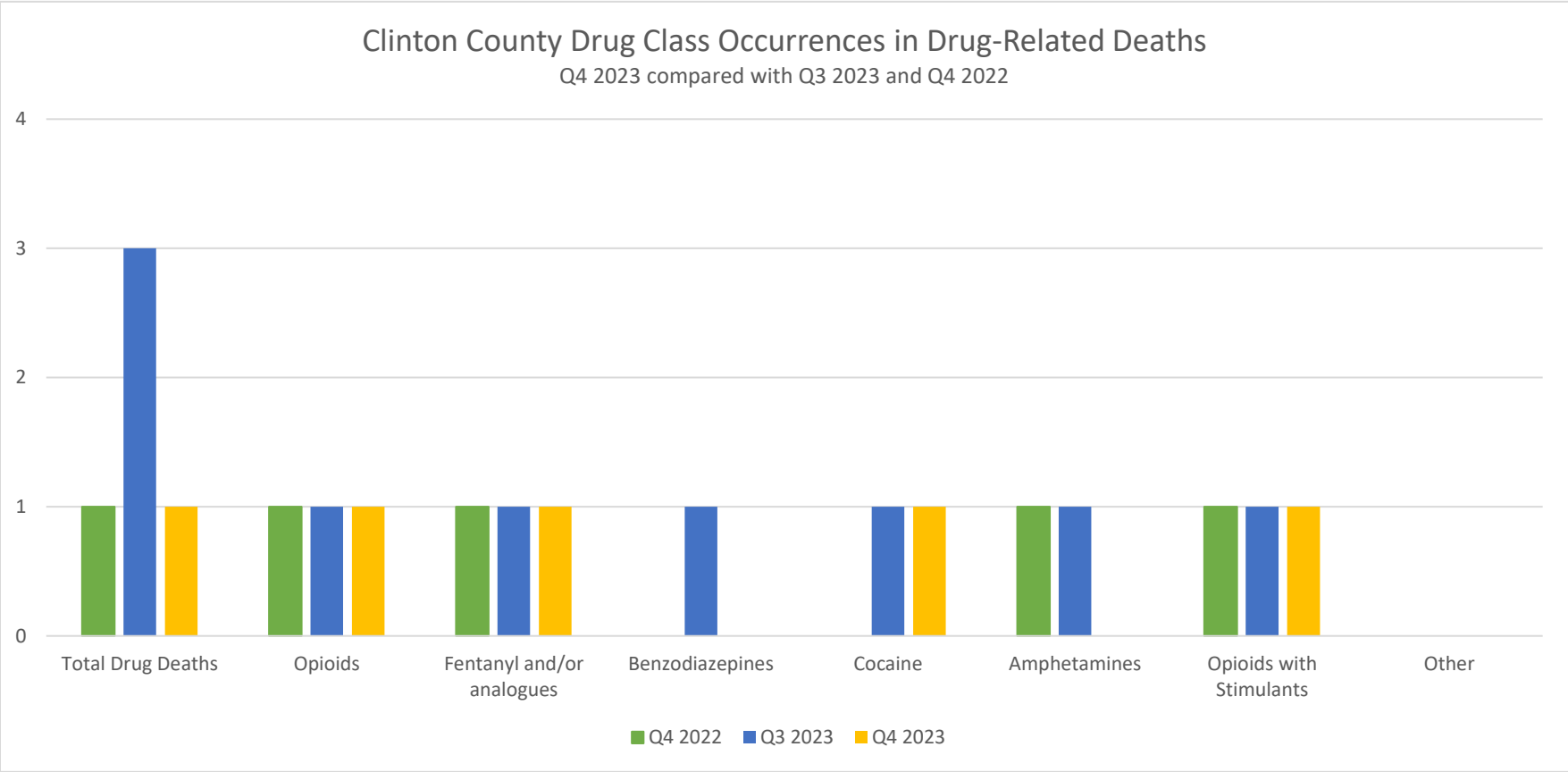
Clinton County

Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Clinton County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Male	62	cocaine, fentanyl	Accident

Clinton County

Drug-Related Deaths



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Eaton County

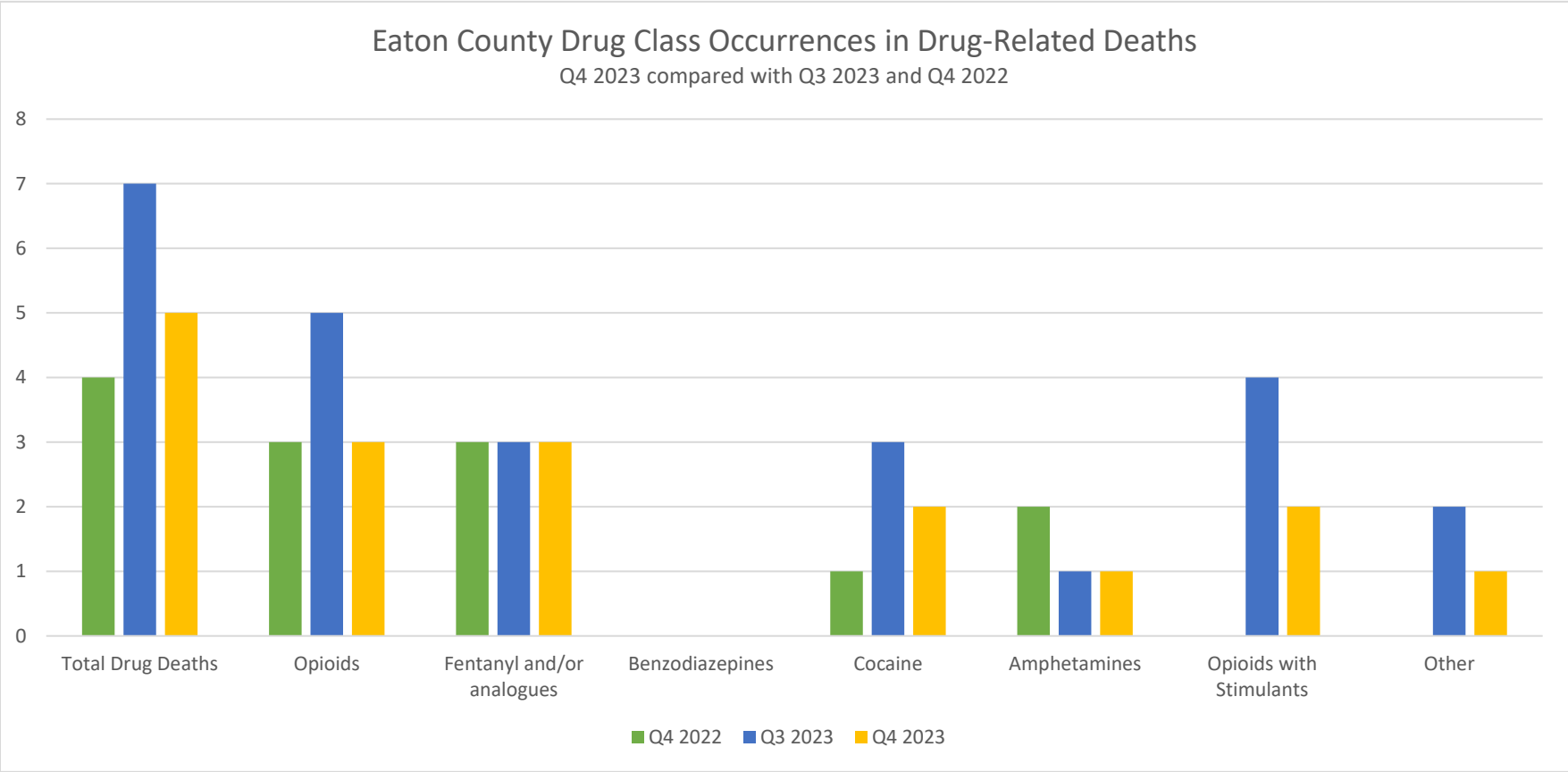
Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Eaton County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Male	35	fentanyl	Accident
Male	38	cocaine, fentanyl	Accident
Female	40	cyclobenzaprine, ethanol	Accident
Female	41	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Male	Unknown*	cocaine, ethanol	Accident

***Decedent is still pending positive identification**

Eaton County

Drug-Related Deaths



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Ingham County

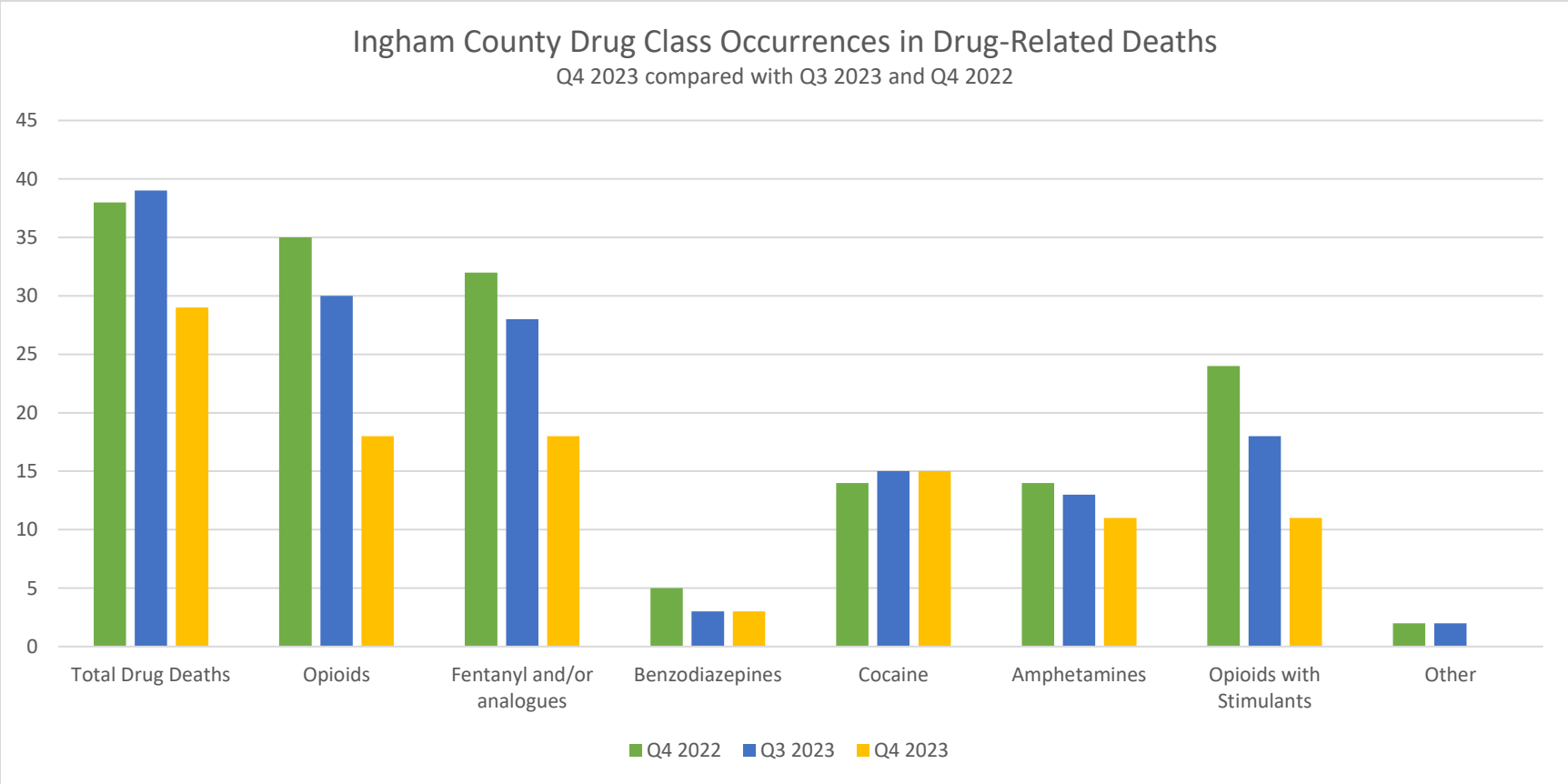
Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Ingham County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Female	21	methamphetamine	Accident
Male	26	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Male	29	ethanol, fentanyl	Accident
Male	29	alprazolam, codeine, fentanyl	Accident
Male	31	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Female	36	fentanyl	Accident
Female	37	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Male	39	cocaine, fentanyl, methadone, methamphetamine	Accident
Female	40	amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, gabapentin, methamphetamine	Suicide
Female	41	codeine, fentanyl, gabapentin	Accident
Male	41	ethanol, fentanyl	Accident
Male	42	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Male	43	cocaine	Accident
Male	44	fentanyl	Accident
Female	45	cocaine, ethanol	Accident
Female	46	dextro/levo methorphan, diphenhydramine, doxylamine, fentanyl	Accident
Female	46	cocaine, methamphetamine	Indeterminate
Female	51	methamphetamine	Accident
Female	55	cocaine, fentanyl	Accident
Male	58	cocaine	Accident
Male	58	cocaine, ethanol, fentanyl	Accident
Male	59	cocaine, ethanol, fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident
Male	59	cocaine	Accident

Male	62	cocaine, methamphetamine	Indeterminate
Male	65	cocaine, cyclobenzaprine, diazepam, fentanyl	Accident
Male	66	cocaine	Accident
Female	69	bromazolam, cocaine, fentanyl, fluorofentanyl, heroin	Accident
Male	69	cocaine	Accident
Male	70	cocaine, fentanyl, methadone	Accident

Ingham County

Drug-Related Deaths



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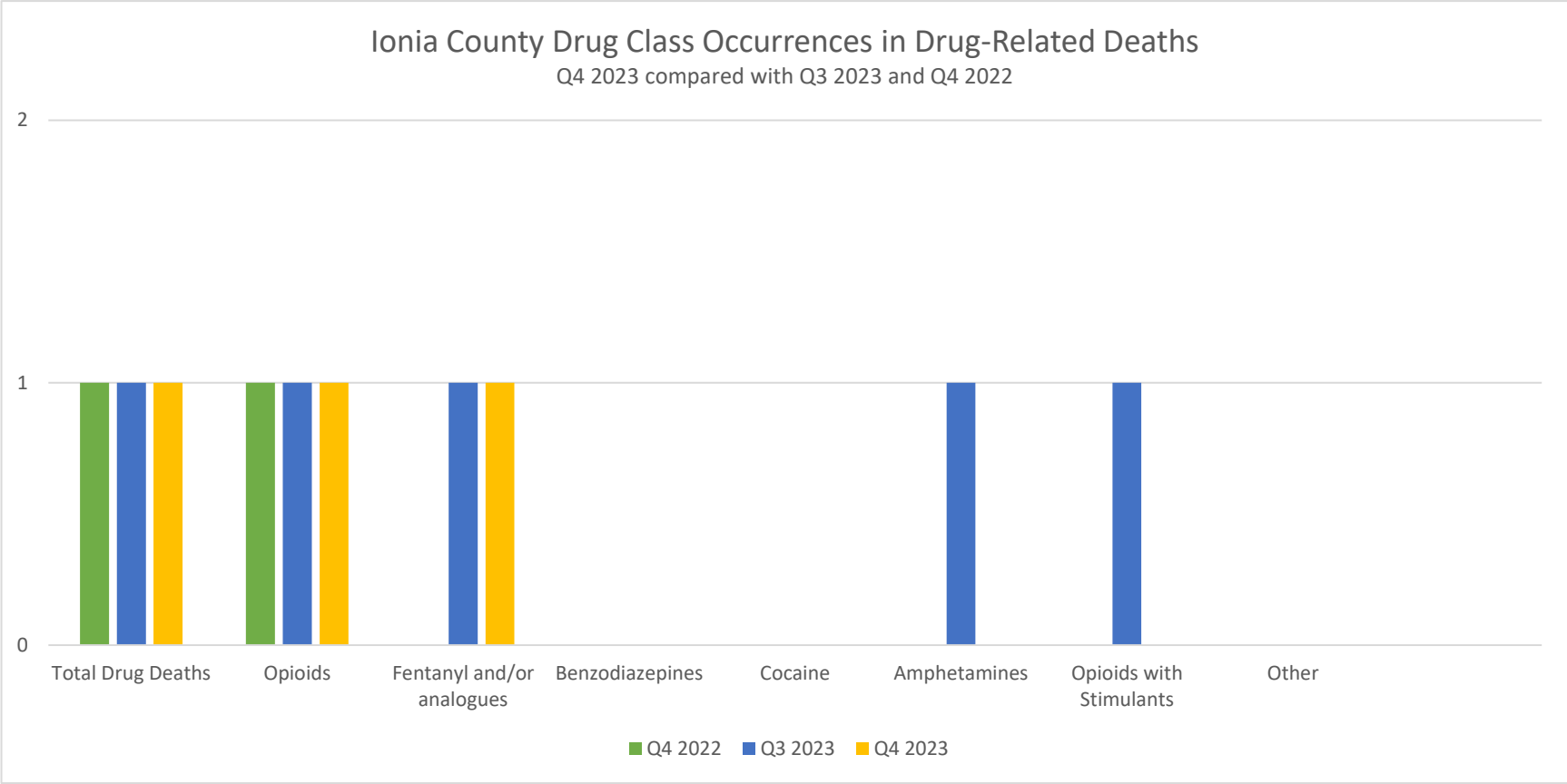
Ionia County

Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Ionia County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Male	40	fentanyl	Accident

Ionia County

Drug-Related Deaths



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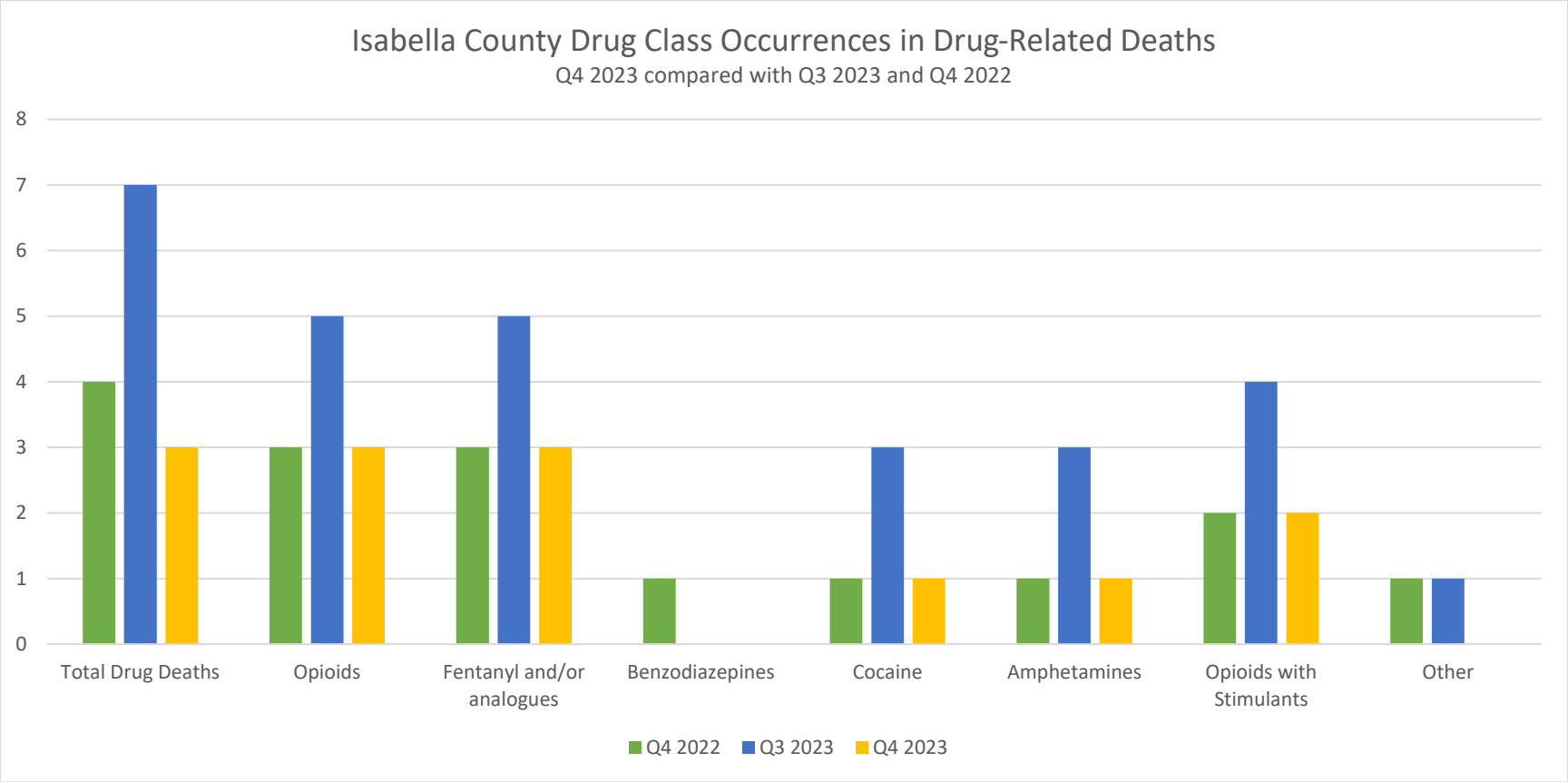
Isabella County

Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Isabella County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Male	47	fentanyl	Accident
Male	47	cocaine, ethanol, fentanyl, fluorofentanyl	Accident
Male	68	fentanyl, methamphetamine	Accident

Isabella County

Drug-Related Deaths



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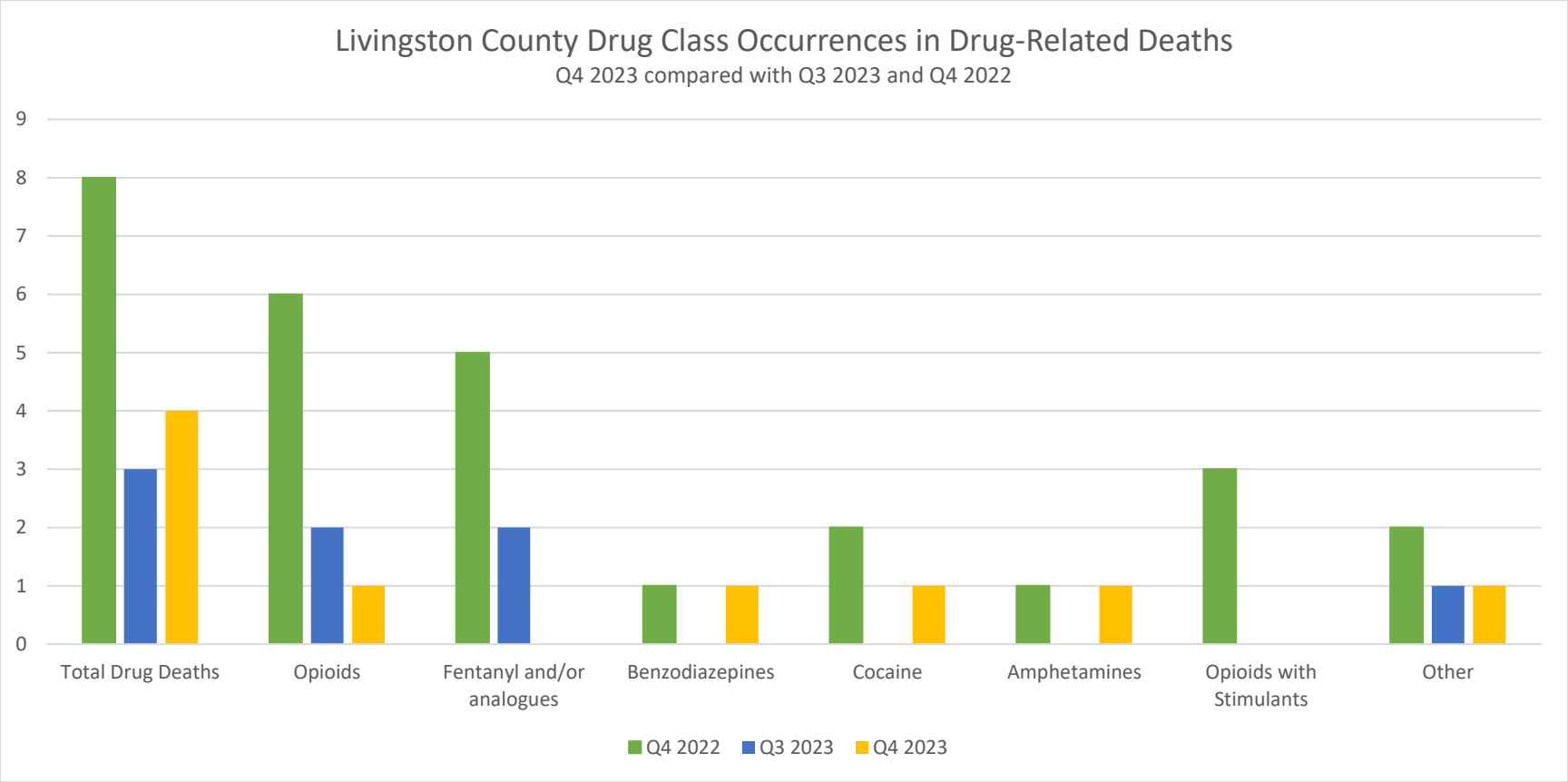
Livingston County

Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Livingston County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Female	35	alprazolam, loperamide	Accident
Female	54	methamphetamine	Accident
Male	54	cocaine, ethanol, yohimbine	Accident
Male	61	amitriptyline, ethanol	Suicide

Livingston County

Drug-Related Deaths



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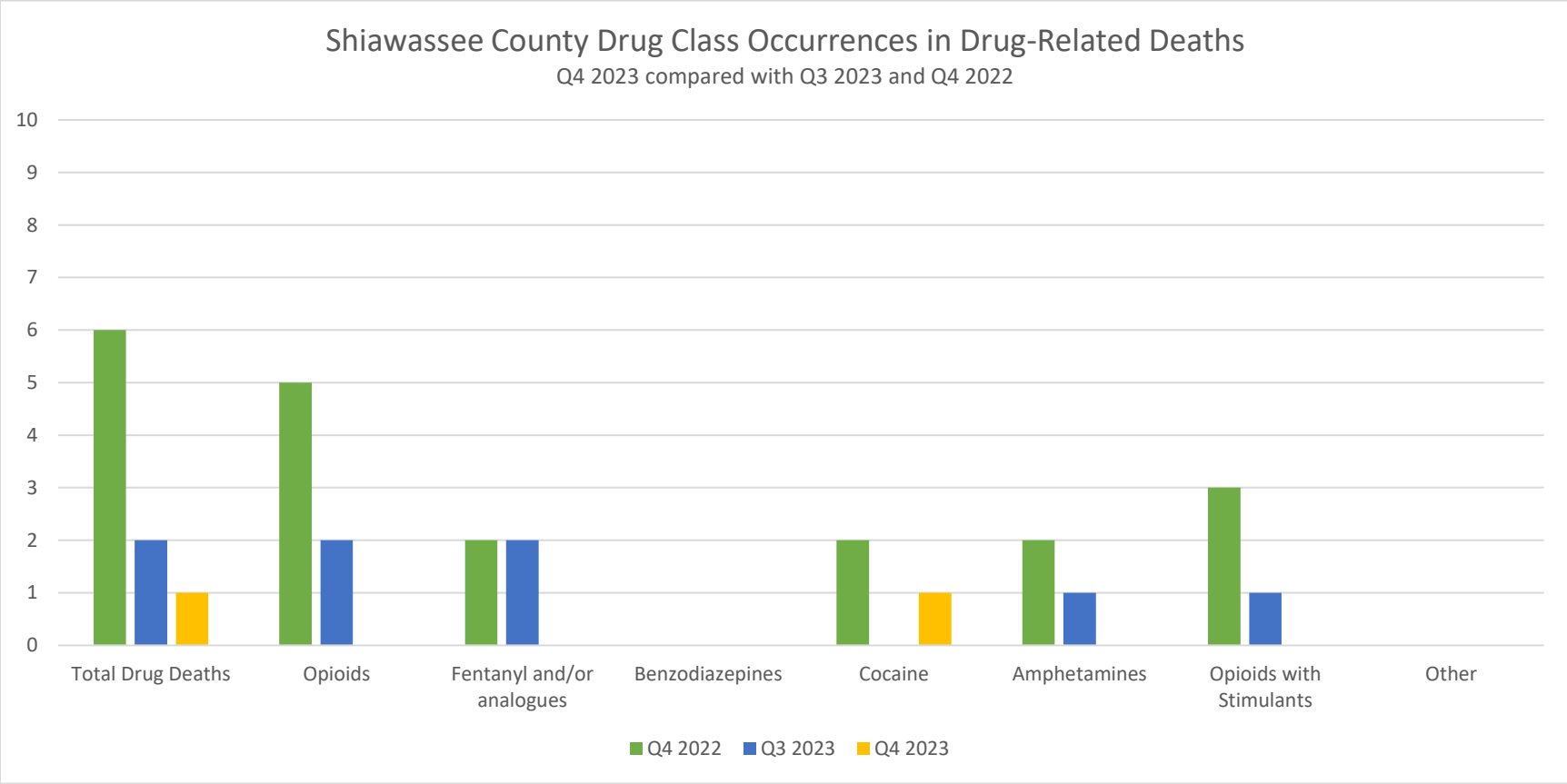
Shiawassee County

Drug-Related Deaths

2023 Q4 Shiawassee County Drug-Related Deaths			
Sex	**Age**	**Substance(s) Causing Death**	**Manner of Death**
Male	50	cocaine	Accident

Shiawassee County

Drug-Related Deaths



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Historical Data