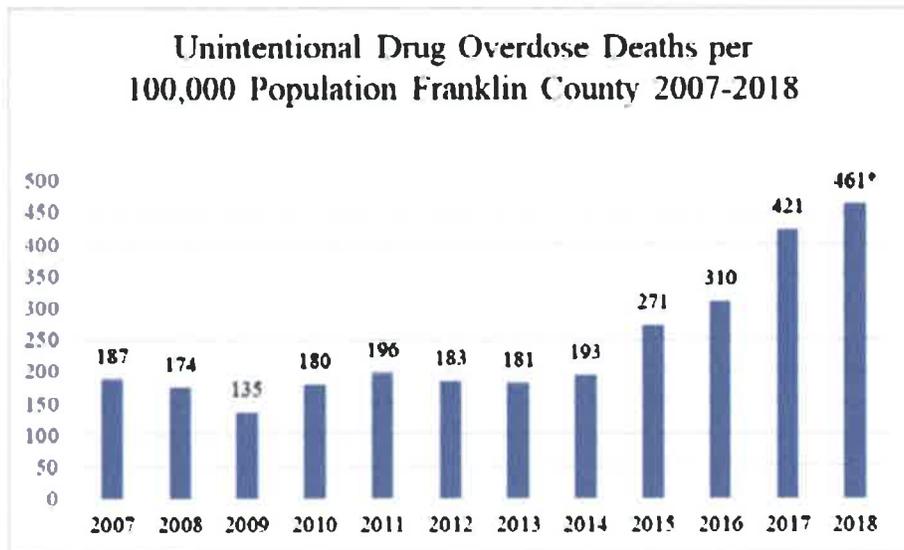




**S.B. 59 Antonio, 3rd Hearing, Proponent/Opponent/Interested Party
Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee Meeting
September 25, 2019**

In 2017, the Ohio Department of Health reported 4,854 unintentional drug overdose deaths, of which 85.7% were opioid related. At the local level, Franklin County continues to experience a rise in unintentional drug overdose deaths as illustrated below.



We congratulate the state of Ohio for its continued emphasis and attention to this critical public health issue. We must continue to work together at both the state and local level to reduce the harm due to the misuse of opioids and provide every chance for our residents to receive treatment for an opioid use disorder. Naloxone distribution is a key strategy in the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan. Since 2016, Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) has distributed 6,920 doses of naloxone to local first responders provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In addition, through Project DAWN funding from the Ohio Department of Health, FCPH has conducted dozens of trainings distributing 3,183 naloxone kits to members of the community. FCPH supports S.B. 59 and its goal to require pharmacist education regarding naloxone dispensing. We believe S.B. 59 will benefit the state and our community making it easier and more accessible to obtain this lifesaving resource.

Joe Mazzola, MPA
Health Commissioner

CC: Senator Hearcel F. Craig