OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

ALLIANCE OF COALITIONS for Healthy Communities

Oakland Community Health Network

Developmental Disabilities
Mental Health • Substance Recovery

ABOUT US

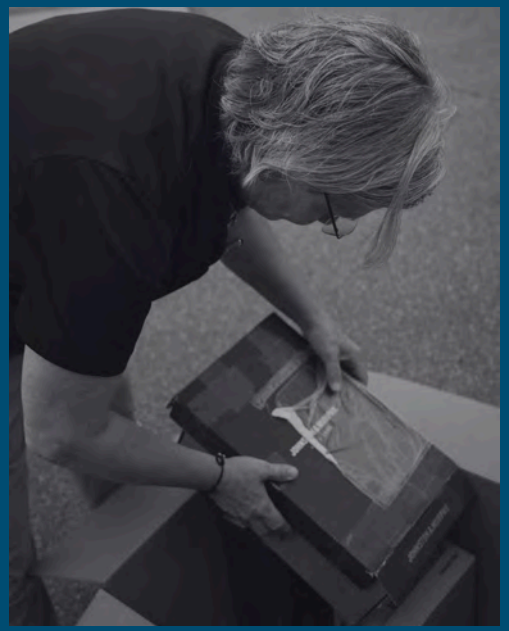


Sgt. Jennifer Whiting
Officer in Charge

The Crisis Response Unit is a specialized, multidisciplinary team embedded within the Sheriff's Office that works in close partnership with community organizations, including Oakland County Health Network and the Alliance. The unit's mission is to meet individuals where they are both physically and emotionally during moments of crisis, and to provide compassionate, trauma-informed responses that prioritize safety, stabilization, and long-term well-being. Through warm handoffs and coordinated referrals, the team ensures individuals are connected to appropriate services and supports that promote recovery and reduce future crisis involvement.

The Crisis Response Unit collaborates countywide with law enforcement, behavioral health providers, healthcare systems, and nonprofit advocacy programs to create a seamless continuum of care. Our goal is to foster trust, rebuild relationships, and offer meaningful support to individuals experiencing mental health crises or struggling with substance use. By emphasizing collaboration, dignity, and person-centered engagement, the unit seeks to create positive outcomes for individuals, families, and the broader community while reimagining how crisis response and public safety intersect.





OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

YEAR IN REVIEW

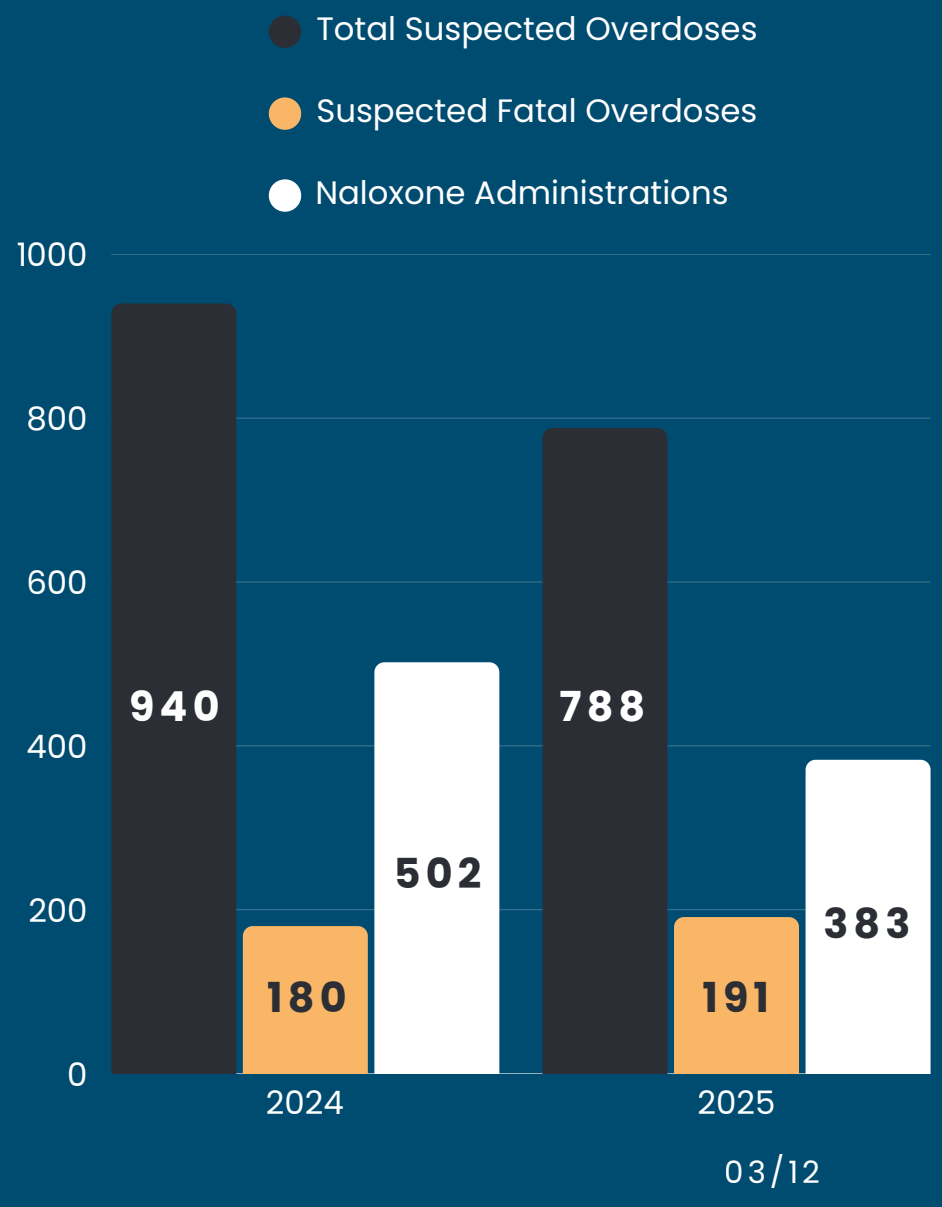
Overdose Trends

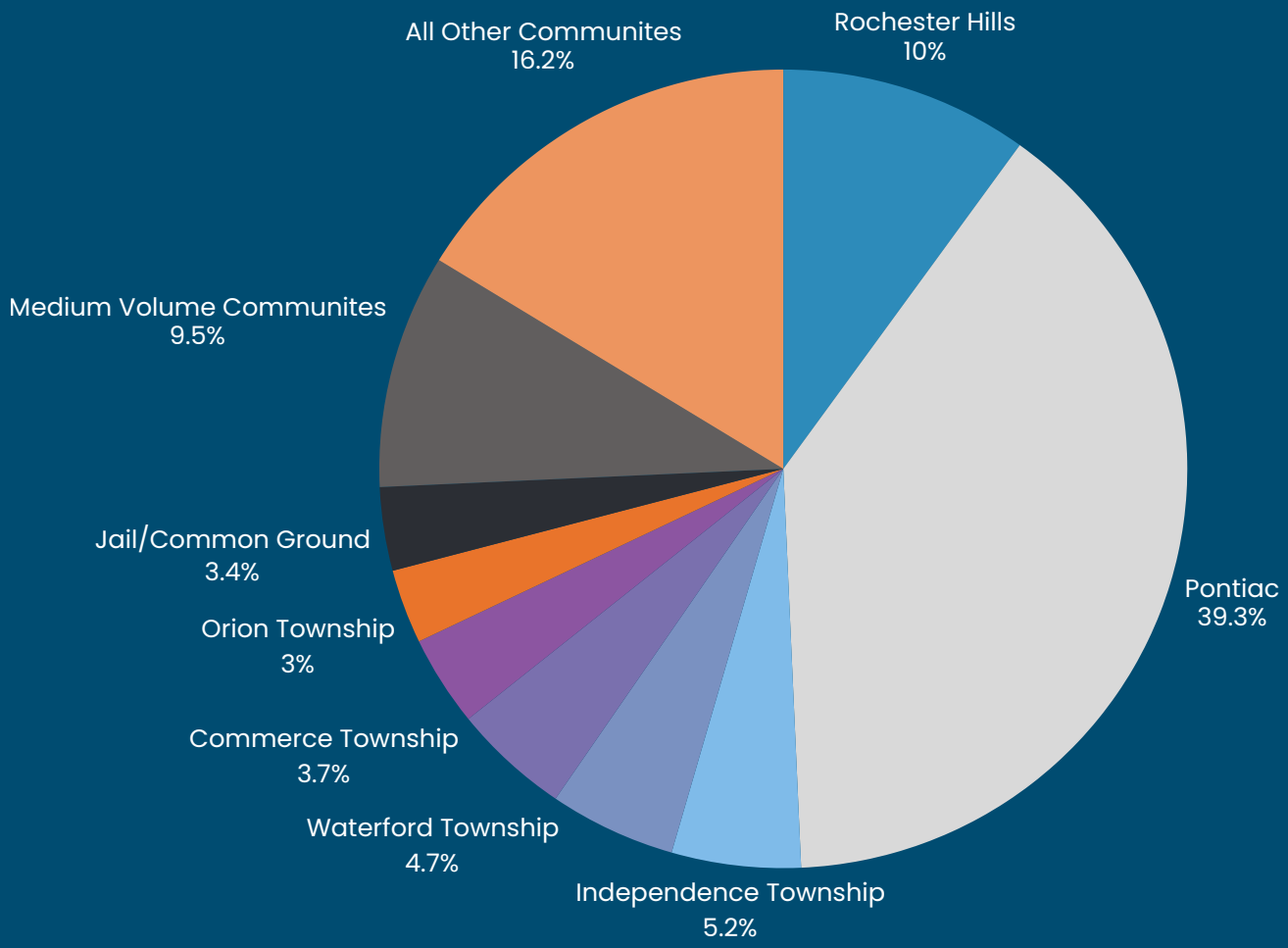
In 2025, the Crisis Response Unit analyzed overdose response trends in comparison to 2024, identifying a decrease in total suspected overdoses and naloxone administrations, alongside a slight increase in suspected fatal overdoses.

Between 2024 and 2025:

Total suspected overdoses declined by 16.2%

Suspected fatal overdoses increased by 6.1%



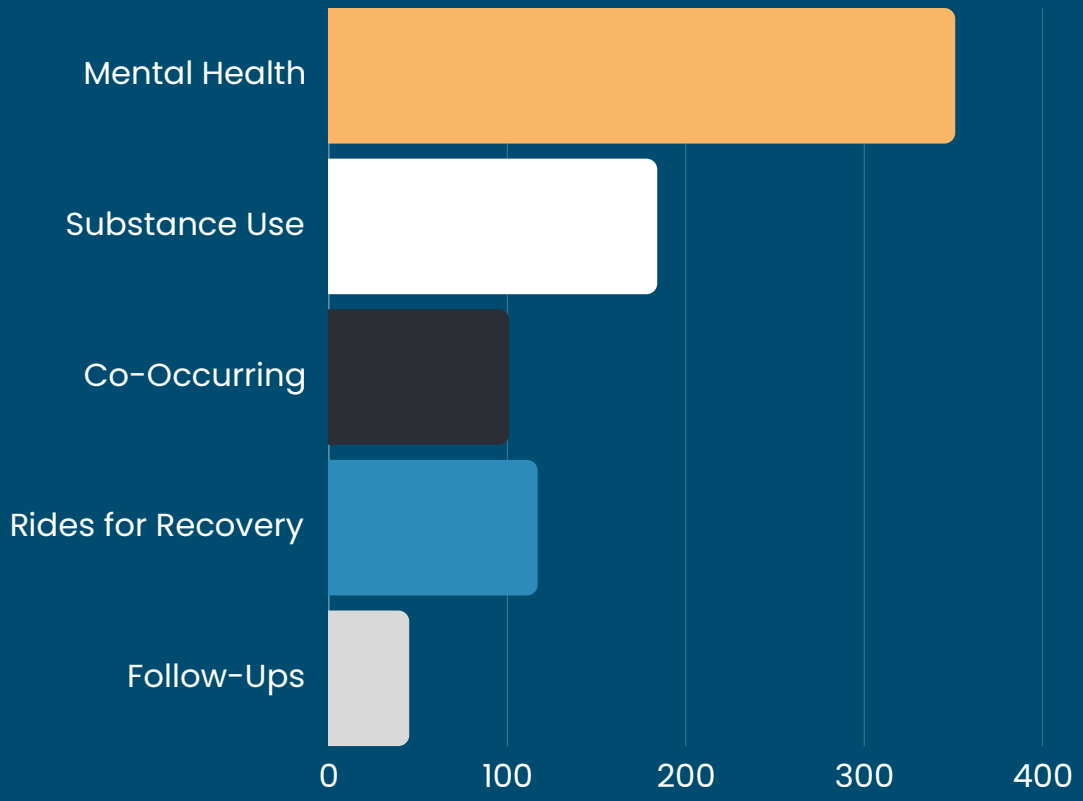


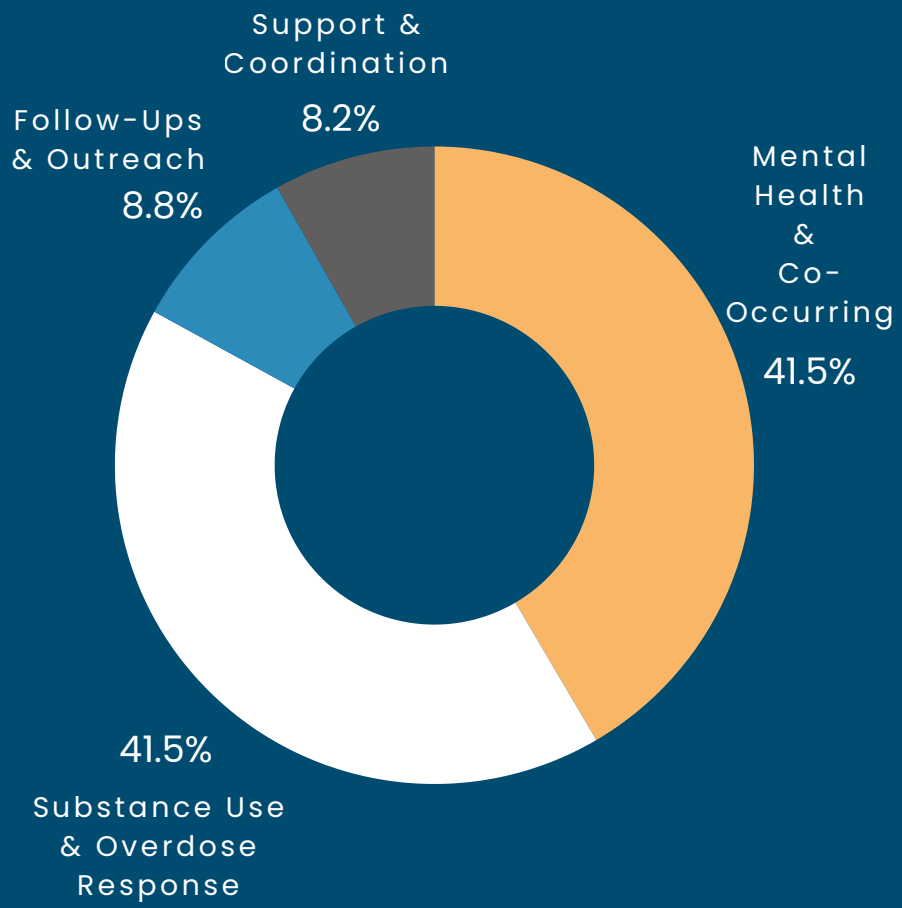
CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT RESPONSES BY JURISDICTION

Medium Volume Communites (20-29 Responses) including: Brandon Twp, Oxford, Lyon Twp, Madison Heights, Highland, Springfield Twp, Auburn Hills)

All Other Communities: Addison Township, Auburn Hills, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Canton, Clawson, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Holly, Huntington Woods, Milford, Novi, Oakland Township, Rochester City, Royal Oak, Southfield, West Bloomfield, White Lake, and Wixom.

2025 RESPONSES





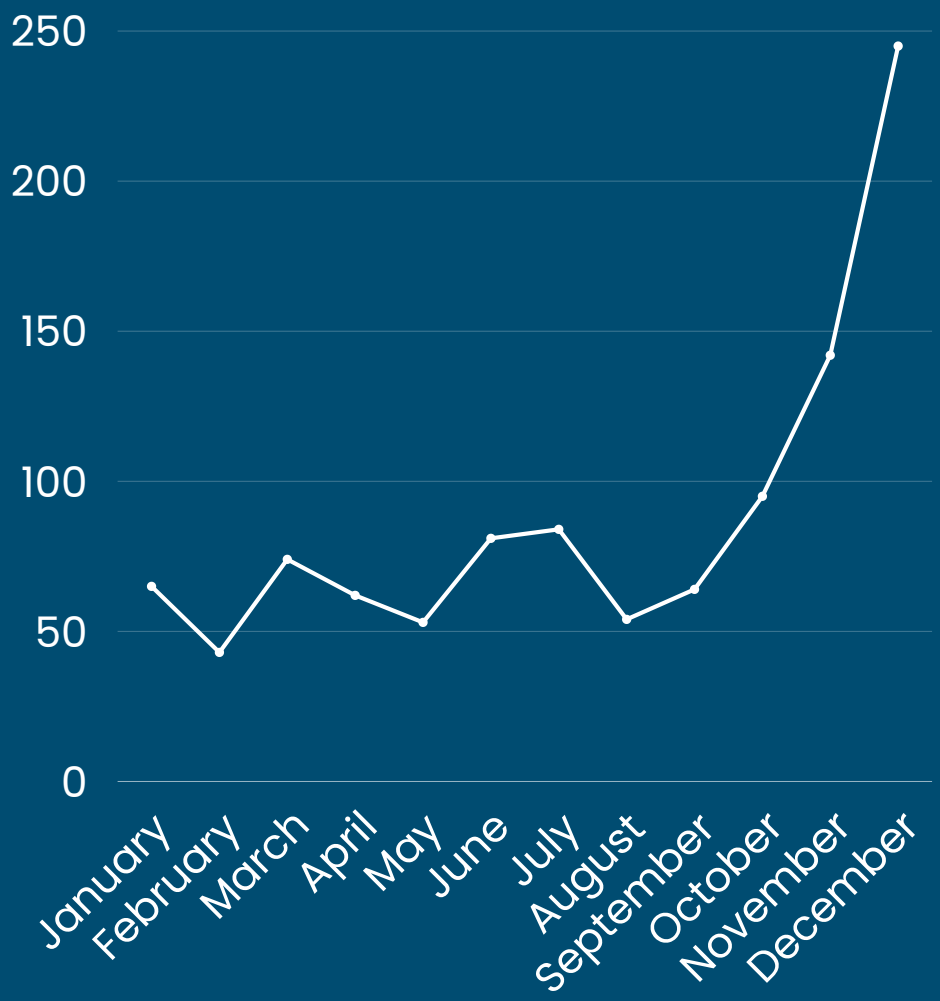
HOW THE CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT RESPONDS

In 2025, the Crisis Response Unit responded to 1,065 incidents across Oakland County, engaging directly with 485 individuals. While overdose response remains a critical function, the majority of CRU activity involves mental health crises, substance use, and co-occurring conditions, supported by follow-up services, outreach, and coordination with community resources.

Repeat client engagement and ongoing recovery-focused interventions highlight CRU's role in providing sustained, person-centered support beyond the initial response.

1065 TOTAL RESPONSES

- 1,065 total incidents
- 485 individuals contacted
- 98 suspected overdoses in OCSO-contracted areas
- 27 suspected fatal overdoses (OCSO)
- 52 naloxone administrations by OCSO
- 351 mental health–related responses
- 184 substance use–related responses
- 101 co-occurring mental health and substance use responses
- 117 rides for recovery
- 41 community outreach engagements
- 73 assists with services
- 45 client follow-ups
- 10 court assists
- 16 out-of-county overdose follow-ups
- 3 human trafficking assists
- 107 repeat clients/consumers



MONTHLY RESPONSE ACTIVITY – 2025

Distribution of Responses Across the Year

CRU responses increased throughout the year, with the highest activity occurring in the fourth quarter, reflecting seasonal and situational increases in service demand.



OPERATIONAL SUCCESS

Success Story - Milford Township

On October 7, 2025, the Crisis Response Unit followed up on an overdose in Milford Township and learned the individual had passed away. CRU immediately shifted focus to supporting the surviving family, including a 17-year-old daughter who was experiencing significant distress, and the decedent's partner, who was hospitalized in the ICU for suicidal ideation.

CRU coordinated with hospital social work, peer support, and community partners to provide emotional support and resources. When concerns arose regarding the disposition of the deceased's ashes, CRU contacted Probate Court, identified legal resources, and secured pro bono representation. A probate hearing was scheduled and held, resulting in the court awarding the ashes to the daughter.

CRU assisted the family in meeting court requirements by providing transportation and support to locate and secure a cemetery plot within the mandated timeframe. CRU remains in contact with the family and continues to offer ongoing support.

OPERATIONAL SUCCESS

Success Story - Troy

On August 16, 2025, the Crisis Response Unit received a referral from an ER nurse at Troy Corewell Hospital regarding Stacy, who was experiencing long-standing alcohol use and severe anxiety. CRU met with Stacy at her home, discussed recovery options, and assisted with insurance enrollment and placement into residential treatment, providing transportation and admission support.

Stacy completed a 28-day residential program despite significant personal loss, with CRU advocating for continued care and supporting her transition upon discharge. Following additional stressors and a relapse, Stacy re-engaged CRU, who coordinated re-admission to treatment, secured temporary housing after an eviction, and connected her with food and community resources. As of January 12, 2026, Stacy has returned to employment in her field, remains active in recovery, and continues working with CRU for ongoing counseling and support.



OPERATIONAL SUCCESS



Success Story - Pontiac

On September 2, 2025, the Crisis Response Unit engaged Michelle after observing signs of substance use and mental health distress in Judge Daniel O'Brien's courtroom. CRU met with Michelle, her family, and her attorney, followed by a home visit that revealed unsafe living conditions, financial barriers to housing, and disengagement from prior services. Michelle, a mother of four, acknowledged the need for mental health care and disclosed misuse of prescription medications.

CRU coordinated immediate connections with housing, behavioral health, substance use, and peer support services, while also providing essential resources such as food, diapers, and clothing referrals. Due to Michelle's active engagement and progress, the court granted an adjournment, allowing her to avoid incarceration and complete service connections. As of December 16, 2025, Michelle has secured safe housing, resolved outstanding legal issues, entered Adult Treatment Court, and continues working toward recovery and family stability with ongoing CRU support.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 PRIORITIES AND FOCUS

Summary & Final Thoughts

In 2026, the Crisis Response Unit will continue to build on its integrated response model by strengthening early intervention, follow-up care, and cross-system coordination. Emphasis will be placed on proactive identification of high-risk individuals, enhanced data analysis to track emerging overdose and behavioral health trends, and sustained engagement with repeat clients to reduce crisis recurrence.

CRU will further expand partnerships with courts, hospitals, housing providers, and community organizations to improve continuity of care, stabilize families, and support long-term recovery. Through these efforts, CRU remains focused on delivering timely, person-centered responses that improve outcomes for individuals, families, and the broader community.



2025 CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PRESENTED BY SGT. JENNIFER WHITING
PREPARED BY SGT. JOEL TOMASZEWSKI