

The objective of this report is to provide education and increase awareness in the Nashville community about the local drug overdose epidemic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

540 Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2021, there have been 540 suspected fatal drug overdoses that occurred in Nashville at the time of this report, representing an 12% increase compared to the same time last year.
- In the 3rd quarter, 76% of overdose-related toxicology reports detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that can be either prescribed or illicitly manufactured, followed by cocaine (30%) and methamphetamine (30%). These results indicate a continued shift toward synthetic opioids and stimulants compared to previous phases of the local epidemic.
- Approximately 70% of overdose deaths occurring in the county were among residents compared to non-residents (21%) and unknown residency (9%).
- Sixty-seven percent of overdose-related toxicology reports have detected multiple substances in 2021.
- Sixty-five percent of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 35-44 year olds (28%).

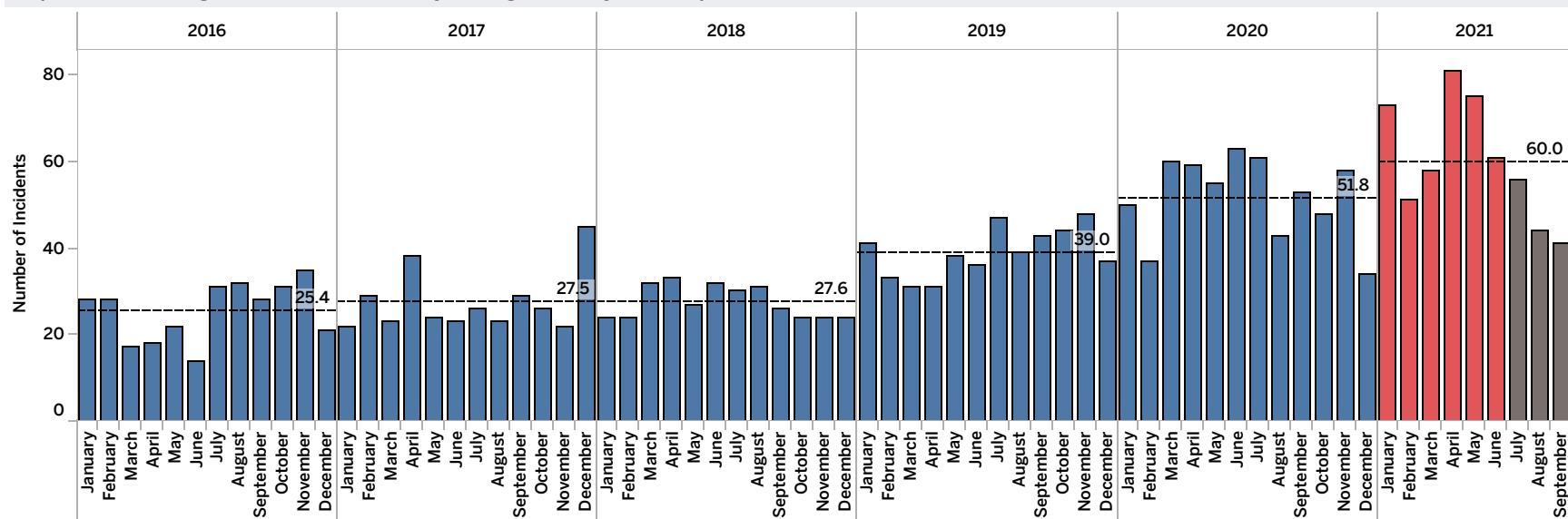
1,951 Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- In 2021, overdose-related ED visits decreased by 2% compared to the same time period last year.
- In the 3rd quarter, 66% of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance reportedly involved non-heroin opioids followed by heroin (29%) and stimulants (5%).
- Approximately 7 out of 10 overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 33% of overdose-related ED visits occurred among individuals 25-34 years old.

4,359 Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring Response by Nashville Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (NFD-EMS)

- In 2021, suspected drug overdoses requiring NFD-EMS response decreased by 6% compared to the same time period last year.
- Over the last 3 quarters, among suspected drug overdoses where naloxone was given by NFD-EMS, 28% of incidents required multiple administrations.
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 32% of all suspected drug overdoses occurred among individuals 25-34 years old

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses with Monthly Average, January 2016-September 2021



Note: Data pertaining to suspected drug overdose deaths are not currently finalized (including incidents occurring between July-September 2021). This information will be updated in subsequent reports. These data represent deaths accessed from the Death Investigation and Decedent Information Database that are suspected to be drug overdose-related. Further, these deaths have occurred within Davidson County; cases are included in this total regardless of resident status.

Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Update | 3rd Quarter 2021

Overdose Response Program - Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County



Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2021 | January 1-September 30

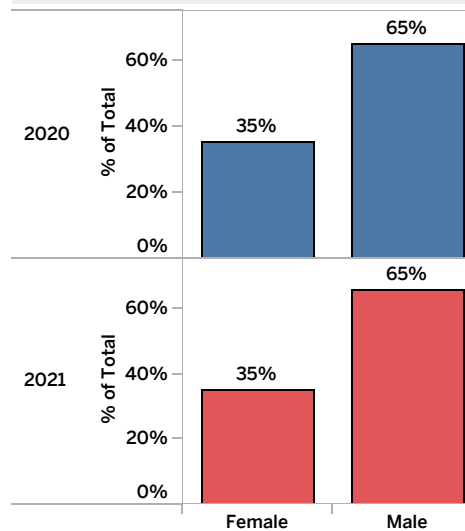
Number of Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2020: 481 fatal drug overdoses
2021: 540 fatal drug overdoses

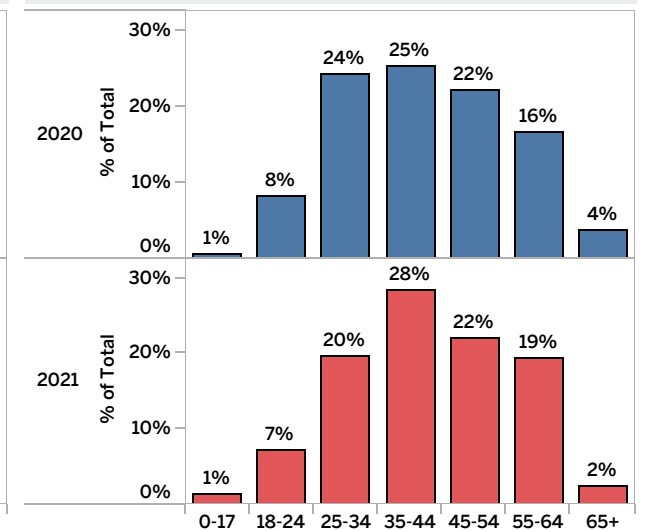
Notable Trends

- During the first nine months of 2021, suspected drug overdose deaths have increased by 12% compared to the same time period last year.
- 76% of overdose-related toxicology reports in the 3rd quarter detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.
- 67% of overdose-related toxicology reports detected multiple substances.
- 65% of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 35-44 year olds (28%).

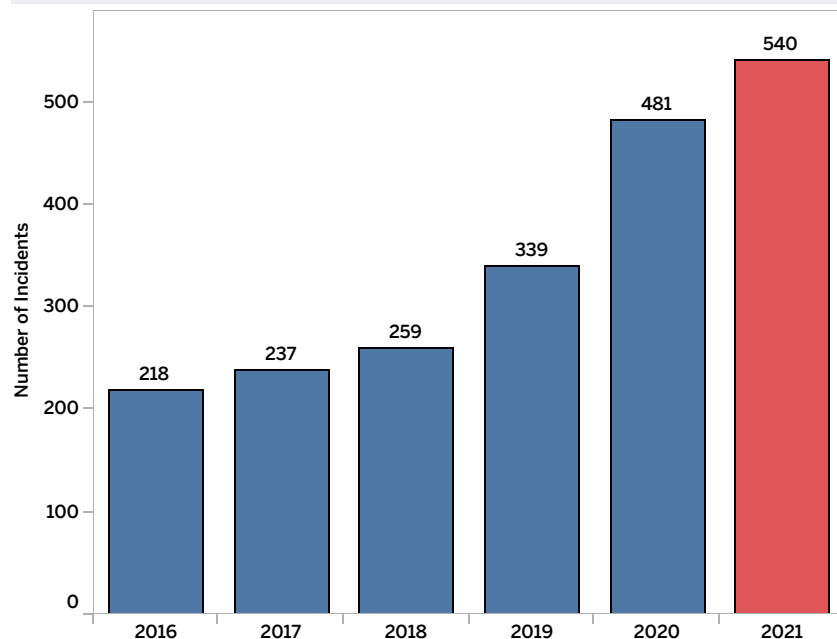
Sex, 2020-2021



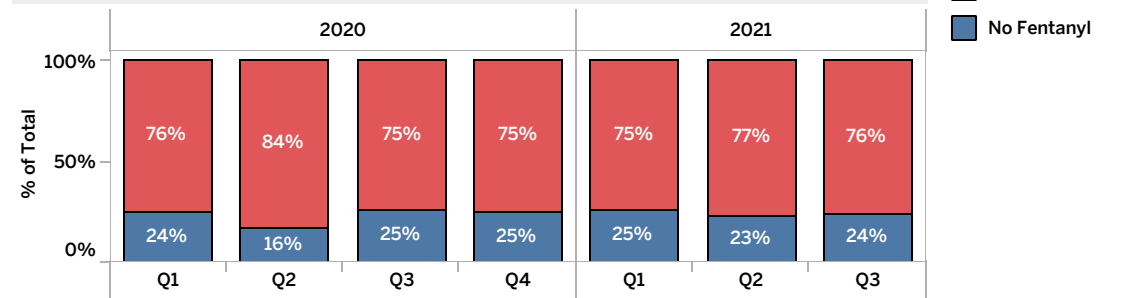
Age Group (years), 2020-2021



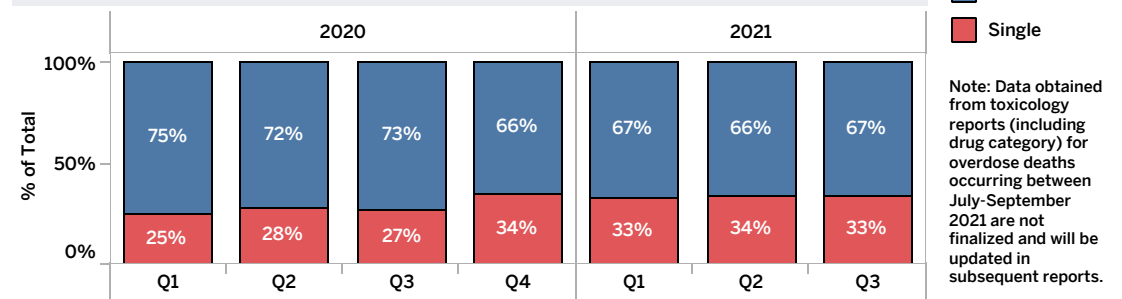
Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses - Quarters 1-3, 2016-2021



Fentanyl Detected in Toxicology, 2020-2021



Substances Detected in Toxicology, 2020-2021



Note: Data obtained from toxicology reports (including drug category) for overdose deaths occurring between July-September 2021 are not finalized and will be updated in subsequent reports.

Geospatial Trends: Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

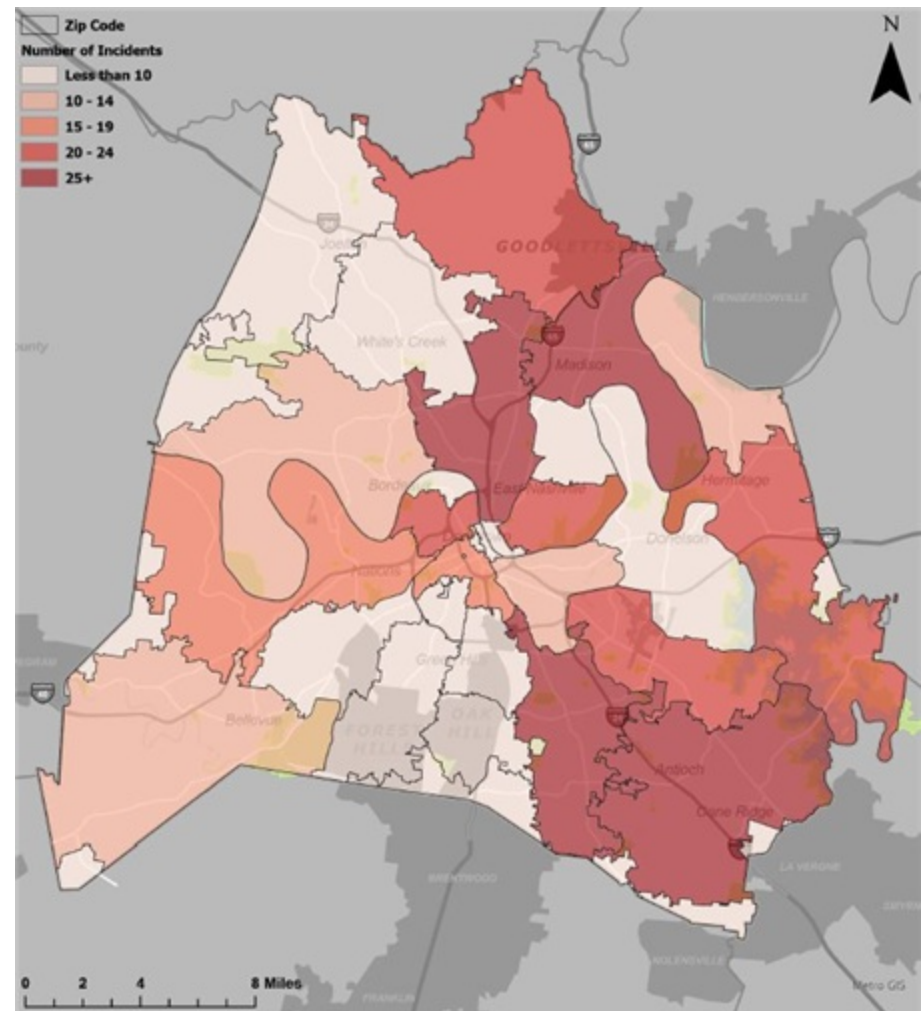
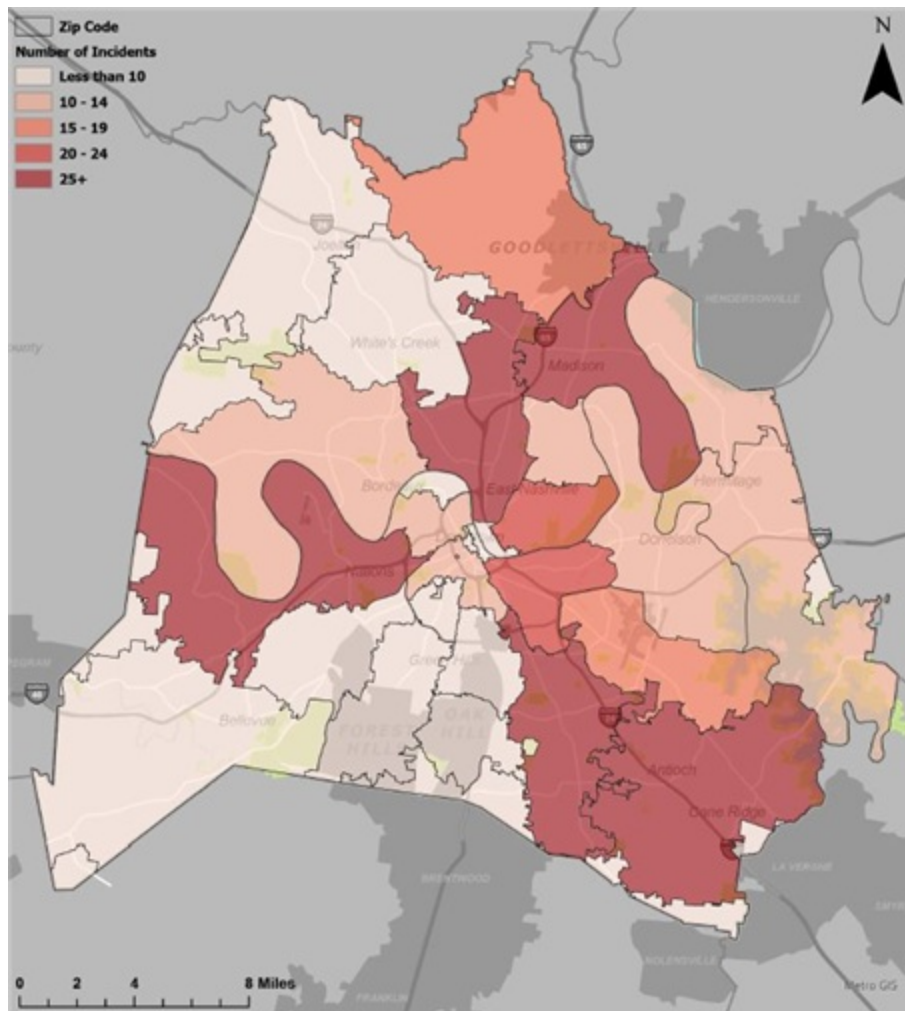
Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2021, the majority of suspected overdose deaths have occurred in ZIP Codes 37115, 37013, 37207, 37211, and 37076.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose deaths have occurred in ZIP Codes 37013 (+30%) and 37115 (+22%); the largest decreases have been observed in ZIP Codes 37209 (-47%) and 37207 (-15%).

Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits by Patient ZIP Code

January-September 2020

January-September 2021



Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

2021 | January 1-September 30

Number of Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

2020: 1,970 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits
2021: 1,951 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

Notable Trends

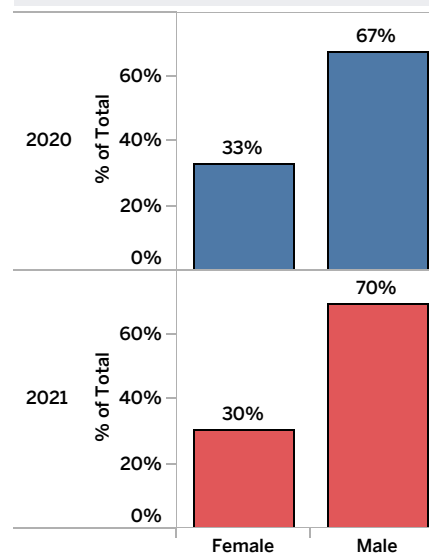
- During the first six months of 2021, drug overdose-related ED visits decreased by 2% compared to the same time period last year.

- Sixty-six percent of overdose-related ED visits in 2021 involved non-heroin opioids followed by heroin (29%) and stimulants (5%). This finding indicates a continued shift away from heroin and towards synthetic opioids and stimulants in Nashville.

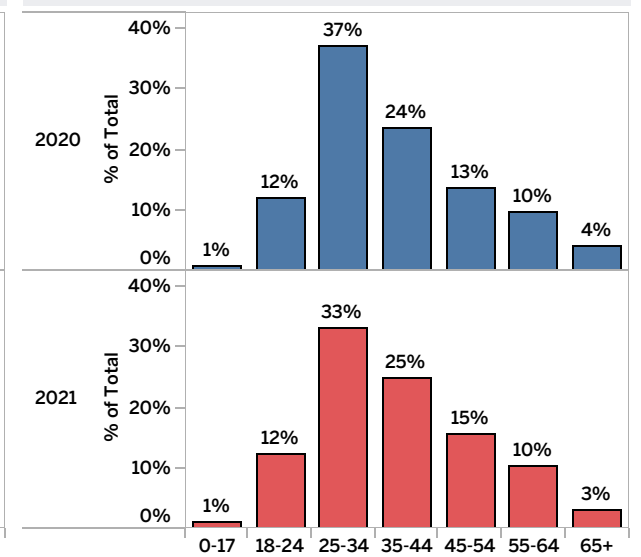
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.

- By age group, 33% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among individuals 25-34 years old.

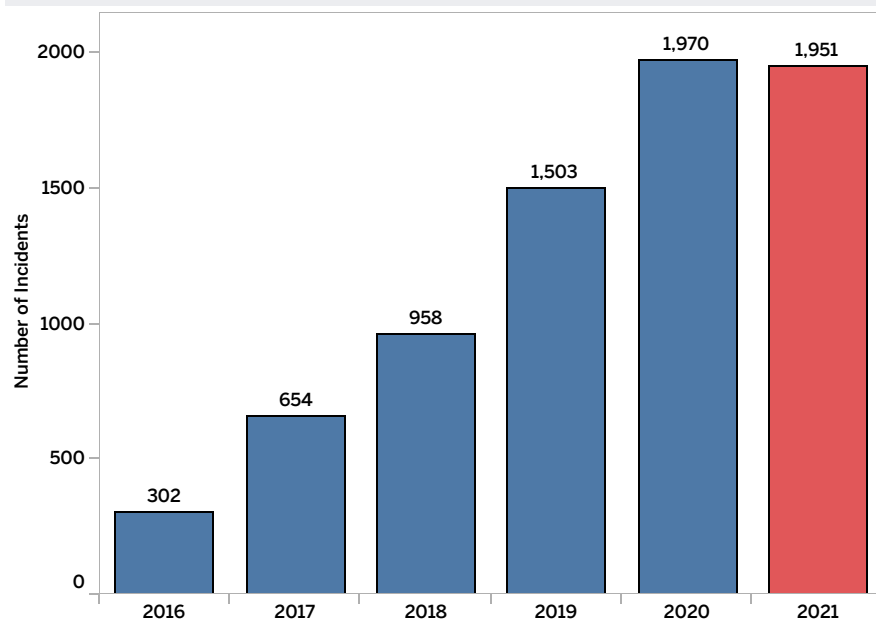
Sex, 2020-2021



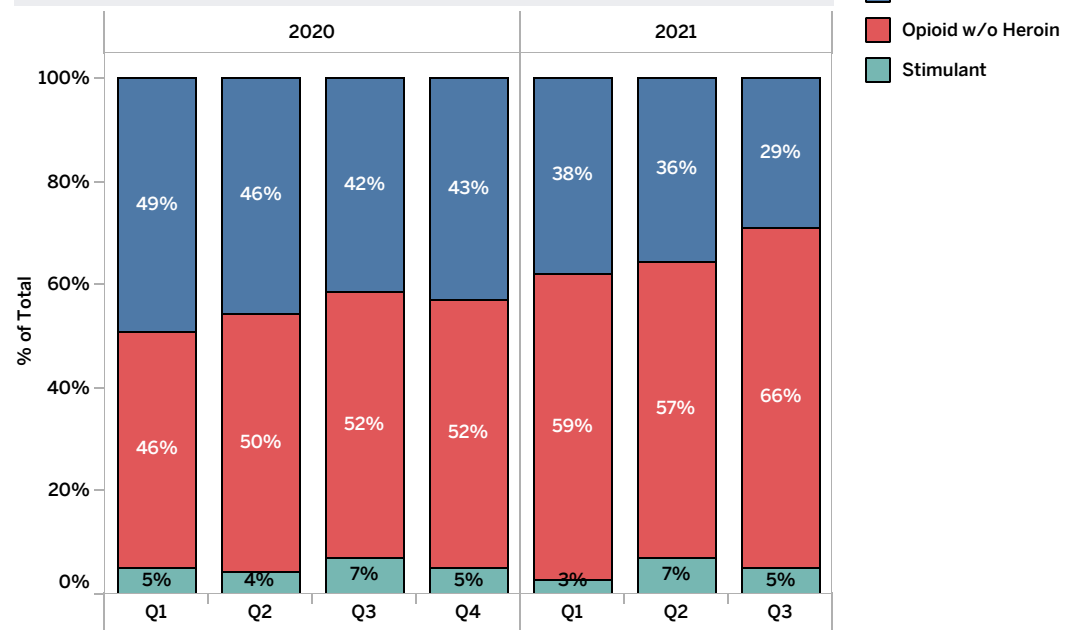
Age Group, 2020-2021



Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits - Quarters 1-3, 2016-2021



Drug/Substance Category by Quarter, 2020-2021



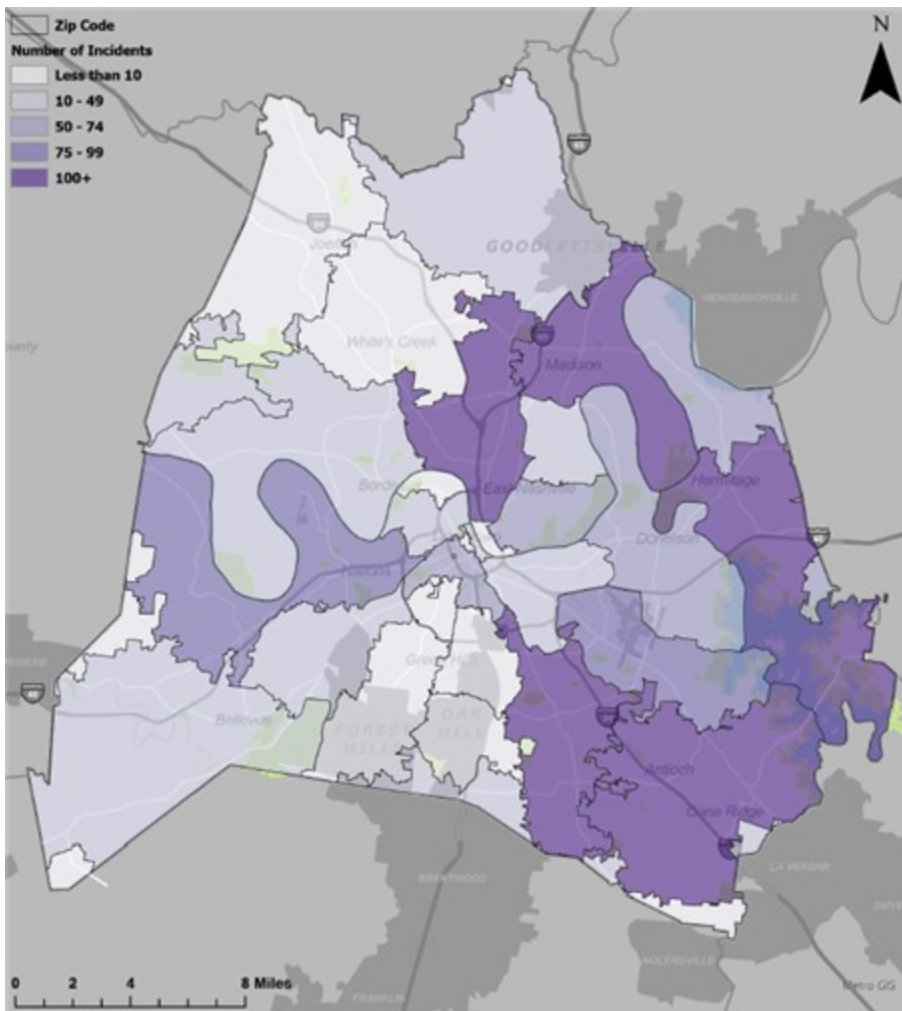
Geospatial Trends: Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

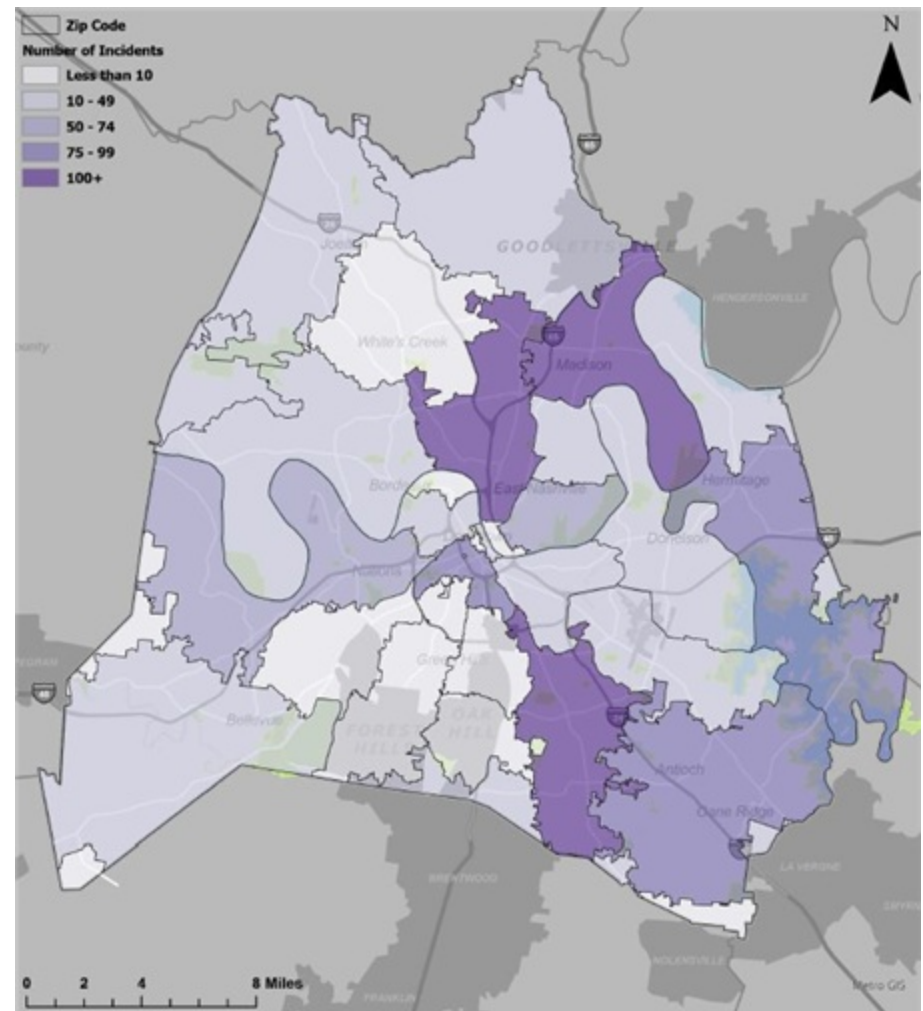
- In 2021, the majority of overdose-related ED visits have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37207, 37211, 37115, 37076, and 37203.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37218 (+76%), 37203 (+23%), and 37206 (+23%).

Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits by Patient ZIP Code

January-September 2020



January-September 2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2021 | January 1-September 30

Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2020: 4,618 suspected drug overdoses
2021: 4,359 suspected drug overdoses

Notable Trends

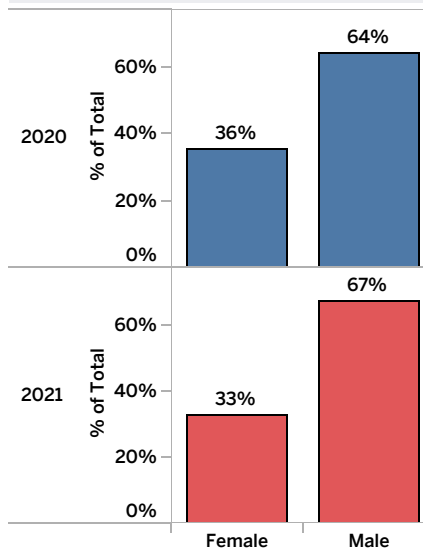
- During the first nine months of 2021, suspected drug overdoses requiring NFD-EMS response decreased by 6% compared to the same time period last year. Since the 4th quarter of 2020, overdose-related EMS activity has steadily increased (bottom right).

- Among suspected drug overdoses where naloxone was given, 28% of incidents required multiple administrations over the last 3 quarters.

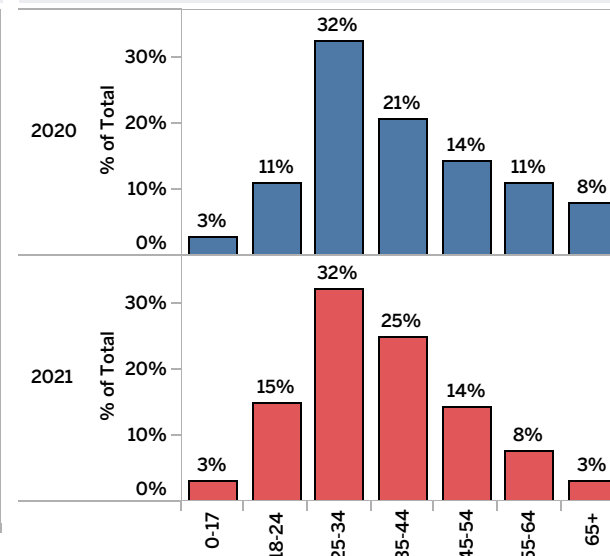
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Nashville were among males. This trend has remained consistent over the last several years.

- By age group, one-third of all suspected drug overdoses occurred among individuals 25-34 years old.

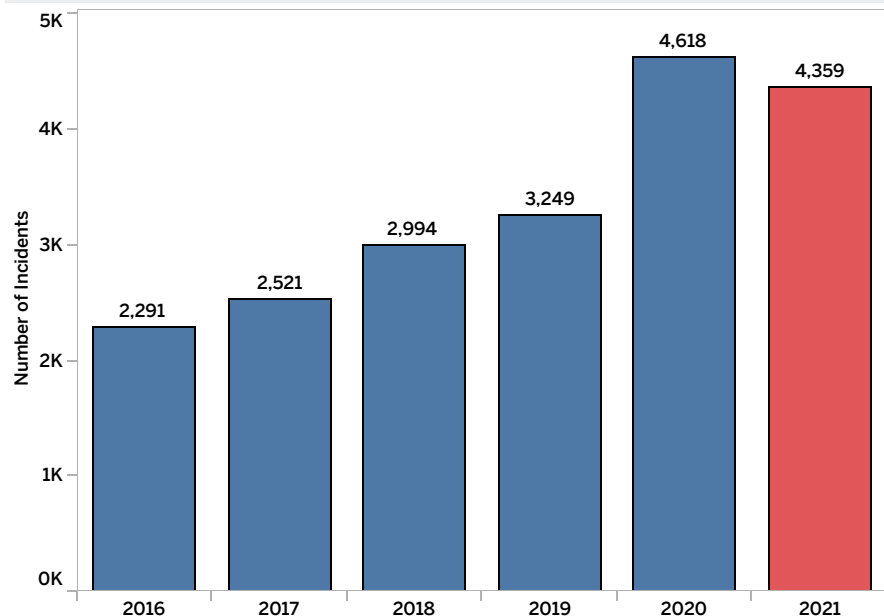
Sex, 2020-2021



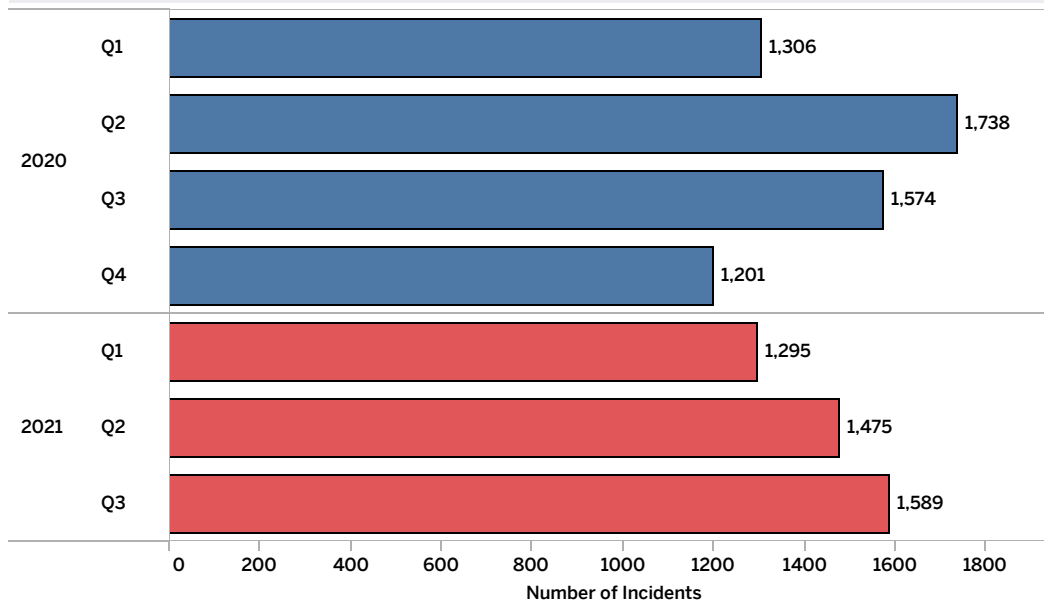
Age Group (years), 2020-2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response - Quarters 1-3, 2016-2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response by Quarter, 2020-2021



Geospatial Trends: Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

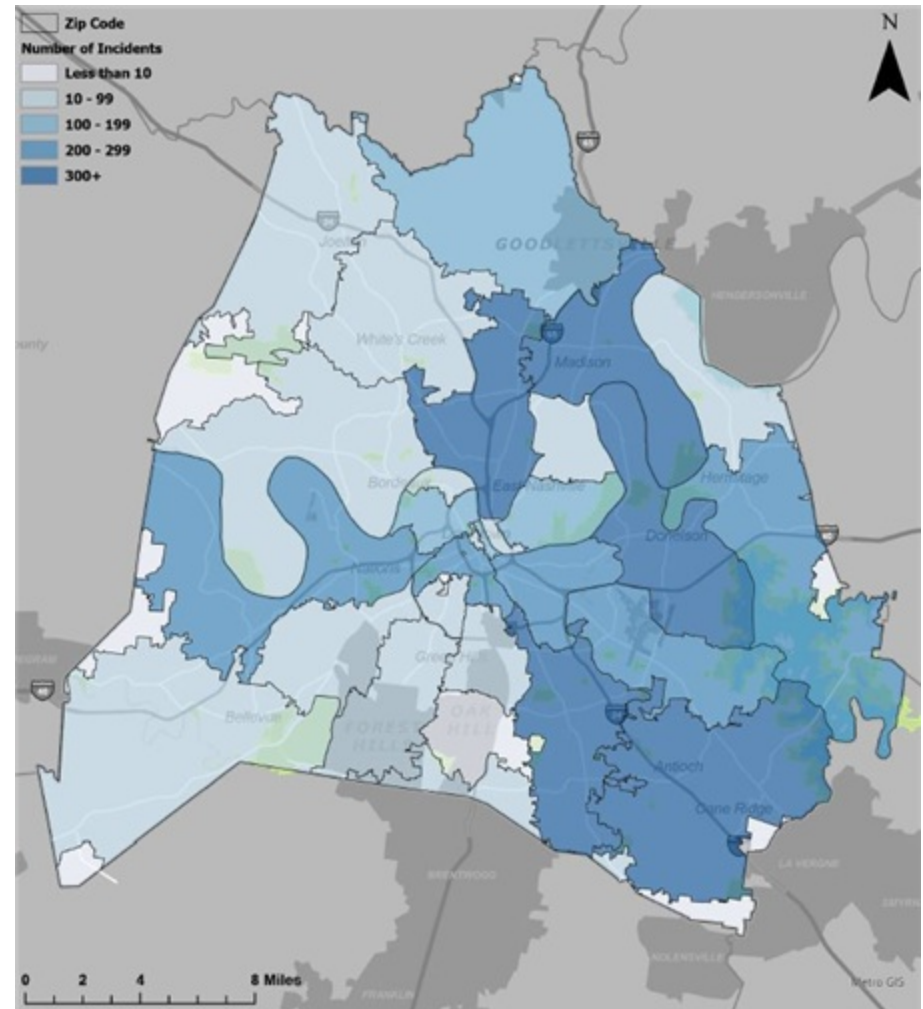
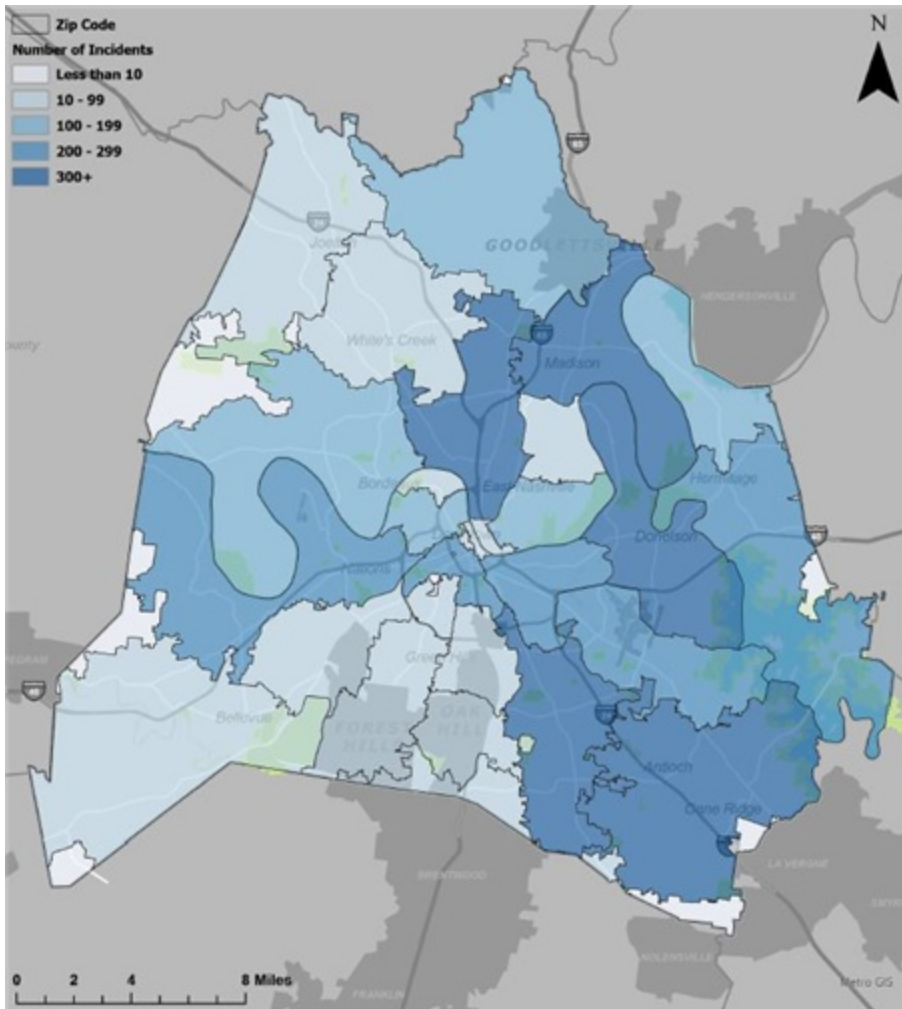
Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

- In 2021, the majority of suspected drug overdoses have occurred in ZIP Codes 37211, 37115, 37207, 37013, and 37214.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred in ZIP Codes 37219 (+80%), 37205 (+60%), and 37206 (+35%).

Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response by Incident ZIP Code

January-September 2020

January-September 2021



Resources for the Public

Where to Find Help

Tennessee REDLINE

- The purpose of the Tennessee REDLINE is to provide accurate, up-to-date alcohol, drug, problem gambling, and other addiction information and referrals to all citizens of Tennessee at their request even if you do not have health insurance.
- Phone: 1.800.889.9789 (toll free 24 hours/7 days)
- Website: <https://www.taadas.org/our-programs-and-services/redline>

Naloxone Training

- Information regarding Naloxone training can be found on the Nashville Prevention Partnership website: <http://nashvilleprevention.org/what-we-do/>

Overdose Signs

- Person is not responsive
- Fingertips or lips turn blue or grey
- Breathing is slow, shallow, or has stopped
- Person is gurgling or making snoring noises

What can you do if you see an opioid overdose?

- Call 911
- If you have naloxone, give the person naloxone and perform rescue breathing
- If no response after 2-3 minutes, give a second dose of naloxone
- Do not leave the person alone (help will arrive)
- If the person starts to breathe or becomes more alert, lay the person in the recovery position: put the person slightly on the left side so that their body is supported by a bent knee with their face turned to the side and bottom arm reaching out to stabilize the position

Resources

SPIKE Auto Text Program

- Metro Public Health Department is collaborating with Partnership to End Addiction to implement the SPIKE Auto Text Program in Davidson County. The program will alert you when spikes in drug overdoses occur locally.

Text SPIKE to 855-9-OD-KNOW (855-963-5669) and follow the steps to get messages on your phone when overdose spikes occur. This service is FREE. You can learn more at <https://drugfree.org/spike/>.

Overdose Response Program – Drug Overdose Information

- Website: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health/drug-overdose-information>
- Contains various resources in English, Spanish, and Arabic.



SPIKE Alerts by Text
Information that can save lives
Get alerts about overdoses in your community



Partnership to End Addiction is working with organizations in your community to alert you when spikes in drug overdoses occur locally. This knowledge can help you take action to engage and protect your loved ones struggling with addiction.

Why it matters: Spike alerts can prompt families and community members to:

- 1 Have discussions about seeking treatment and/or using substances more safely
- 2 Protect people you care about by getting naloxone and learning how to use it
- 3 Talk to friends or loved ones who are not using substances about the risks of use
- 4 Advocate for and support efforts in your community to prevent overdoses

Text **SPIKE** to
855-9-OD-KNOW
(855-963-5669)

and follow the steps to get messages on your phone when overdose spikes occur.

How it works: Health and law enforcement officials can release a "spike alert" to the media in response to a pattern of drug overdoses within a community. Partnership to End Addiction's SPIKE Alerts by Text program informs you when these alerts are issued.



Learn more:
drugfree.org/spike
or scan QR code to sign up now

Partnership to End Addiction is a nonprofit working to transform how our nation addresses addiction. Learn more at drugfree.org.



Footnotes and Supplemental Information

****If you have information on unusual overdose activity, please contact the Overdose Response Program****

Opioid.Response@nashville.gov | 615-340-0498

Notes

There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred between July-September 2021 are not yet finalized. Percent change where the cumulative total is less than 20 were not included due to the instability of calculations.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Suspected fatal drug overdose data were accessed from the Death Investigation and Decedent Information (DIDI) database and ranged from 01/01/2016-09/30/2021. **Data represent deaths accessed from DIDI that are suspected to be drug overdose-related. Further, these deaths have occurred within Davidson County; cases are included in this total regardless of resident status.**

Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2016-09/30/2021.
- Nonfatal drug overdose ED visits were captured by syndromic surveillance (ESSENCE-TN) by the following hospitals:
 - Nashville General Hospital, Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital, Saint Thomas West Hospital, TriStar Centennial Medical Center, TriStar Skyline Medical Center, TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center, TriStar Summit Medical Center, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- Updated query language was utilized to capture nonfatal drug overdoses reported to ESSENCE in August 2020. This query was retroactively applied to previous time periods.
- ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes, in addition to chief complaint keyword queries, were used to capture nonfatal drug overdoses:
 - Opioid: T40.0, F11.1, F11.2, F11.9
 - Heroin: T40.1
 - Other opioid: T40.2
 - Methadone: T40.3
 - Other synthetic narcotic: T40.4
 - Cocaine: T40.5
 - Other/unspecified narcotic: T40.6
 - Amphetamine: T43.62
- Drug Category (page 3)
 - Opioids excluding Heroin: T40.0, T40.2-T40.4, T40.6, F11.1, F11.2, F11.9
 - Heroin: T40.1
 - Stimulant: T40.5, T43.62

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

- Suspected drug overdose data were provided by the Nashville Fire Department EMS Database and ranged from 01/01/2016-09/30/2021.