

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021 | January 1-March 31

155 Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2021, there have been 155 suspected fatal drug overdoses that occurred in Nashville at the time of this report, representing a 3% increase compared to the same time last year.
- Seventy-three percent of overdose-related toxicology reports in 2021 detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever, followed by cocaine (31%) and methamphetamine (23%). These results indicate a shift toward synthetic opioids and stimulants compared to previous phases of the local epidemic.
- Approximately two-thirds of overdose-related toxicology reports detected multiple substances.
- Sixty-six percent of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 25-34 year olds (26%).

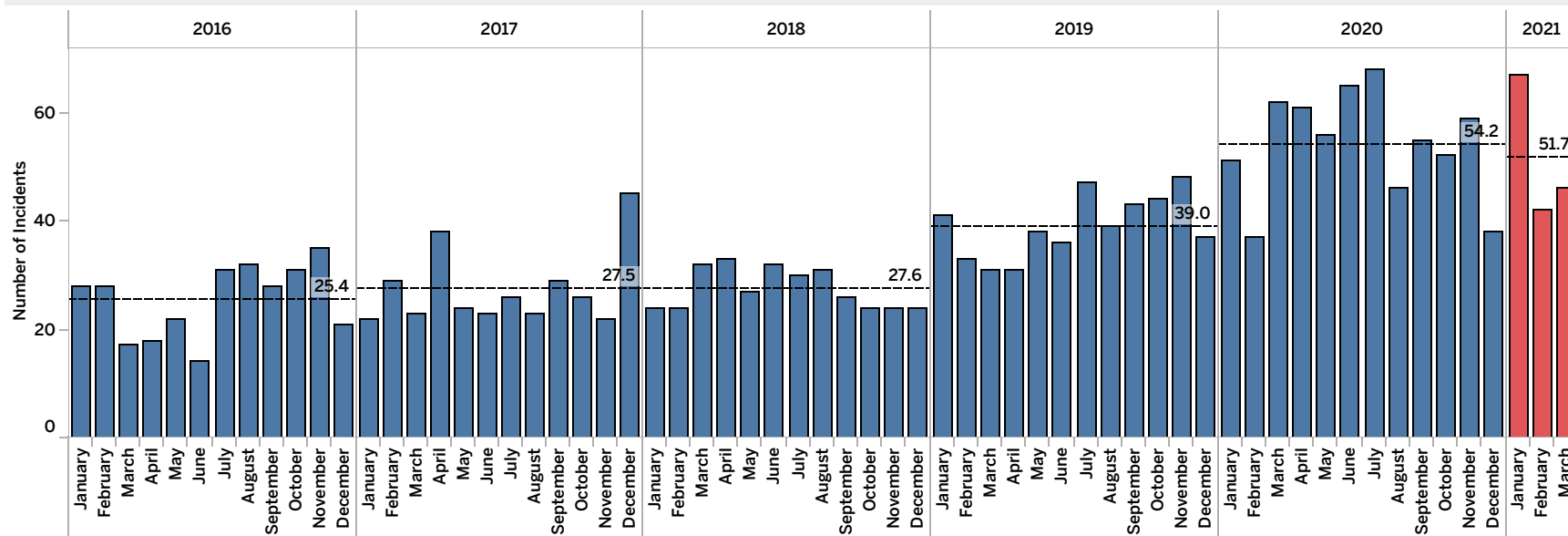
628 Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- In 2021, drug overdose-related ED visits increased by 17% compared to the same time period last year.
- Fifty-nine percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2021 reportedly involved opioids excluding heroin followed by heroin (38%) and stimulants (3%).
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 35% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

1,295 Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

- In 2021, suspected drug overdoses requiring EMS response decreased by 1% compared to the same time period last year.
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, one-third of all suspected drug overdoses occurred among persons 25-34 years old

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



Note: Data pertaining to suspected drug overdose deaths are not currently finalized (including incidents occurring between January-March 2021). This information will be updated in subsequent reports.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2021 | January 1-March 31

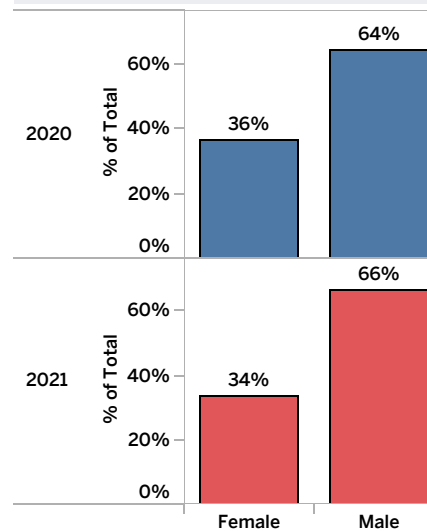
Number of Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2020: 150 fatal drug overdoses
 2021: 155 fatal drug overdoses

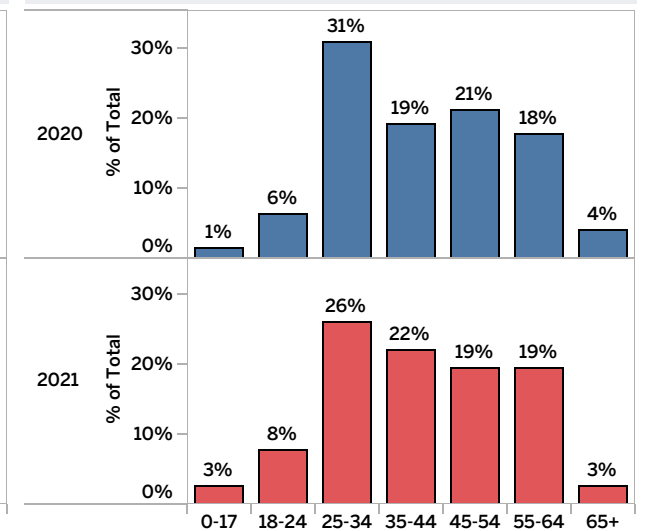
Notable Trends

- Compared to Q1 2020, suspected drug overdose deaths have increased by 3% during Q1 2021.
- 73% of overdose-related toxicology reports in 2021 detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.
- Approximately two-thirds of overdose-related toxicology reports detected multiple substances.
- 66% of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 25-34 year olds (26%).

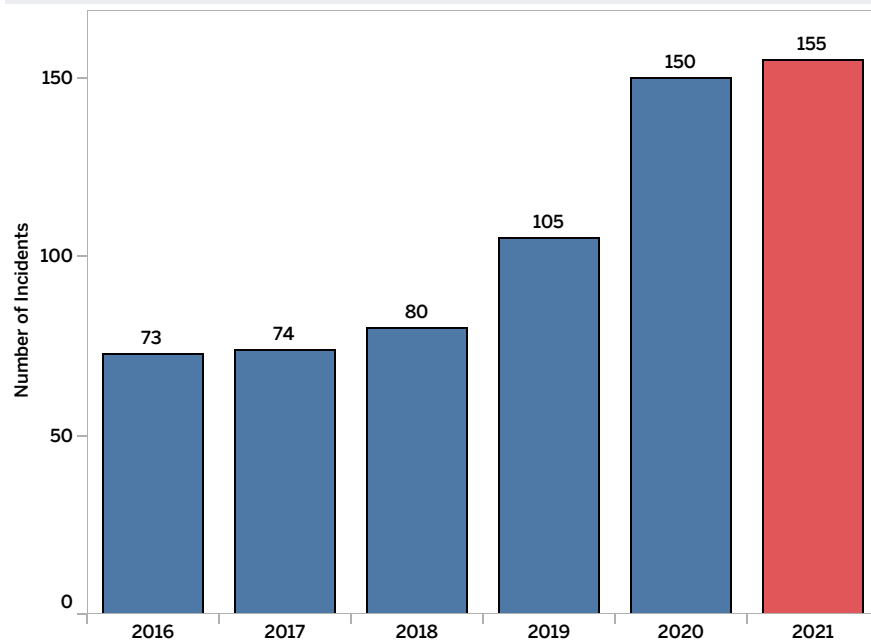
Sex, 2020-2021



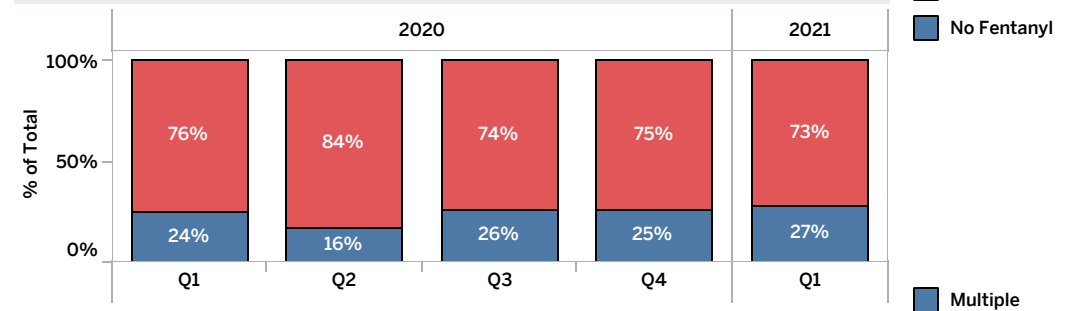
Age Group (years), 2020-2021



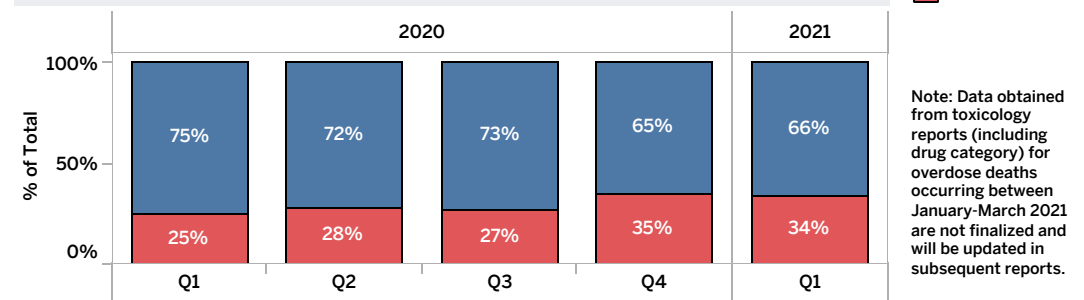
Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses - 1st Quarter, 2016-2021



Fatal Drug Overdoses Involving Fentanyl, 2020-2021



Fatal Drug Overdoses by Detected Substances, 2020-2021



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

Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

2021 | January 1-March 31

Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

2020: 534 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits
 2021: 628 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

Notable Trends

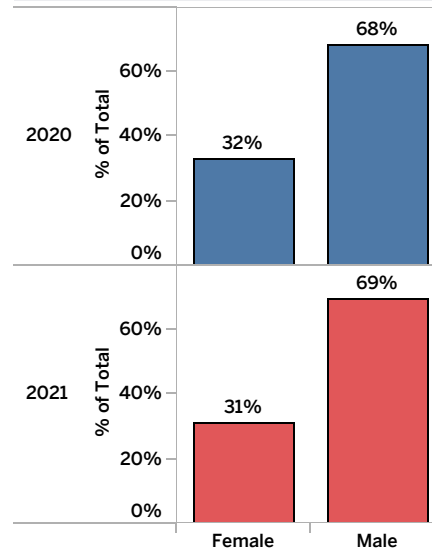
- In Q1 2021, drug overdose-related ED visits increased by 17% compared to the same time period last year.

- Fifty-nine percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2021 reportedly involved opioids excluding heroin followed by heroin (38%) and stimulants (3%). This finding indicates a continued shift away from heroin in Davidson County.

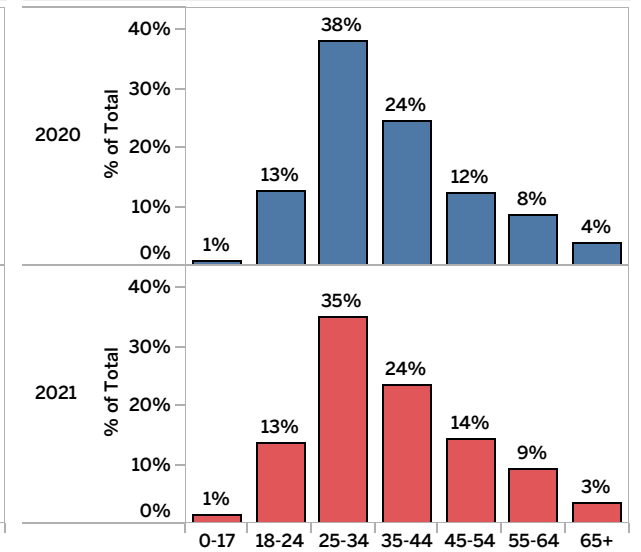
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.

- By age group, 35% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

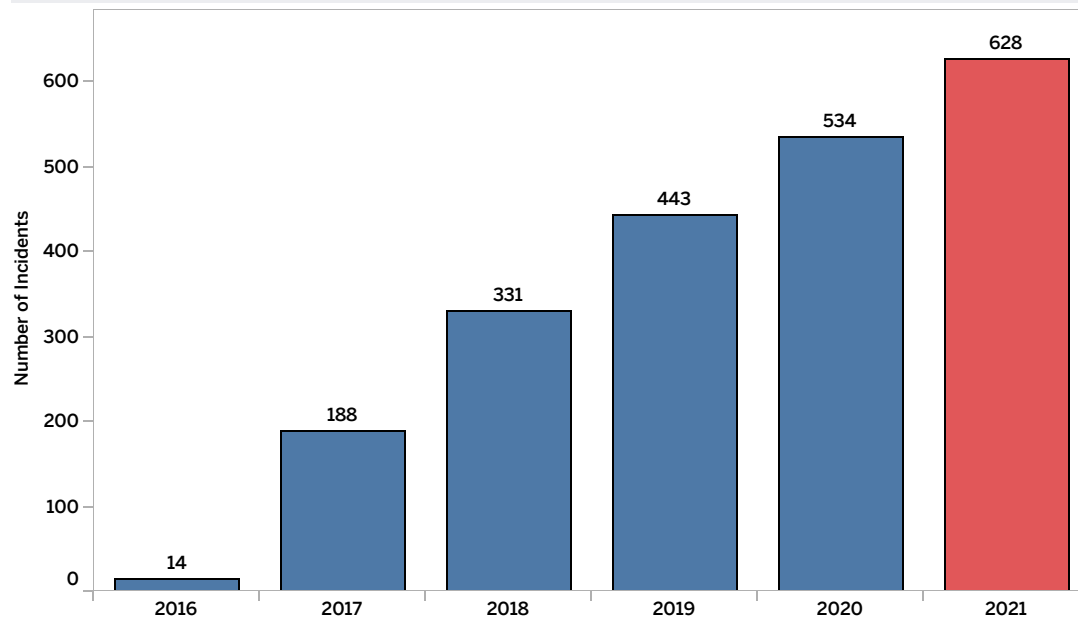
Sex, 2020-2021



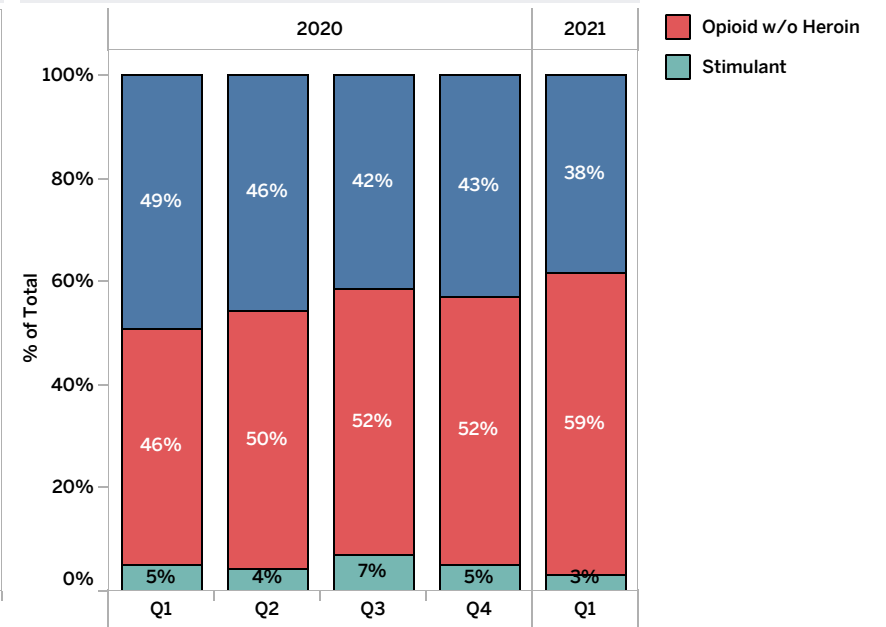
Age Group, 2020-2021



Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits - 1st Quarter, 2016-2021



Drug Category by Quarter, 2020-2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

2021 | January 1-March 31

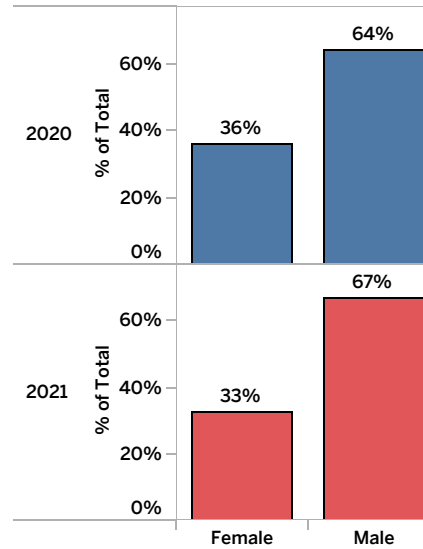
Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

2020: 1,306 suspected drug overdoses
 2021: 1,295 suspected drug overdoses

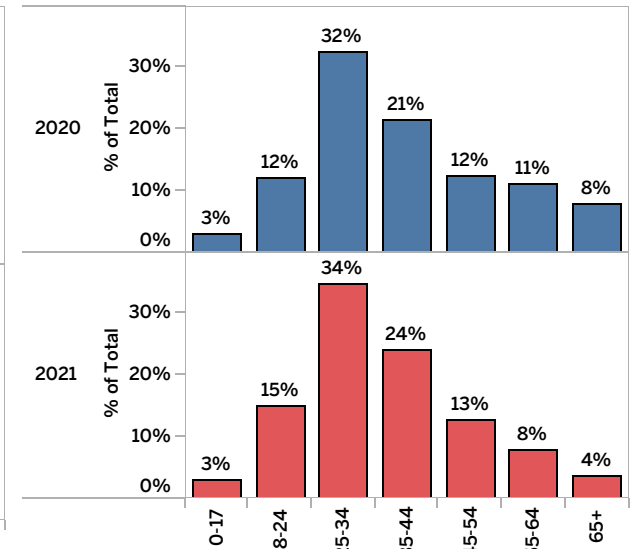
Notable Trends

- In Q1 2021, suspected drug overdoses requiring EMS response decreased by 1% compared to Q1 2020.
- Among suspected drug overdoses where naloxone was given during Q1 2021, 72% of incidents required multiple administrations compared to 66% during the same time period last year.
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Nashville were among males. This trend has remained consistent over the last 3 years.
- By age group, one-third of all suspected drug overdoses occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

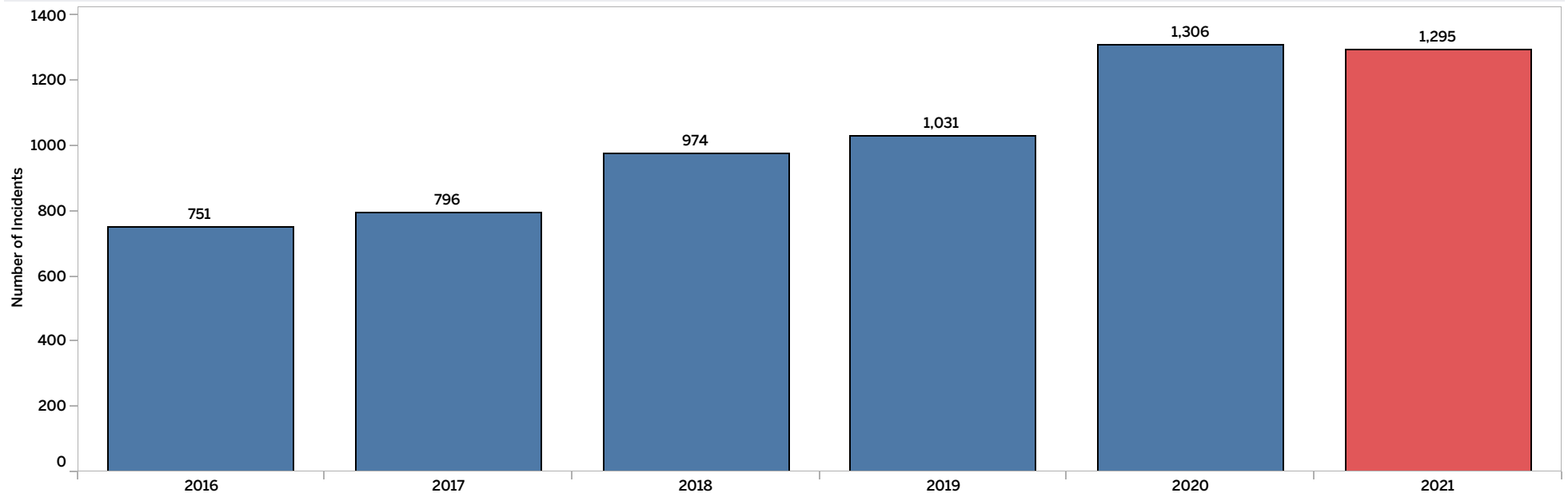
Sex, 2020-2021



Age Group (years), 2020-2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses with Quarterly Average - 1st Quarter, 2016-2021



Geospatial Trends: Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdoses

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response (maps below)

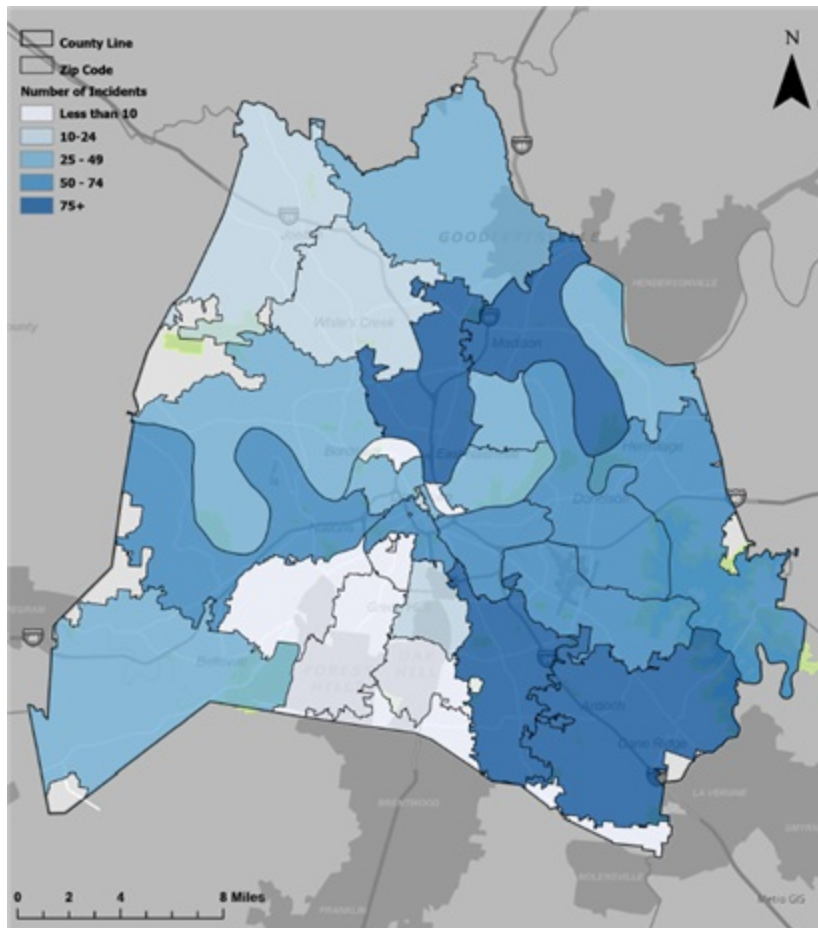
- In 2021, the majority of suspected drug overdoses have occurred in ZIP Codes 37214, 37211, 37115, 37207, and 37013.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred in ZIP Codes 37072 (+72%), 37214 (+71%), and 37076 (+61%).

Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

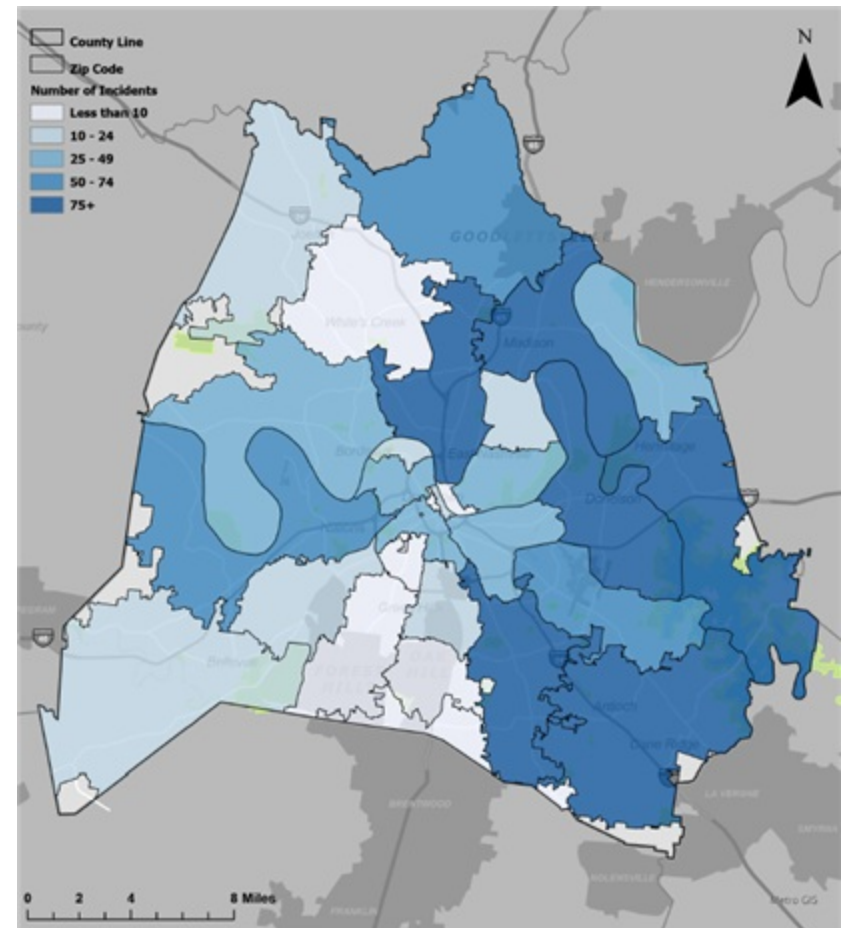
- In 2021, the majority of overdose-related ED visits have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211, 37207, 37013, 37115, and 37076.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211 (+62%), 37076 (+52%), and 37207 (+33%).

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

1st Quarter - 2020



1st Quarter - 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.
- 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

Footnotes and Supplemental Information

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

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

MPHD Website – Drug Overdose Information

<https://www.nashville.gov/Health-Department/Drug-Overdose-Information.aspx>

Notes

There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred between January-March 2021 are not yet finalized. Geospatial trends are not presented for suspected overdose deaths at this time due to low counts at the ZIP Code level.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Suspected fatal drug overdose data were accessed from the Davidson County Medical Examiner and ranged from 01/01/2019-03/31/2021.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2019-03/31/2021.
- 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 EMS Response

- Suspected drug overdose data were provided by the Nashville Fire Department EMS Data and ranged from 01/01/2019-03/31/2021.