

## **Director's Update to the Board of Health May, 2022**

### **Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease**

#### **COVID-19**

The current data from May 3 showed a slight increase in new cases/day/100,000 up to 13.6 from 13.5 on Sunday. This is an increase of 2 new cases per day. The trend for new cases has been a slow increase over the past six weeks from a low of 3.5 new cases/day/100,000. The hospitalization rate has increased slightly over the past week.

New data recently released by the CDC shows that 58% of adults and 75% of children under age 18 had antibodies to COVID-19, indicating they have been previously infected. This is up from 34% of all Americans having antibodies in December 2021, prior to the Omicron surge.

#### **Health Equity Team's work on COVID-19 Disparities grant**

Year one of the two-year COVID disparities grant operated by the Health Equity Bureau will be completed in June of 2022. The team has worked in collaboration with the Emergency Preparedness/COVID-19 team to lead and operate activities like the distribution and tracking of over 1000 home tests kits and thermometers to community and faith-based organizations, the planning of upcoming community listening sessions for target populations, the review and analysis of internally collected data for vaccination event process improvements, the onboarding of two contact tracers specific to the grant's high impact zip codes, the work with the Population Health Bureau to execute Community Health Worker contracts, and the awarding of contracts for youth-centered COVID work. The team plans to continue this and other work during the upcoming year and will apply for a no-cost extension in the Fall of 2022.

### **Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being**

#### **Universal Referral Program**

The move toward universal referrals for home visiting and care coordination services is something we here at the Health Department are very excited about. I thank our presenters for their hard work in putting this project into motion and look forward to continued updates on the initiative.

### **Promote and Support Healthier Living**

#### **Supporting our employees healthy living strategies**

After its popularity during Public Health Week, employees at MPHD are encouraged to take part in regular Line Dancing classes. The classes are free and virtual, making it more possible for more employees to take part in a healthy break in the day.

### **Create Healthier Community Environments**

#### **Environmental Health Bureau's Earth Day events**

On Saturday, April 23, Metro held its Earth Day Celebration at Centennial Park. Tens of thousands of people from the community turned out to listen to music, shop sustainable vendors, and learn about the environment. Cassy Delducco, Brittany Maloy, and Nicole Rondeau from MPHD's Air Pollution Control

Division were onsite to answer questions and educate visitors on topics such as radon, asbestos, and other environmental trends.

## **Increase Access and Connection to Clinical Care**

### **Free Pap Day at MPHD Clinics**

“Free PAP” day: On May 3, 2022, at our East clinic and May 18, 2022, at our Woodbine clinic, the family planning programs will be offering pap smears at no cost to individuals that meet the breast and cervical screening program requirements but no longer qualify for the family planning program (such as individuals with a prior tubal ligation). Six patients participated in the event or enrolled in the Breast and Cervical Cancer program at the East Clinic. Thank you to the collaboration between our family planning administrator, family planning nurse practitioners, and the breast and cervical screening program for providing this important screening opportunity to eligible patients.

### **Viral Hepatitis testing event**

May is (Viral) Hepatitis Awareness Month. May 19, is Hepatitis Testing Day. MPHD will observe it on May 26, with testing available in the Centennial Rooms from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Internal and Community Partners will be involved in the outreach effort. STD and HCV testing will also be conducted at the Nashville Rescue Mission on May 27, in recognition Hepatitis Awareness Month.

### **Organizational Updates**

I wanted to note that the layoff action that was approved by the Board at the April meeting will not need to be put into place since the one employee whose layoff was approved by the Board has taken another position within the department.

### **Nurses Month Activities at MPHD**

This year’s National Nurses Month theme is “You Make A Difference”. The Nursing Leadership Team at MPHD is organizing some things to celebrate and honor the vast contributions and positive impact of our own invaluable nurses. Specific weeks of the month are dedicated to mental health and physical well-being, recognition, professional development, and community engagement. MPHD is dedicated to honoring the work of our nurses and thanking them for their efforts at all times, especially for the specific challenges posed over the past two plus years.

### **The Health Equity (HE) Bureau**

The Health Equity Bureau will be presenting its “2022 Strategic Approach: Getting Grounded” at the May 18, Supervisor’s Meeting. Priority areas include: Building and deepening shared knowledge and understanding of health equity, cultivating an authentic commitment to advancing health equity across MPHD, implementing strategic initiative to reduce inequities in specific areas, translating data and storytelling into systems change and developing a platform for community-driven action at MPHD.

## Overdose Response Program (ORP) | Division of Behavioral Health and Wellness

### GRANTS

- U.S. DOJ Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Grant
- TDH-CDC High Impact Area (HIA) Grant
- NACCHO Grant
- The "Community Overdose Prevention and Empowerment" project will deploy community health educators and enhance surveillance through surveys and listening sessions so authentic community voice is incorporated into overdose prevention strategies, messaging, and materials.
- **SAMHSA GAINS Center Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop Grant**
- SIM Workshops are designed bring together a local, multidisciplinary group of key stakeholders from a particular jurisdiction to facilitate cross-system collaboration and to identify and discuss ways in which barriers in and between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems can be reduced through the development of integrated local strategic action plans.

### INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

#### Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Panel

- Seeks to examine and understand the circumstances surrounding fatal drug overdoses occurring in Davidson County. **Meetings occur monthly.**

#### ED Post-Overdose Discharge Protocol

- Initiative seeks to improve care through the use of peer recovery navigators, naloxone distribution, harm reduction strategies, and medically-assisted treatment (MAT).

#### Nashville Fire Department EMS Post-Overdose Follow-Up

- Implementation began in early January 2021.

#### Data-to-Action with Local Prevention/Public Safety Partners

- Collaborating with prevention partners/public safety for targeted response to high-activity areas.

#### HIA Multidisciplinary Stakeholder Group

- Quarterly meeting involving stakeholders from multiple sectors aimed at mitigating the local drug overdose crisis.

#### SAMHSA GAINS Center Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop

- Implementation is underway with initial planning meeting held in mid January.

#### \*\*NACCHO and CDC Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level (IOPSL) Recipient Meeting

- Program epidemiologist scheduled to present on May 23 during national meeting regarding local drug overdose surveillance and data sharing efforts between public health and public safety.

#### \*\*Enhancing Overdose Surveillance Data Reporting

- Provided strategic consult for CDC Foundation staff based in Northern Kentucky re: leveraging overdose surveillance data to enhance reporting across multiple agencies.

#### \*\*Collaboration with CDC Foundation

- ORP staff provided strategic consult to CDC Foundation staff focused on implementing an Overdose Fatality Review Panel in Hamilton County, TN.

#### \*\*Opioid Settlement Recommendations for BHWAC

- ORP staff provided subject matter expertise for the BHWAC ad hoc committee tasked with providing recommendations to the mayor on opioid settlement funds.

### \*\*PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY\*\*

#### Drug Overdose Crisis in the U.S.

On October 26, 2017, the drug overdose crisis was officially declared to be a public health emergency by President Trump. This determination was recently renewed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, effective April 1, 2022.

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/default.aspx>

#### \*\*2022 Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit

- Program staff attended annual conference in Atlanta, GA from April 18-21 which included partners from public health, public safety, healthcare, and harm reduction.

#### \*\*Collaboration with Rutherford County EMS/Medical Examiner

- Program staff provided strategic consult re: implementation of Overdose Fatality Review Panel and overdose surveillance.

### MEDIA

#### ABC News Live - Poisoned: America's Fentanyl Crisis (includes ORP staff and partners)

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjpb--cYdDo>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0-ax8Oi22U>

Part 3: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_Ma8oQLmSM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_Ma8oQLmSM)

#### May 4 - The Tennessean

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2022/05/04/two-dead-suspected-overdose-downtown-nashville/9642601002/>

#### May 3 - Nashville.gov

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/police/news/narcotics-detectives-investigating-suspected-drug-overdose-deaths-two-men>

#### April 30 - WSMV

<https://www.wsmv.com/2022/04/30/middle-tennessee-celebrates-national-drug-take-back-day/>

#### April 19 - ABC News

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/americans-suffer-deadly-fentanyl-overdoses-record-numbers/story?id=84146782>

#### April 15 - News Channel 11

[https://www.wjhl.com/news/regional/tennessee/new-tennessee-law-hopes-to-prevent-overdose-deaths-by-making-life-saving-drug-more-accessible/..](https://www.wjhl.com/news/regional/tennessee/new-tennessee-law-hopes-to-prevent-overdose-deaths-by-making-life-saving-drug-more-accessible/)

### SPIKE ALERTS

- Since implementation in June 2021, the SPIKE Auto Text Program has been utilized 8 times:

**2022**

February 5, May 3

**2021**

June 9, July 16, August 13, September 2, October 4, and December 4

**Monthly Drug Overdose Activity, January 2020-April 2022**  
Data reported for the last three months are provisional and subject to change.

**Data and Surveillance**

**Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses**

- Fentanyl has been detected in 77% of overdose-related toxicology reports in 2022 (76% in 2021).
- Monthly Average
  - 2021: 60.4 suspected overdose deaths
  - 2022: 61.3 suspected overdose deaths

**Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits**

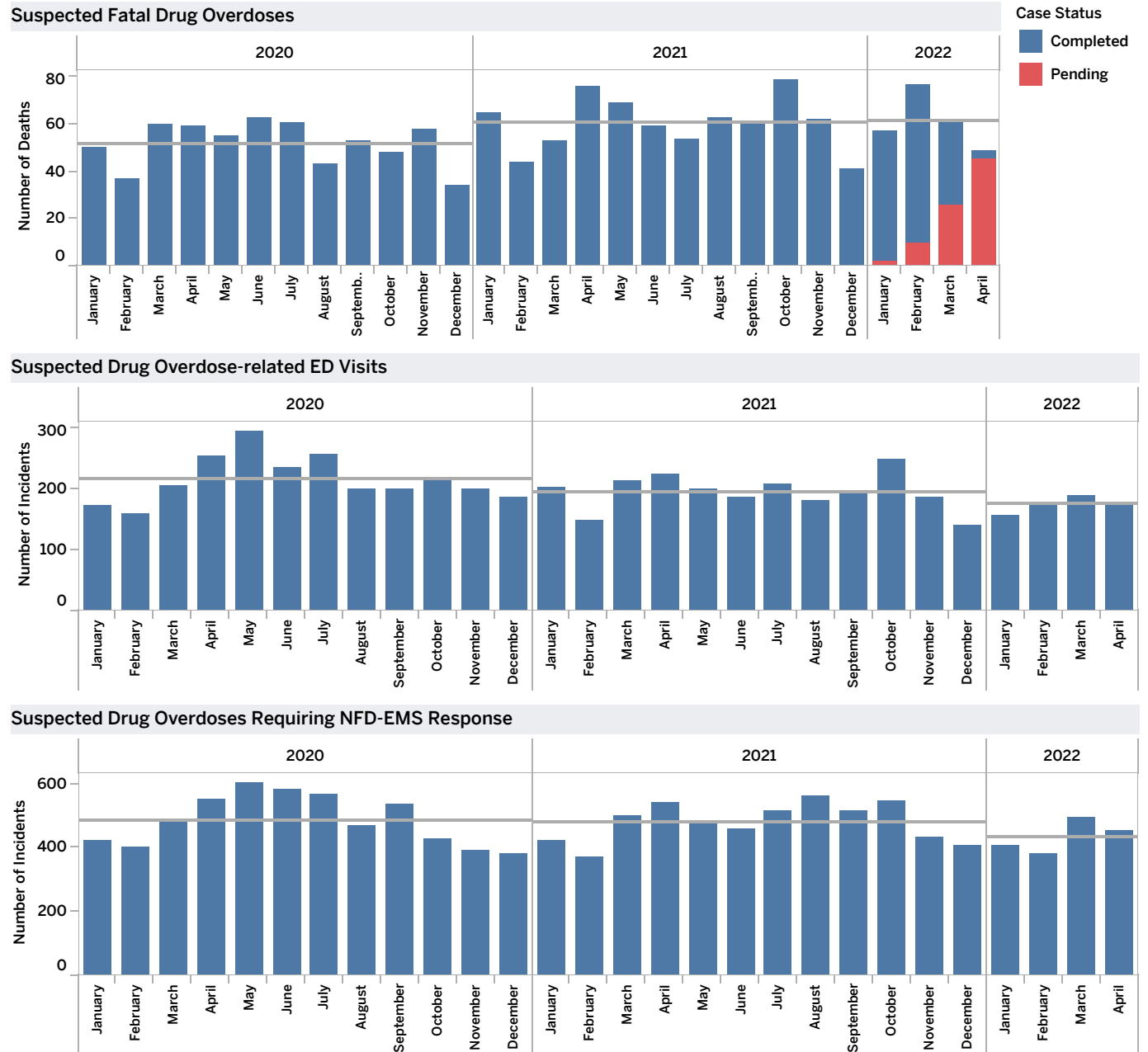
- Monthly Average
  - 2021: 195.8 overdose-related ED visits
  - 2022: 175.0 overdose-related ED visits

**Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response**

- Monthly Average
  - 2021: 478.8 suspected overdoses
  - 2022: 433.0 suspected overdoses

**Syringe Containers Collected from the Community**

- During the first three months in 2022, there have been 524 syringe containers collected by the Metro Public Health Department, representing an 46% increase compared to the same time period in 2021 (each syringe container in estimated to collect between 400 and 430 1cc syringes).
- Monthly Average
  - 2021: 156.4 syringe containers
  - 2022: 174.7 syringe containers



## **Prevention Categories for Activities/Interventions Implemented or Supported by ORP**

The Overdose Response Program is involved in both actively implementing and supporting a multitude of community activities and interventions aimed at addressing all levels of prevention (primary, secondary, and tertiary). This ensures our program is applying a comprehensive approach which involves mitigating the currently burgeoning local drug overdose crisis while aiming to prevent substance use/addiction before it ever occurs.

### **Implemented by ORP**

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Panel - primary, secondary, tertiary

ED Post-Overdose Discharge Protocol - primary, secondary, tertiary

HIA Multidisciplinary Stakeholder Group - primary, secondary, tertiary

Nashville Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Post-Overdose Follow-Up - primary, secondary, tertiary

Substance Use Linkage by ORP Social Worker - primary, secondary, tertiary

Data-to-Action with Local Prevention Partners - primary

Data-to-Action with Public Safety Partners - primary

Data-to-Action with Local Homeless/Housing Partners - primary

SPIKE Auto Text Program - primary, secondary

Drug Overdose Monitoring and Surveillance - primary, secondary, tertiary

Syringe Services Program (SSP) - primary, secondary

(Note: MPH D receives syringe containers from organization implemented the SSP for disposal as medical waste)

### **Supported by ORP**

Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution (as a means of harm reduction) - primary, secondary

### **Definitions**

**Primary Prevention:** "upstream" measures that prevent the onset of illness before the disease process begins. Immunization against infectious disease is a good example.

**Secondary Prevention:** measures that lead to early diagnosis and prompt treatment of a disease. Breast self-examination is a good example of secondary prevention.

**Tertiary Prevention:** involves the rehabilitation of people who have already been affected by a disease, or activities to prevent an established disease from becoming worse.

# Update: Drug Overdose Epidemic in Davidson County, TN May 2022

## Overdose Response Program

Vacant | Director

Vacant | Coordinator

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## Metro Public Health Department Website

**Drug Overdose Information**

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health/drug-overdose-information>

## Data Sources

### **Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses**

Death Investigation and Decedent Information (DIDI) Database (maintained by the Davidson County Medical Examiner (DCME))

### **Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits**

ESSENCE-TN

### **Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response**

Nashville Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (NFD-EMS)

## Notes

Data presented in this report were extracted on May 3, 2022 and are provisional. There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred from February 2022-April 2022 are not yet finalized. Suspected drug overdose deaths captured in the DIDI database represent deaths under DCME jurisdiction and do not necessarily indicate Davidson County residency status of the decedent.

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

[Opioid.Response@nashville.gov](mailto:Opioid.Response@nashville.gov) | 615-340-0498



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



FG Trade/Getty Images

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](https://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](https://drugfree.org).



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# NFHS Basic Data Matrix

04/01/2022 and 04/30/2022

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 04/01/2022		99	5	0	104	23	16	0	39	143
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	188	19	1	208	58	76	0	134	342
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	5
	Relinquished by Owner	20	1	0	21	8	0	0	8	29
	Other Intakes	10	1	0	11	8	0	0	8	19
	<b>Total Intakes</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>395</b>
O U T C O M E S	Adoptions	50	9	0	59	32	15	0	47	106
	Returned to Home	81	1	1	83	4	0	0	4	87
	Transferred to Rescue Group	54	11	0	65	27	20	0	47	112
	Other Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Return to Field	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
	<b>Total Live Outcomes</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>307</b>
	Died in Care	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Lost in Care	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
	Euthanasia	26	0	0	26	11	2	0	13	39
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	5
<b>Total Other Outcomes</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>49</b>	
<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>356</b>	
Ending Animal Count as of 04/30/2022		104	2	0	106	23	53	0	76	182
Save Rate		85.78%	100.00%	100.00%	87.08%	85.14%	97.37%	0.00%	91.33%	88.72%



# NFHS Basic Data Matrix Deceased Animal Intake Only

04/01/2022 and 04/30/2022

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 04/01/2022										
<b>I N T A K E S</b>	Stray/At Large									
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter									
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group									
	Owner Requested Euthanasia									
	Relinquished by Owner									
	Other Intakes									
<b>Total Intakes</b>										