

Director's Update to the Board of Health July, 2023

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

COVID et al.

COVID and other infectious diseases are currently minimal and stable in the community, except TB which is reported separately. Opioid overdose events are flat year over year, with fatal overdose events showing a mild decrease year over year.

Vaccine Preventable Disease

We have encouraging results from latest 24-Month-Old-Vaccination Survey and will present the highlights to you next month. Mark your calendars.

The Vaccine STRIKE Team has been reassembled and begun offering expanded services to enhance Vaccines for Children. The Mobile COVID vaccine strike team was deactivated Dec. 31. It was reassembled with available funds in April and repurposed. It now offers free Vaccines for Children (VFC) for those who qualify in various locations throughout the county. Vaccines include Tdap, HPV, Meningococcal, Varicella, Hep A, MMR, Hep B, and Polio. Covid vaccine is offered at all STRIKE events for free to adults and children who are eligible.

A calendar of STRIKE events can be found on MPHD's website at [COVID-19 Resources | Nashville.gov](#).

Creating Healthier Community Environments

Violence

MPHD moderated the open forum at Hillsboro High school arranged by Jeff Syracuse, chairman of the Metro Council's Public Health and Safety committee, on June 21. A week later MPHD presented to the committee in conjunction with the Office of Family Safety, the Mayor's Office of Community Safety, and the Mental Health Coop. Representatives from Uvalde, Texas, and Sandy Hook, Conn., presented at the June 21 and 28 events, respectively. All these sessions were in response to the Covenant School shooting here in March. This was a level-setting of current programs and data in the community. There was a lot of helpful information shared during these events and MPHD and their Metro partners will be meeting to provide formal joint recommendations on next steps.

Hepatitis

World Hepatitis Day is Friday, July 28. We will have tables with informational material, this year focused on outreach to drug rehab centers such as Women Residential Recovery Court and 4:13 Strong.

Notifiable Disease

We are excited for new locally funded position in this program. We know that barriers to health education are most likely to affect certain disadvantaged groups. These barriers include language, transportation, hours of availability and trust of those in medicine or government. Efforts to increase awareness and education of various communicable diseases will be geared towards those who serve or reside within vulnerable populations. Using zip code data, priority areas will be identified and prioritized for services.

PRIDE MONTH

As always, we made our presence known at various events during Pride month in June. The culminating event is the parade held on the last Saturday of the month. We had 153 people accept testing for STIs at our booth (HIV negative; gonorrhea and chlamydia results pending). We also administered Mpox vaccines.

More on STDs

An email received from TDH last week informed the STD outreach programs across the state that additional funding expected through the DIS Workforce Supplement (DIS WF) grant has been rescinded as a result of the debt ceiling compromise bill in Congress.

As a result, the Program Manager and Bureau Director are revising hiring plans, and have decided the Program Coordinator position is a priority to fill over the Surveillance Operations position.

Also, beginning in September, the STD Outreach reporting database "PRISM" will no longer be active. Moving forward, STD cases will be reported and investigated through the NBS reporting database. Multiple programs within MPHD already manage communicable disease cases through the NBS database, although STDs will be new.

Improving Health - Services to Individuals & Families


Back to School Hours at Preventive Health Clinics

From July 31 through August 25 all three preventive health locations (East, Woodbine, and Lentz 120) will offer extended back to school hours. East will extend hours on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Lentz 120 will extend hours on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Woodbine will extend hours Monday through Thursday from 7am to 5:30 p.m.

Flyers are available upon request. This information has been shared with clinical leadership throughout MPHD; additionally, the information has been posted on social media platforms, the Smart TVs within Lentz and displayed within the clinic locations themselves.

As an example:

East Public Health Center
Back to School Immunization Clinics
Phone: 615-862-7916




Dates:

- 8/2, 8/9, 8/16 & 8/23

Time:

- Wednesday's: 8AM - 6:30PM



What to Bring :

- BRING ID
- PREVIOUS SHOT RECORDS
- APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

School Physicals:
Neighborhood Health
Phone: 615-227-3000 Website: neighborhoodhealthtn.org
(Locations all over Davidson County based on sliding fee scale)

Metro Health Clinic Locations:

East Public Health 1015 East Trinity Lane Nashville, TN 37216 615-862-7916	Woodbine Public Health 224 Oriol Ave Nashville, TN 37210 615-862-7940	Lentz Public Health 2500 Charlotte Ave Nashville, TN 37210 615-340-5607
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: HEALTH.NASHVILLE.GOV

2023 Red Sand Project

The last week in July, the Department will be participating in the fifth annual Red Sand Project. The Red Sand project allows participants to spread red sand into the cracks of sidewalks or pavement. This creates a visual representation of individuals that are “falling through the cracks” in recognizing human trafficking. Human trafficking is a 150-BILLION-dollar industry and in the United States, a child is sold for sex every two minutes (!). We hope that the sand can spark a larger conversation about how we can raise awareness of the signs of human trafficking and help to spread the importance of reporting individuals that we believe to be involved in human trafficking.

The event will provide individually packaged and group sand options to allow for maximum participation. Sand should be spread away from the entrances of the building. At Lentz, please spread sand in the lower parking lot only. We encourage you to take pictures to share with others around the state and country. Please send any pictures taken to laura.varnier@nashville.gov. Learn more about the Red Sand project here: <https://redsandproject.org/>

Locations:

- Lentz Public Health Clinic, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Monday 7/24/2023 from 11:30am-1:00pm
- South Nutrition, 3718 Nolensville Pike, Wednesday 7/26/2023 from 11am-12pm
- East Public Health Clinic, 1015 East Trinity Lane, Friday 7/27/2023 from 10:00-11:00am
- Woodbine Public Health Clinic, 224 Oriel Avenue, Thursday 7/27/2023 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Organizational Updates

Budget

On June 20, Metro Council passed the budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which began July 1. The amended budget that was passed was largely reflective of the budget Mayor Cooper proposed with some additions for MPHD, and more importantly, no subtractions.

Items included in the final budget are:

- Office Support Representative Seniors for the East and Occupational Health and Wellness Clinics
- Program Specialist 2 for Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness
- Finance Officer Senior
- Continued funding for additional contract security staff at outlying clinics
- Funding for continued expansion of the Partners in Care and REACH programs
- An additional veterinarian and two licensed veterinary technicians at MACC

Other items included in the FY24 budget will lessen the impact of salary increases on some grants. These include:

- Local funding for three positions currently funded by Grant In Aid
- Funding for telephonic interpretation services currently funded by grants
- Funding for eight interpreters, five of which are currently mostly funded by grants
- Funding to move a Public Health Nurse 1 and a Program Specialist 2 currently funded on the CHANT grant to local

The Mayor’s proposed budget recommended a 4% Cost of Living raise as well as funding for 3% merit increases and steps for eligible employees. The substitute budget increased the COLA to 6%. While funding for salary increases for locally funded positions is placed into MPHD’s budget, the same is not true for grant-funded positions. Grant funding has largely remained stagnant over the years, and large salary increases the last few years have squeezed our grants to the point of some not being able to sustain the raises at the same staffing levels.

Per MPHD Civil Service Rule 4.3, employees in open range positions need to have been hired by August 1, 2022, to be eligible to receive an open range increase and have received a score of meets expectations or better on their last performance evaluation. Employees in step pay grades who are eligible for a step increase this fiscal year will receive the step on their date of next increment, which in most cases is their anniversary date or anniversary date of their most recent status change.

Employees will begin to see salary improvements reflected on the July 14th paycheck. That check will cover the pay period from June 24 – July 7, so approximately half of that check will be at the old rate and half at the new rate. The July 28 check will be the first full check inclusive of any salary increases.

Overdose Response Epidemiology and Surveillance Update

Davidson County, TN | Update: 6/30/2023

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2022 yearly average: 14.4 deaths per week
 2023 yearly average: 12.5 deaths per week

Suspected Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

2022 yearly average: 45.8 incidents per week
 2023 yearly average: 40.9 incidents per week

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2022 yearly average: 109.8 incidents per week
 2023 yearly average: 111.8 incidents per week

Cumulative Number of Incidents: MMWR Weeks 1-25 | January 1 - June 24, 2023

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2022: 347
 2023: 312 (59 pending cases and 253 completed cases, -10.1% change)

Suspected Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

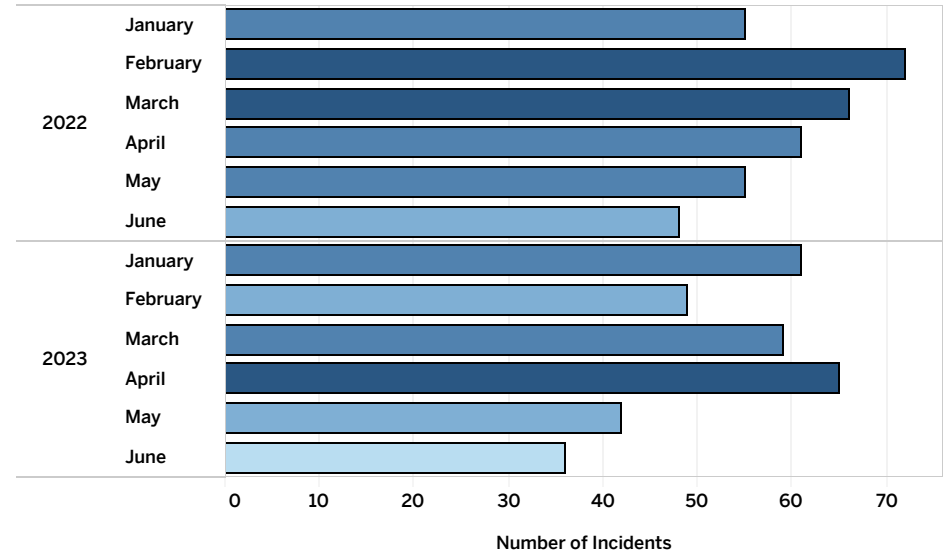
2022: 1,125
 2023: 1,025 (DOWN -9.1%)

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

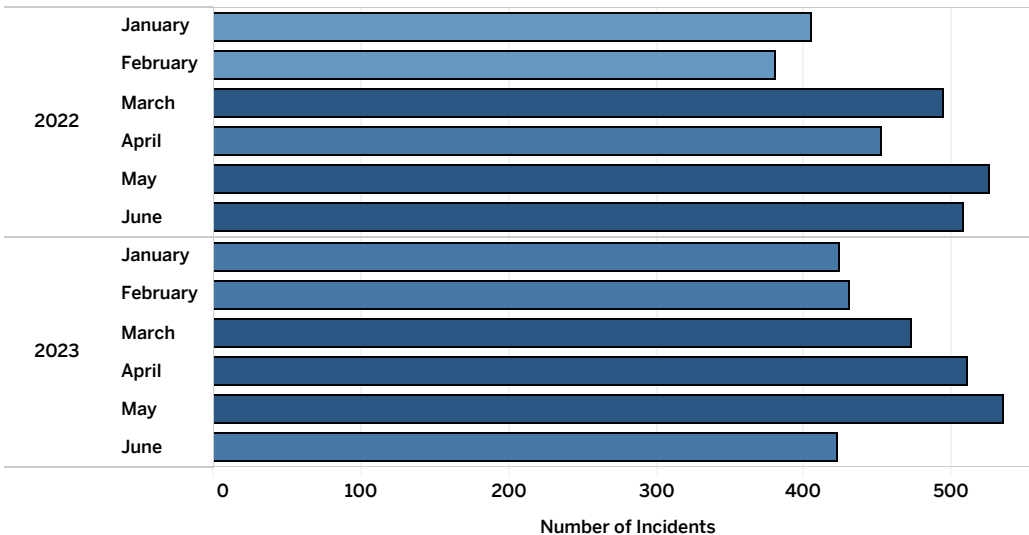
2022: 2,656
 2023: 2,794 (UP 5.2%)

* In the figures below, monthly counts in 2023 represent YTD counts through the current update week while monthly counts from 2022 represent the monthly total.

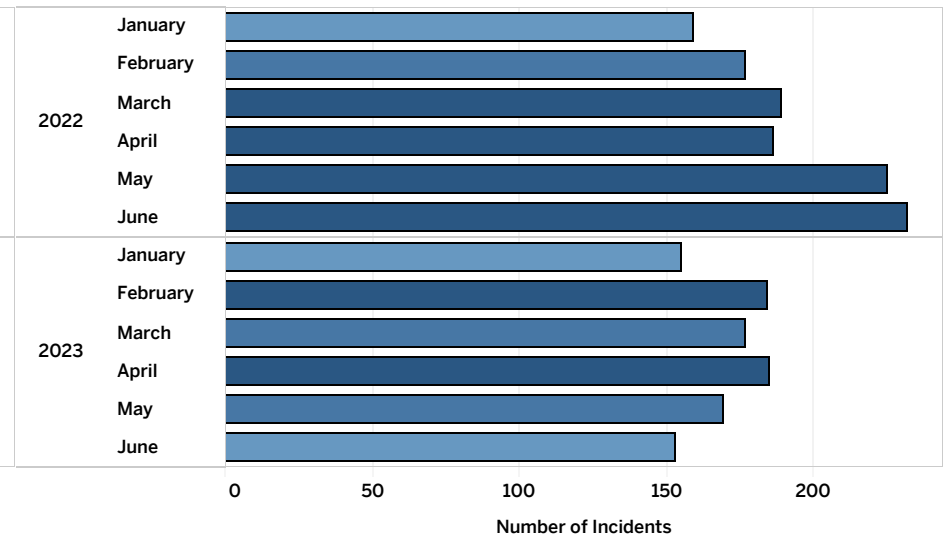
Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses, 2022-2023



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response, 2022-2023



Suspected Drug Overdose-Related ED Visits, 2022-2023

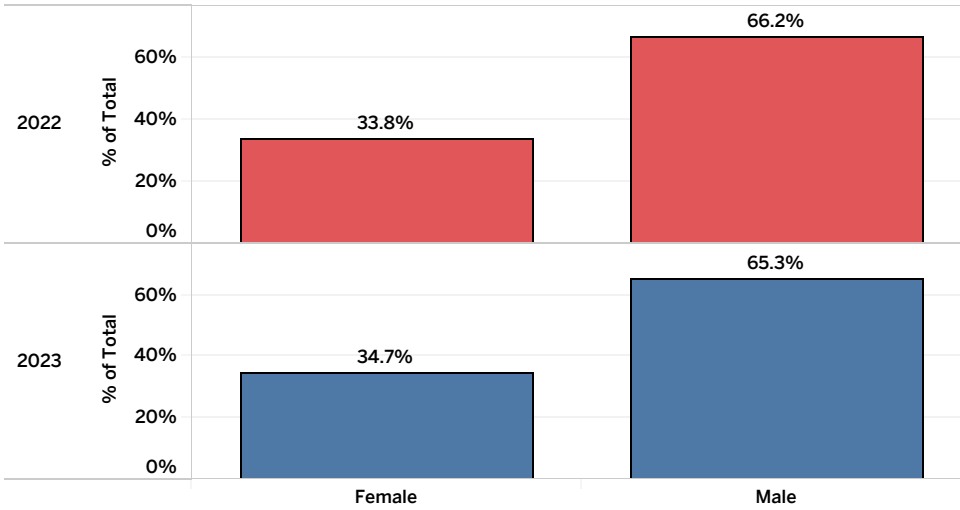


Overdose Response Epidemiology and Surveillance Update

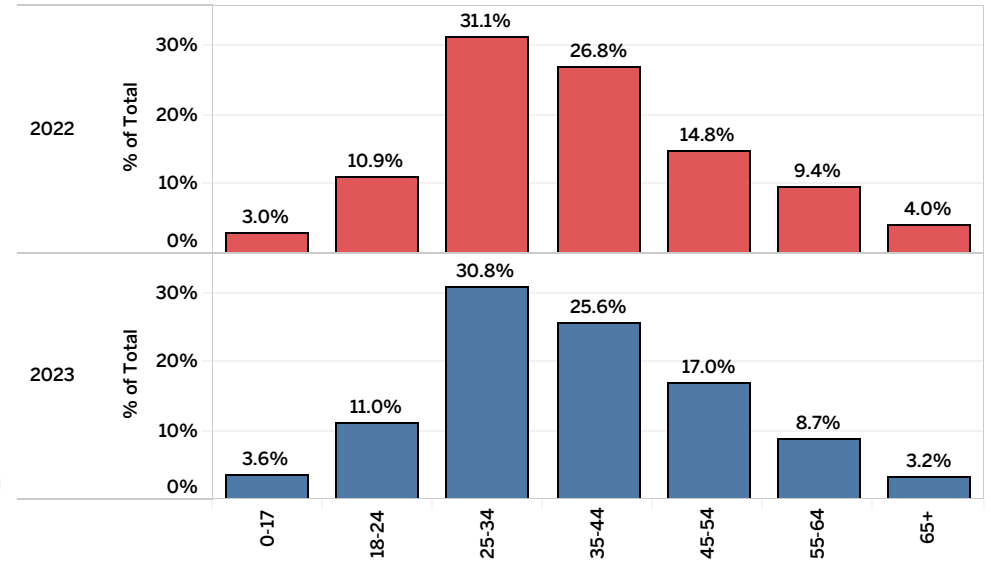
Davidson County, TN | Update: 6/30/2023

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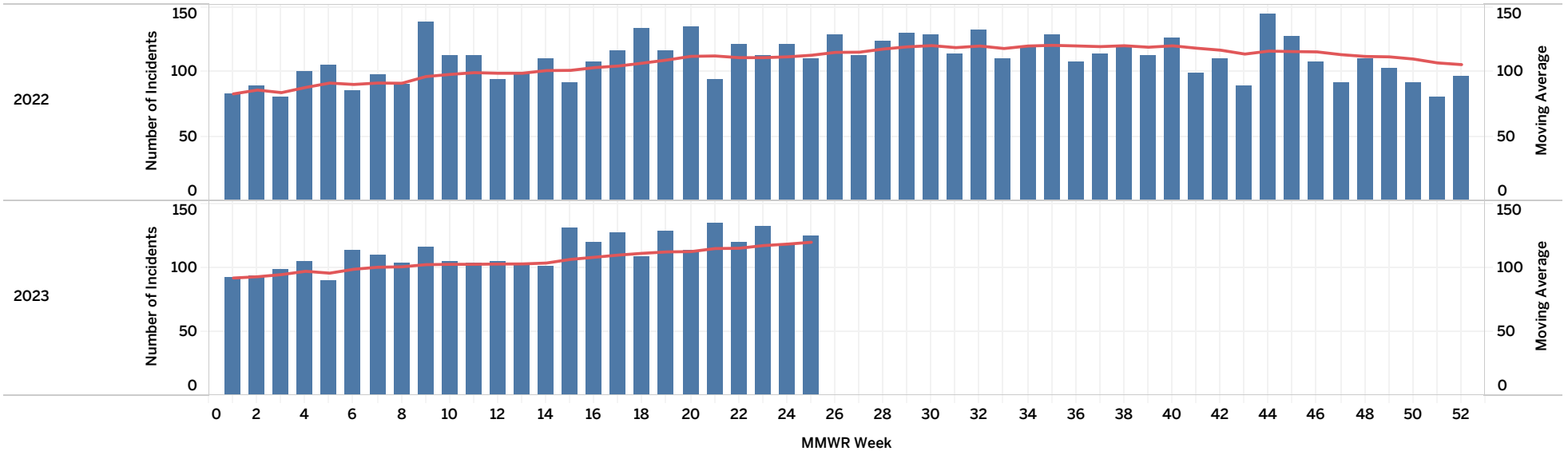
Sex



Age Group



Suspected Drug Overdoses by Week of Incident with 90-Day Moving Average

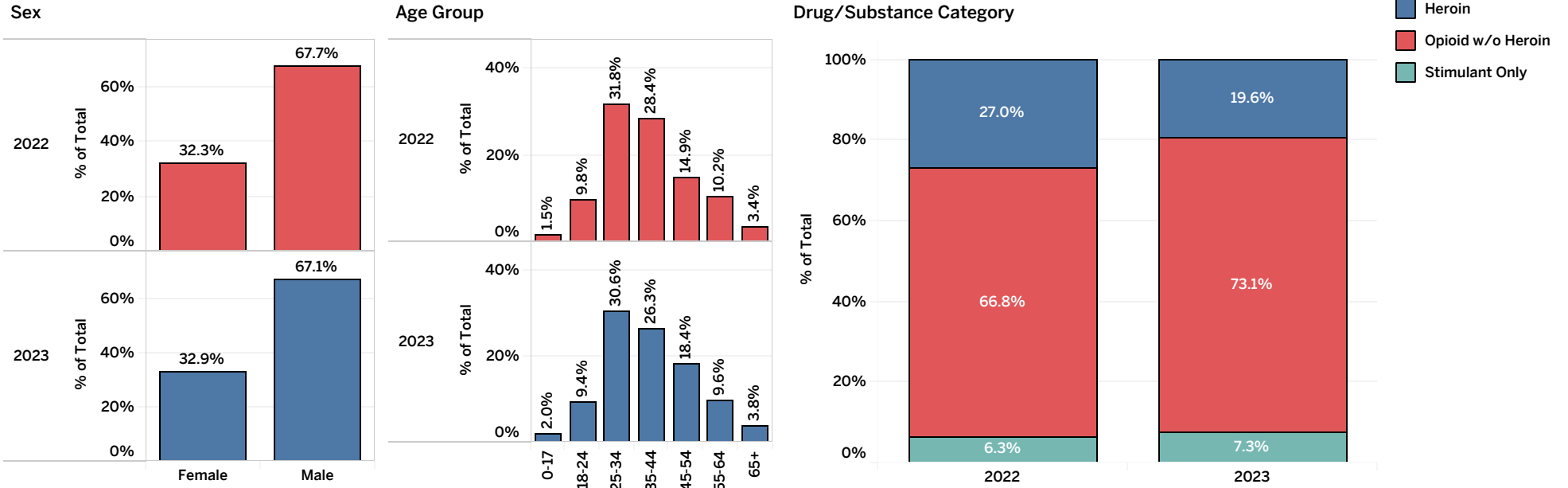


ALL DATA ARE PROVISIONAL, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND NOT FOR PUBLIC/MEDIA DISTRIBUTION
 Prepared by the Overdose Response Program - Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County

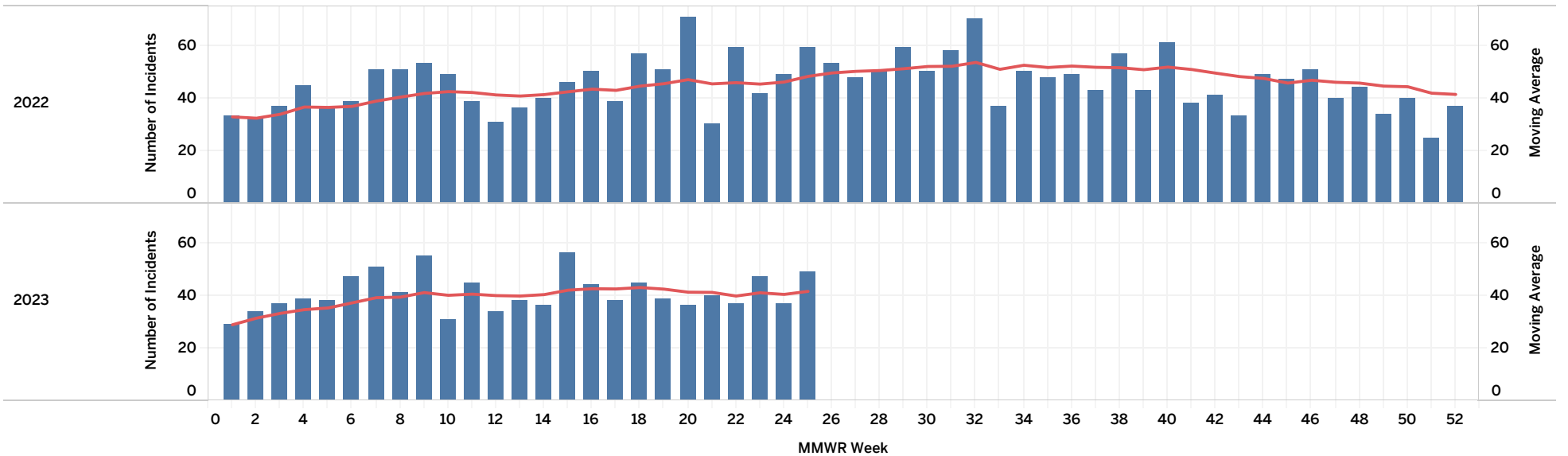
Overdose Response Epidemiology and Surveillance Update

Davidson County, TN | Update: 6/30/2023

Suspected Drug Overdose ED Visits



Suspected Drug Overdose ED Visits by Week of Incident with 90-Day Moving Average



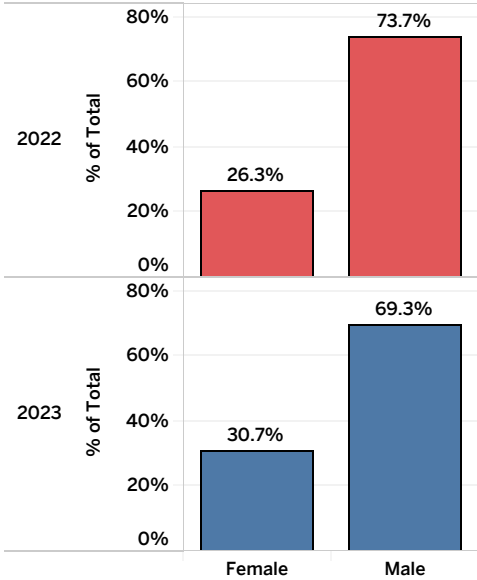
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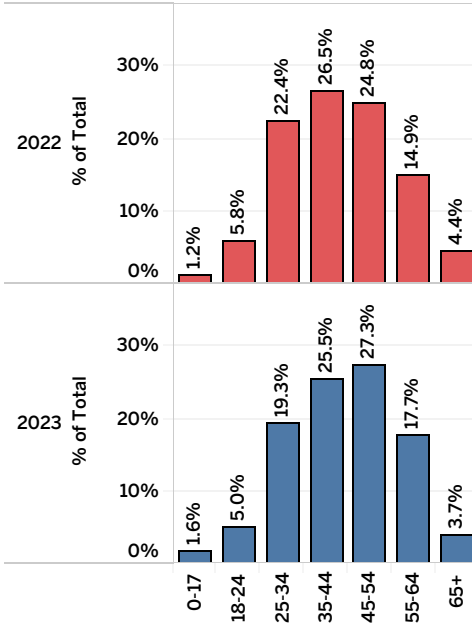
Davidson County, TN | Update: 6/30/2023

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

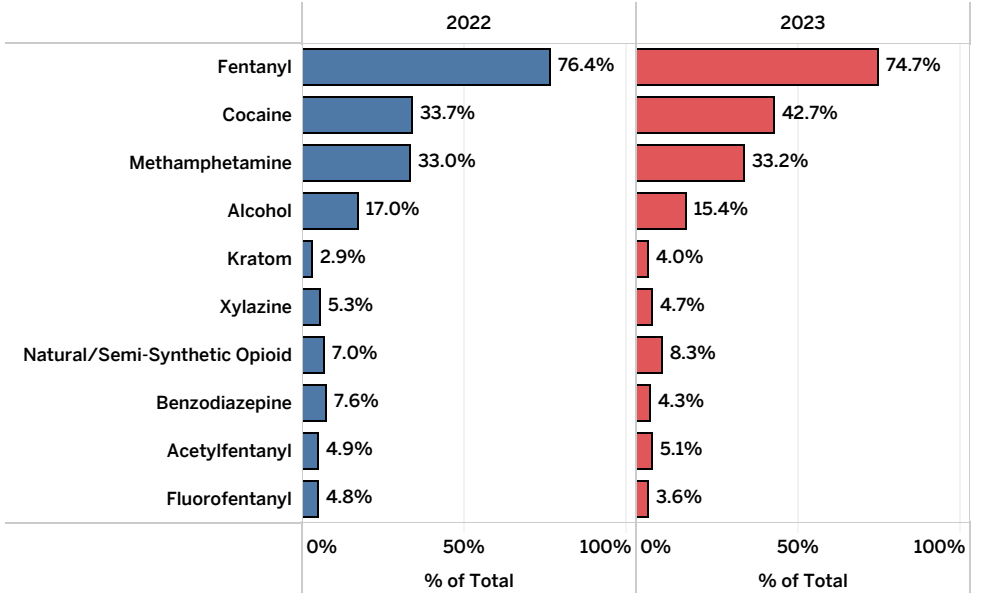
Sex



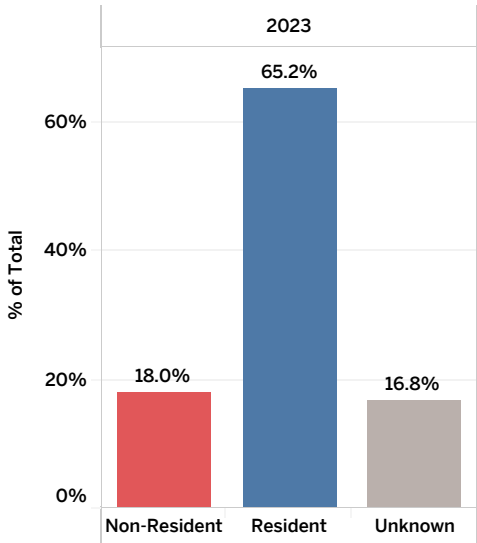
Age Group



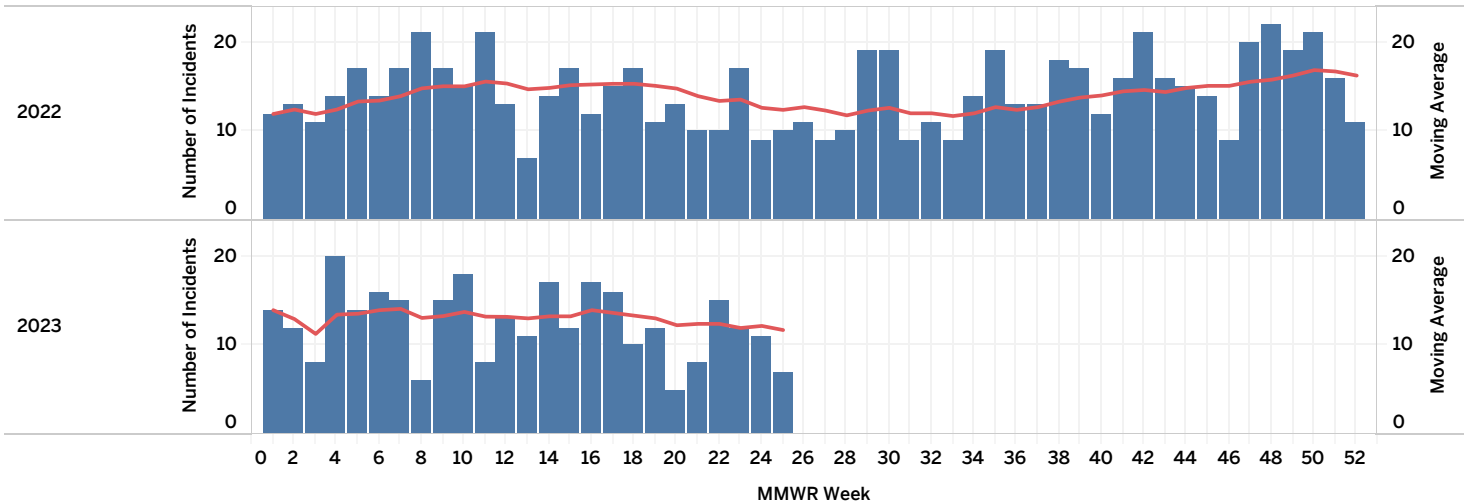
Substances Detected among Suspected Overdose Deaths



Decedent Residency Status



Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses by Week of Incident with 90-Day Moving Average



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

Overdose Response Epidemiology and Surveillance Update

Davidson County, TN | Update: 6/30/2023

If you have any questions, please contact:

Michelle Wemette, DVM, MPH | Epidemiologist

Division of Epidemiology

Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County

Email: michelle.wemette@nashville.gov

MPHD 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 Middle TN Regional Forensic Center)

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

ESSENCE-TN (maintained by the TN Department of Health)

Suspected Drug Overdoses

Nashville Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (NFD-EMS) Database

Notes

The data presented in this report were extracted on June 30, 2023. The data presented is provisional. There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred during recent months are not yet finalized. Drug overdose death data were accessed from the DIDI database by the Overdose Response Program and represent deaths suspected to be drug overdose-related. Further, these deaths have occurred with Davidson County; cases are included in this total regardless of resident status.

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

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

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



METRO NASHVILLE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

NFHS Basic Data Matrix

06/01/2023 and 06/30/2023

		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 06/01/2023		157	19	1	177	8	54	0	62	239
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	207	33	3	243	30	119	2	151	394
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	6	1	0	7	1	0	0	1	8
	Relinquished by Owner	17	3	2	22	9	12	0	21	43
	Other Intakes	12	2	1	15	1	0	2	3	18
	Total Intakes	242	39	6	287	41	132	4	177	464
O U T C O M E S	Adoptions	69	29	0	98	13	65	0	78	176
	Returned to Home	58	3	1	62	4	0	2	6	68
	Transferred to Rescue Group	61	15	2	78	5	13	0	18	96
	Other Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Return to Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Live Outcomes	188	47	3	238	22	78	2	102	340
	Died in Care	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	4
	Lost in Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Euthanasia	56	0	4	60	3	7	0	10	70
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	6	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	7
Total Other Outcomes	63	0	4	67	4	10	0	14	81	
Total Outcomes	251	47	7	305	26	88	2	116	421	
Ending Animal Count as of 06/30/2023		153	6	0	159	27	94	2	123	282
Save Rate		75.85%	100.00%	33.33%	78.29%	92.50%	92.42%	100.00%	92.61%	83.81%



NFHS Basic Data Matrix Deceased Animal Intake Only

06/01/2023 and 06/30/2023

		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 06/01/2023		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	2	1	0	3	0	1	1	2	5
	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Relinquished by Owner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Intakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Intakes		2	1	0	3	0	1	1	2	5



Metro Public Health Dept
Nashville / Davidson County
Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

Position Title: Animal Care and Control Licensed Veterinary Technician Senior	Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Non-Exempt
Salary Grade: SR08 ST08	Revision Date: 07/13/2023 Effective Date: 05/11/2023

Position Objective:

Provide routine medical care and assist with surgical procedures for animals in shelter's custody, in addition to animals fostered and recently placed. Assist veterinarian with diagnostic procedures, administering medications, and record keeping associated with animal medical care.

Major Responsibilities:

- Train, supervise, and assist the veterinary technicians in their performance of a variety of technical and client education duties that facilitate the work of the practitioners, and the veterinary practice manager who directly or indirectly provide patient care.
- Ensure that the hospital and its employees are in compliance with federal and state animal health laws and regulations including OSHA and DEA. Inform the practice manager and/or veterinarian in charge of any regulatory issues.
- Perform routine medical evaluations and diagnostic procedures, including but not limited to taking digital and dental radiographs, and collecting blood, urine, and stool samples.
- Provide nursing care or emergency first aid to injured or recovering animals.
- Prepare animals for surgery.
- Administer anesthesia to animals.
- Train other shelter staff in proper observation and diagnostic methods and safety and animal handling techniques.
- Responsible for the daily care of animals, including providing appropriate food and water, and basic grooming and bathing.
- Clean animal cages and runs and performs general housekeeping of shelter.
- Maintain daily log sheets and treatment histories, complete related animal care reports, and maintain other record keeping as required.
- Respond to patron inquiries.
- Maintain inventory of clinic supplies, research specifications, prices and availability of materials and equipment, and establish maintenance schedules for clinic equipment.
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws established by the Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medicine and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Perform euthanasia of animals.
- Work cooperatively with the shelter manager and staff and foster a spirit of teamwork.
- Support and participate in departmental response to disaster and emergency events.
- Engage in regular and reliable attendance.

- Demonstrates MPHD's core values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Equality (P.R.I.D.E.) when interacting with the public and employees of the Metropolitan Government.
- Supports and participates in departmental response to disaster/emergency events.
- Regular, reliable and predictable attendance; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Supervision Exercised/Supervision Received

Non-supervisory position.
Supervised by Veterinarian and Shelter Manager.

COMPETENCIES

The following competencies are required for this position:

Competency	Definition
<i>Judgment/Decision Making</i>	Evaluates the best method of research and then exercising appropriate judgment in establishing priorities and resolving complex matters. Considers the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
<i>Stress Tolerance</i>	Remaining effective even when situations become stressful.
<i>Coordinating Work Activities</i>	Coordinate the work-related activities necessary for task completion of all relevant constituents (both inside and outside of the group/organization). Adjusting one's own plans in light of how others are acting or how the environment is changing.
<i>Multi-Tasking</i>	Working on a variety of tasks simultaneously and shifting one's resources between multiple systems when needed.
<i>Interpersonal Relationships/ Customer Service</i>	Develops and maintains cooperative and professional relationships with employees and the public. Effectively handles customer's inquiries, complaints or disputes.
<i>Communicating with Coworkers</i>	Communicating information using either face-to-face, written, or via telephone or computer.
<i>Task-Relevant Knowledge</i>	Knowledge of standard practices and procedures necessary to accomplish tasks
<i>Seeking Improvement</i>	Constantly looking for ways that one can improve one's organization.
<i>Creative Problem Solving</i>	Using novel ideas to solve problems as a leader.

Computer Skills	Utilizes a personal computer with word processing, spreadsheet, and related software to effectively complete a variety of administrative tasks with reasonable speed and accuracy.
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Minimum Qualifications:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Hold an Associate’s Degree in Veterinary Technology or a related field, plus 5 years of professional veterinary technician or related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Must have and be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

- Basic animal care standards, including safe animal handling procedures for domestic and wild animals.
- Proper use, secure storage, and disposal of lethal chemicals, syringes and related equipment.

LICENSURE

- Active Veterinary Technician license from the State of Tennessee.
- Must be a Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician (CAET), or obtain that certification within six months of hire.
- Valid class “D” driver’s license.
- Must receive pre-exposure rabies vaccinations.

Working Environment/Physical Demands:

- Regular walking and standing.
- Lift up to 50 pounds, on a regular and recurring basis.
- Perform routine keyboard operations.
- Lift and move objects and animals weighing up to 50 pounds for short distances.
- Humanely restrain an animal.
- Use protective clothing or gear.
- Have normal visual acuity, field of vision, hearing, and speaking.
- May risk exposure to toxic and caustic chemicals, and animals/wildlife, including exposure to animal bites, scratches, and diseases such as Rabies, Ringworm, Lyme disease and Zoonosis.

NOTE: This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive. This job description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. Employee may perform other related duties as needed to meet the ongoing needs of the department.