

# Annual Drug Overdose Surveillance Update | 2020

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



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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2020 | January 1-December 31

#### 619 Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2020, there were 619 suspected fatal drug overdoses that occurred in Nashville at the time of this report. There were 468 suspected drug overdose deaths in 2019.
- Compared to 2019, Nashville has seen a 32% increase in fatal drug overdoses in 2020 (2019 was the deadliest year on record).
- In 2020, approximately eighty percent of overdose-related toxicology reports detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.
- Approximately 64% of all fatal drug overdoses were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 25-44 year olds (49%).

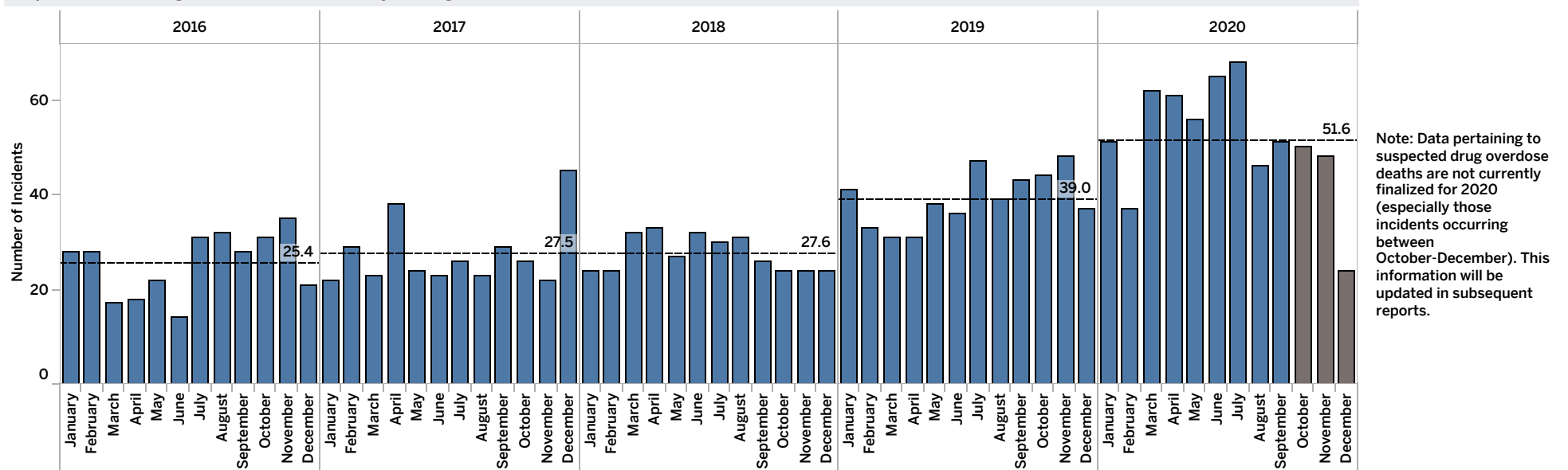
#### 2,566 Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- In 2020, drug overdose-related ED visits increased by 30% compared to 2019.
- Fifty percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2020 reportedly involved opioids excluding heroin followed by heroin (45%) and stimulants (5%). In 2019, the majority of visits were reported to involve heroin (57%).
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 37% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

#### 5,819 Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

- In 2020, suspected drug overdoses requiring EMS response increased by 31% compared to 2019.
- Approximately 6 out of 10 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.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses with Monthly Average, 2016-2020



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## Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2020 | January 1-December 31

### Number of Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

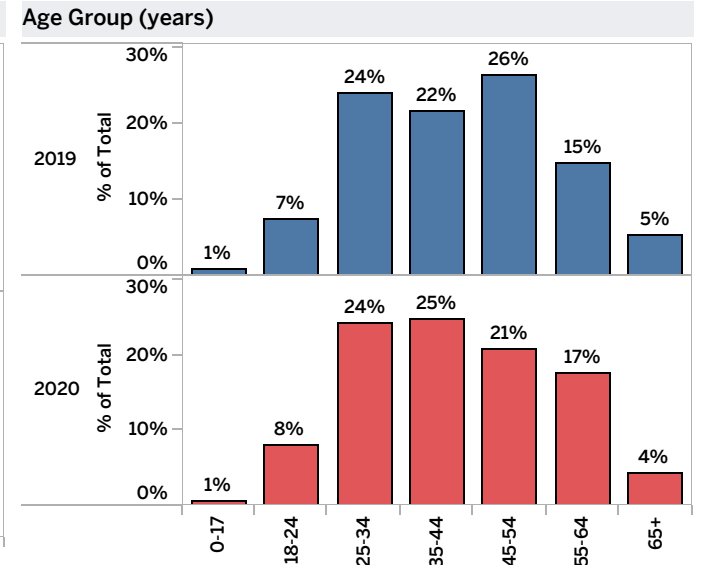
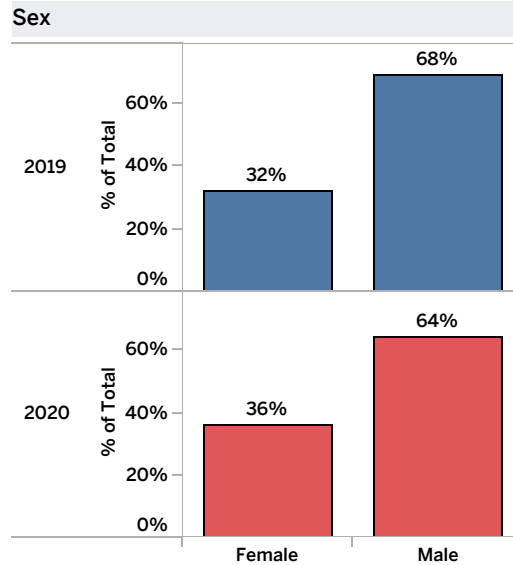
2019: 468 fatal drug overdoses  
2020: 619 fatal drug overdoses

### Notable Trends

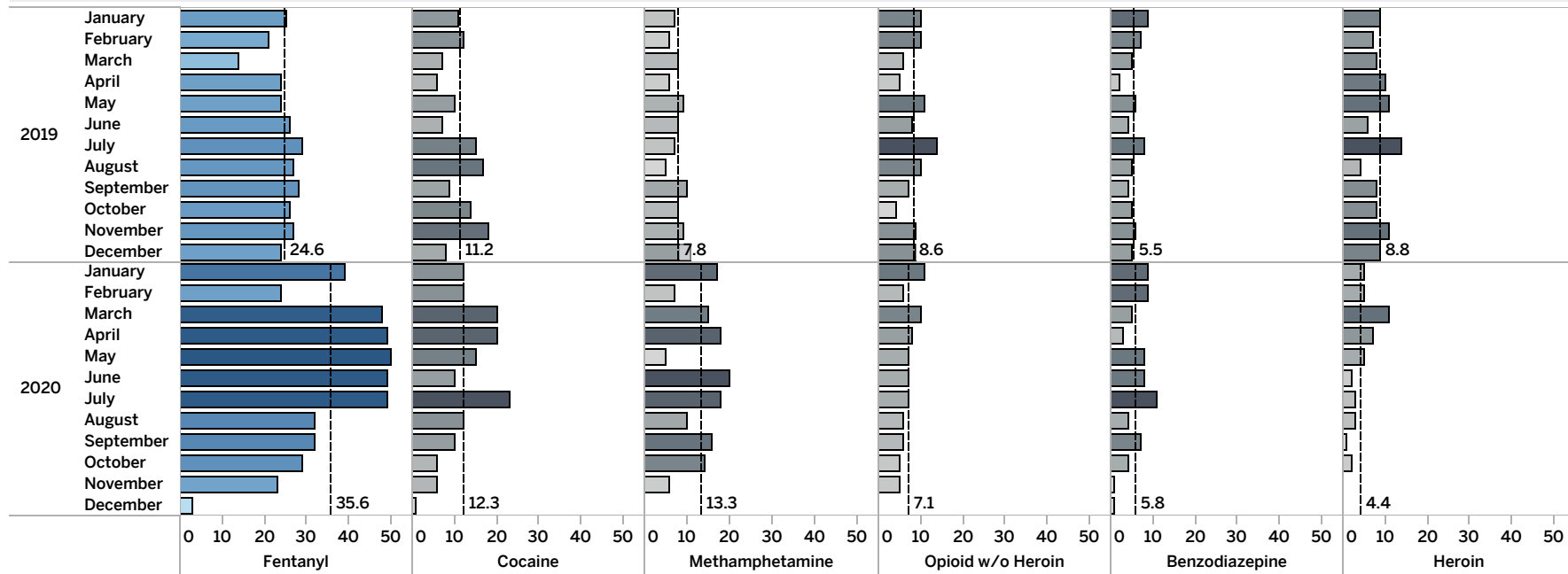
- In 2020, there were 619 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville at the time of this report, an increase of 32% compared to 2019 (previously the deadliest year on record).

- In 2020, approximately eighty percent of overdose-related toxicology reports detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.

- Approximately 64% of all fatal drug overdoses were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 25-44 year olds (49%).



### Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses by Month and Drug Category, 2019-2020



Note: Data obtained from toxicology reports (including drug category) for overdose deaths occurring between October-December 2020 are not finalized and will be updated in subsequent reports.

## Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

2020 | January 1-December 31

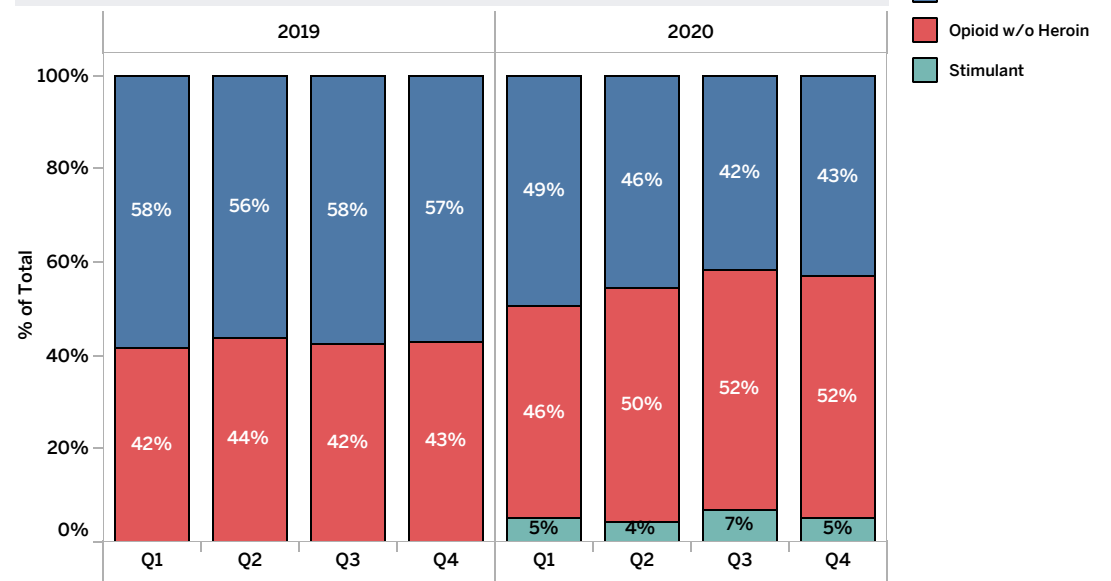
### Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

2019: 1,980 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits  
2020: 2,566 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

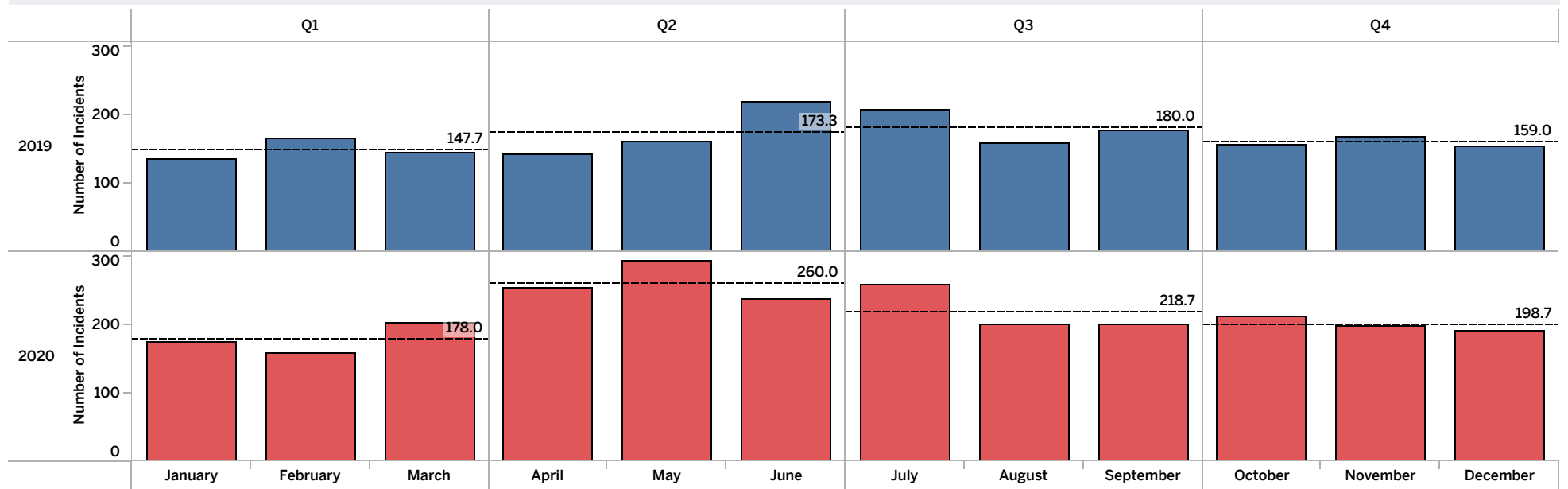
### Notable Trends

- In 2020, drug overdose-related ED visits increased by 30% compared to 2019.
- Fifty percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2020 reportedly involved opioids excluding heroin followed by heroin (45%) and stimulants (5%). In 2019, the majority of visits were reported to involve heroin (57%).
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 37% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits by Drug Category, 2019-2020



Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits with Quarterly Average, 2019-2020



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## Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

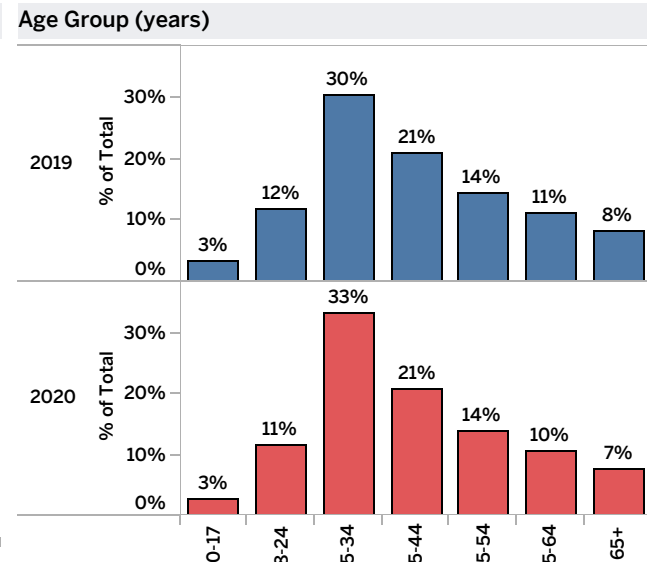
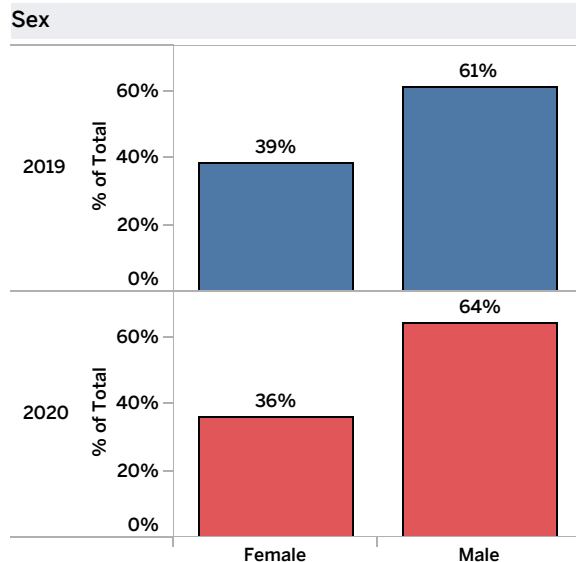
**2020 | January 1-December 31**

**Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response**

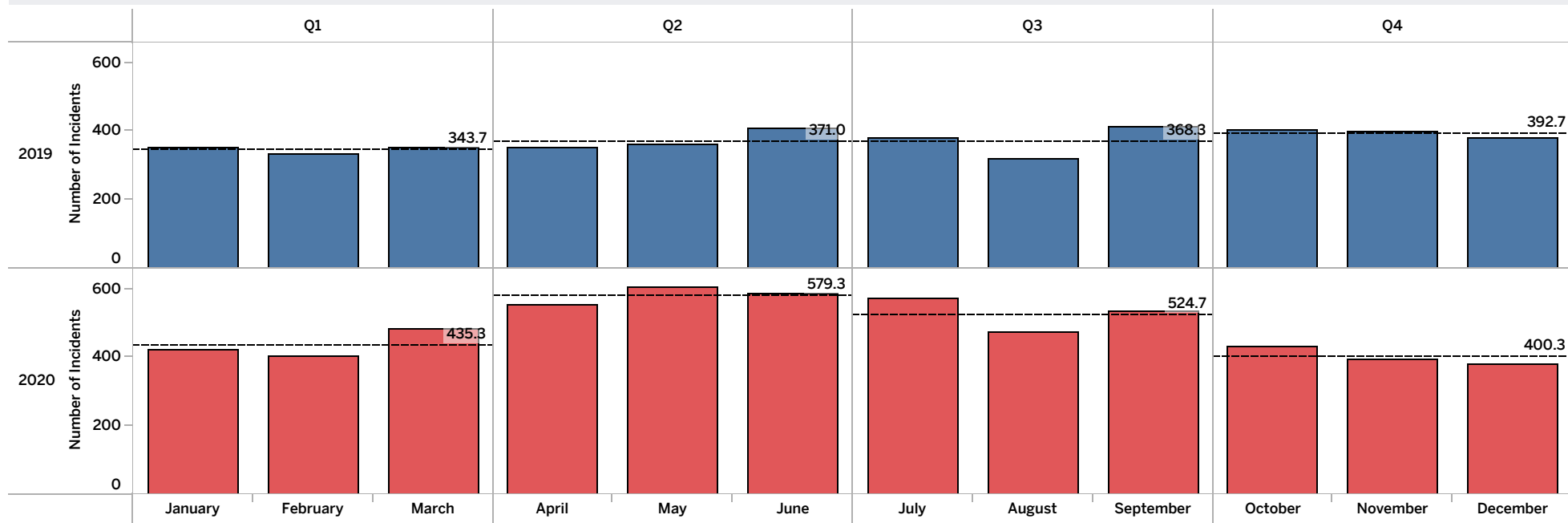
2019: 4,427 suspected drug overdoses  
 2020: 5,819 suspected drug overdoses

**Notable Trends**

- In 2020, suspected drug overdoses requiring EMS response increased by 31% compared to 2019.
- Approximately 6 out of 10 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.



### Suspected Drug Overdoses with Quarterly Average, 2019-2020



## Geospatial Trends: Suspected Fatal and Nonfatal Drug Overdoses

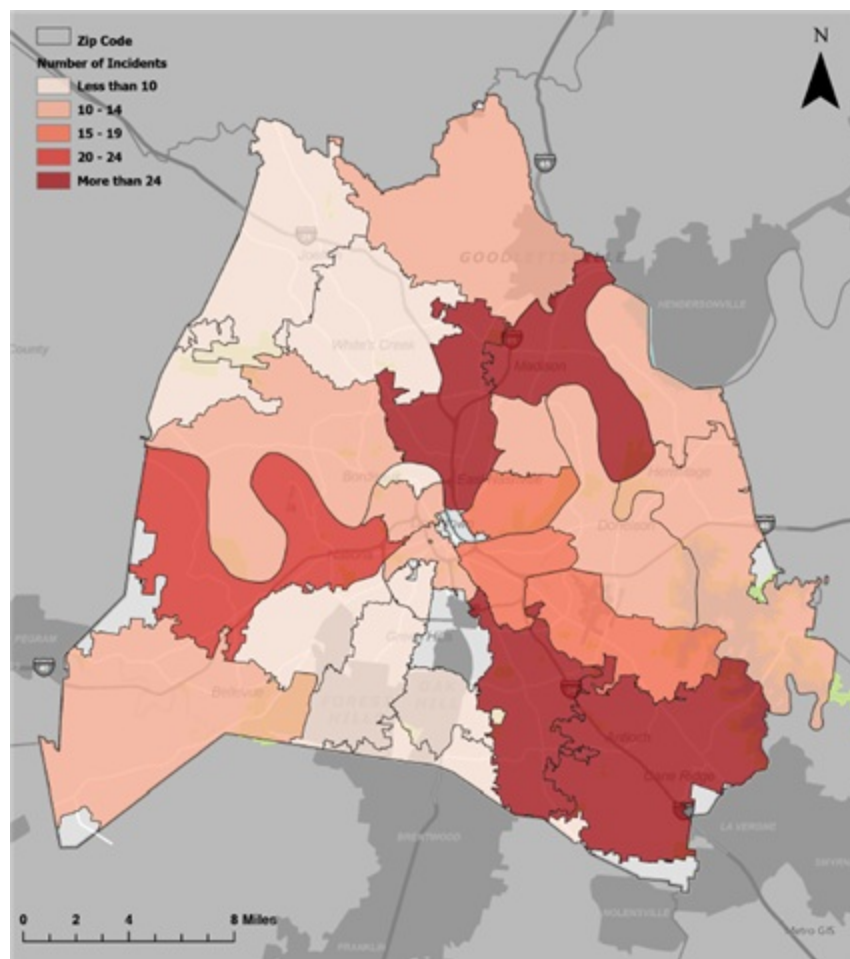
### Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2020, the highest number of suspected overdose deaths occurred in ZIP Codes 37207, 37115, 37211, 37013, and 37209.
- The largest increases in overdose deaths compared to 2019 occurred in ZIP Codes 37209 (+167%), 37210 (+156%), and 37217 (+83%).

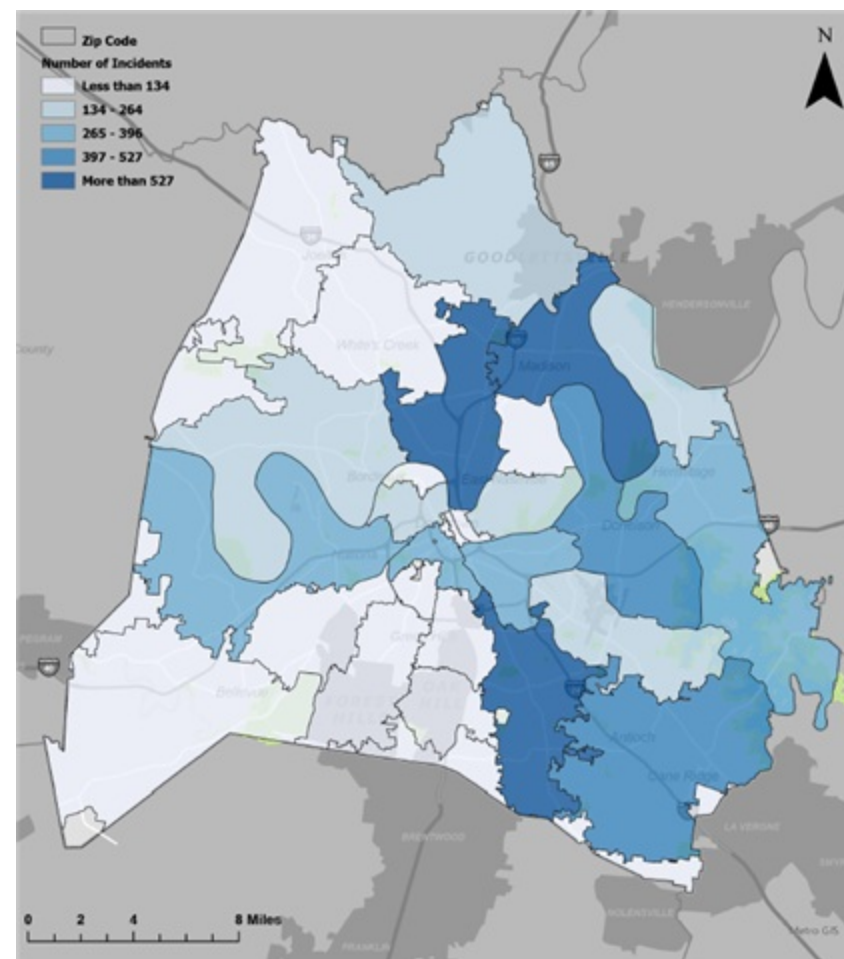
### Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response

- In 2020, the majority of suspected drug overdoses occurred in ZIP Codes 37115, 37211, 37207, 37013, and 37214.
- Compared to 2019, the largest increases in overdose incidents occurred in ZIP Codes 37214 (+85%), 37076 (+57%), and 37210 (+57%).

Number of Suspected Drug Overdose Deaths by Incident ZIP Code, 2020



Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring EMS Response by Incident ZIP Code, 2020



## 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>

#### Note

There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred between October-December 2020 are not yet finalized.

#### Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Fatal drug overdose data were provided by the Davidson County Medical Examiner's office and ranged from 01/01/2019-12/31/2020.

#### Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2019-12/31/2020.

- 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 01/01/2019-12/31/2020.