

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

360 Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2021, there have been 360 suspected fatal drug overdoses that occurred in Nashville at the time of this report, representing an 11% increase compared to the same time last year.
- Seventy-five percent of overdose-related toxicology reports in 2021 detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever, followed by cocaine (30%) and methamphetamine (30%). These results indicate a shift toward synthetic opioids and stimulants compared to previous phases of the local epidemic.
- Approximately 64% of overdose deaths occurring in the county were among residents compared to non-residents (24%) and unknown residency (12%).
- Sixty-nine percent of overdose-related toxicology reports have detected multiple substances in 2021.
- Sixty-seven percent of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 35-44 year olds (29%).

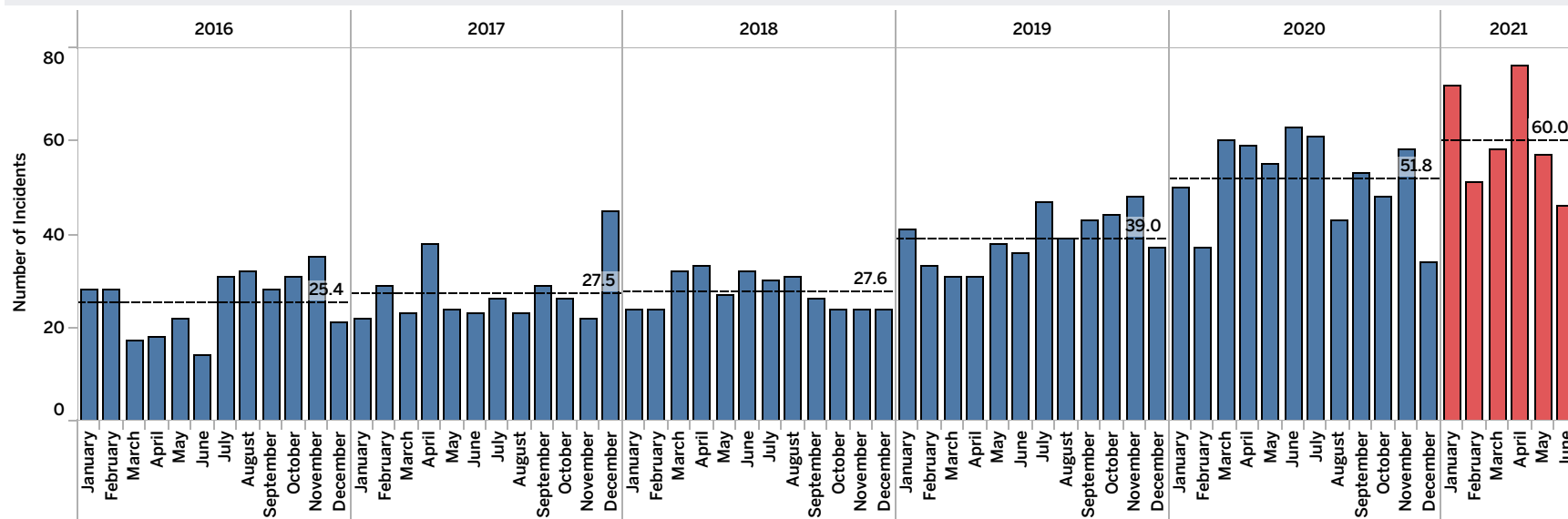
1,294 Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- In 2021, drug overdose-related ED visits decreased by 2% compared to the same time period last year.
- Fifty-eight percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2021 reportedly involved non-heroin opioids followed by heroin (37%) and stimulants (5%).
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 34% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

2,770 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 9% compared to the same time period last year.
- Among suspected drug overdoses where naloxone was given by NFD-EMS, 28% of incidents in 2021 required multiple administrations compared to 30% during the same time 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-June 2021



Note: Data pertaining to suspected drug overdose deaths are not currently finalized (including incidents occurring between April-June 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.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

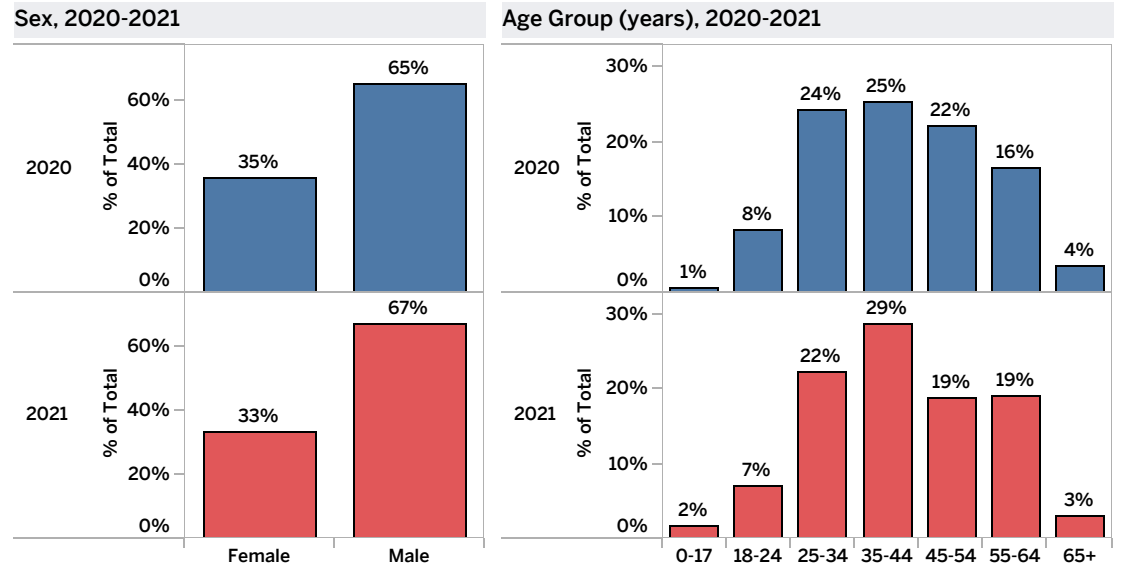
2021 | January 1-June 30

Number of Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

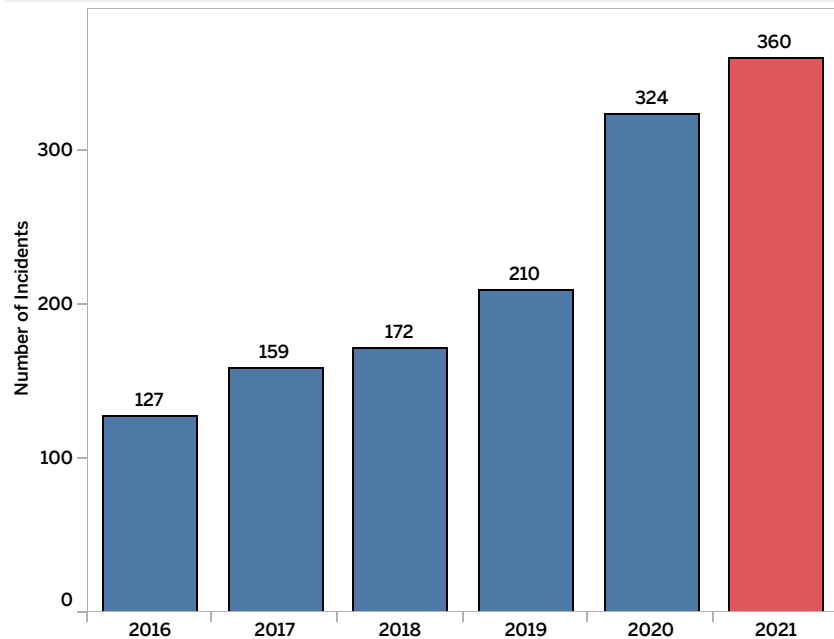
2020: 324 fatal drug overdoses
 2021: 360 fatal drug overdoses

Notable Trends

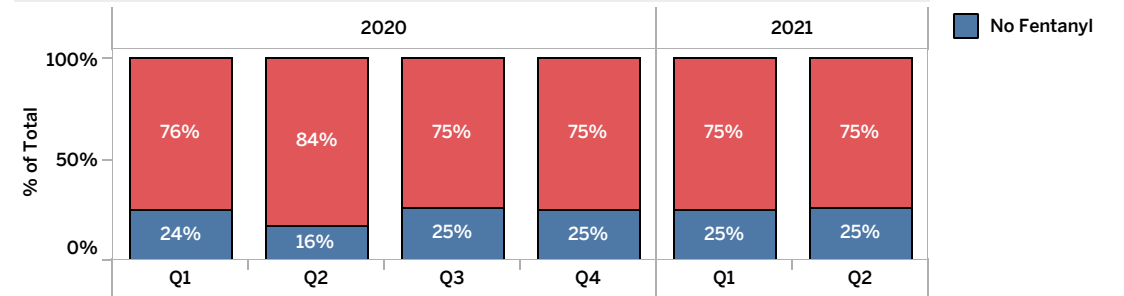
- During the first six months of 2021, suspected drug overdose deaths have increased by 11% compared to last year.
- 75% of overdose-related toxicology reports in 2021 detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.
- 69% of overdose-related toxicology reports detected multiple substances.
- 67% of suspected drug overdose deaths were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 35-44 year olds (29%).



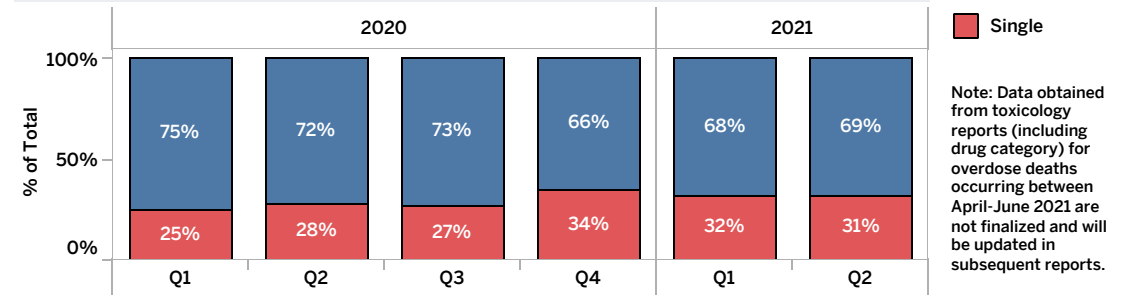
Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses - Quarters 1 and 2, 2016-2021



Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses with Fentanyl Detected in Toxicology, 2020-2021



Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses by Substances Detected in Toxicology, 2020-2021



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

Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

2021 | January 1-June 30

Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

2020: 1,314 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits
 2021: 1,294 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

Notable Trends

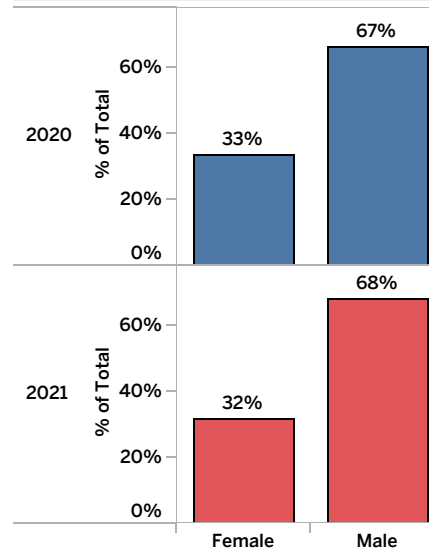
- During the first six months of 2021, drug overdose-related ED visits decreased by 2% compared to the same time period last year.

- Fifty-eight percent of overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance in 2021 involved non-heroin opioids followed by heroin (37%) and stimulants (5%). This finding indicates a continued shift away from heroin and towards synthetic opioids and stimulants in Nashville.

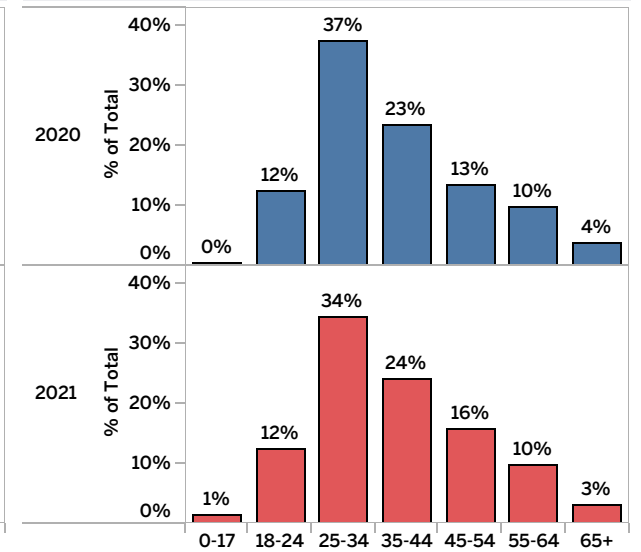
- Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.

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

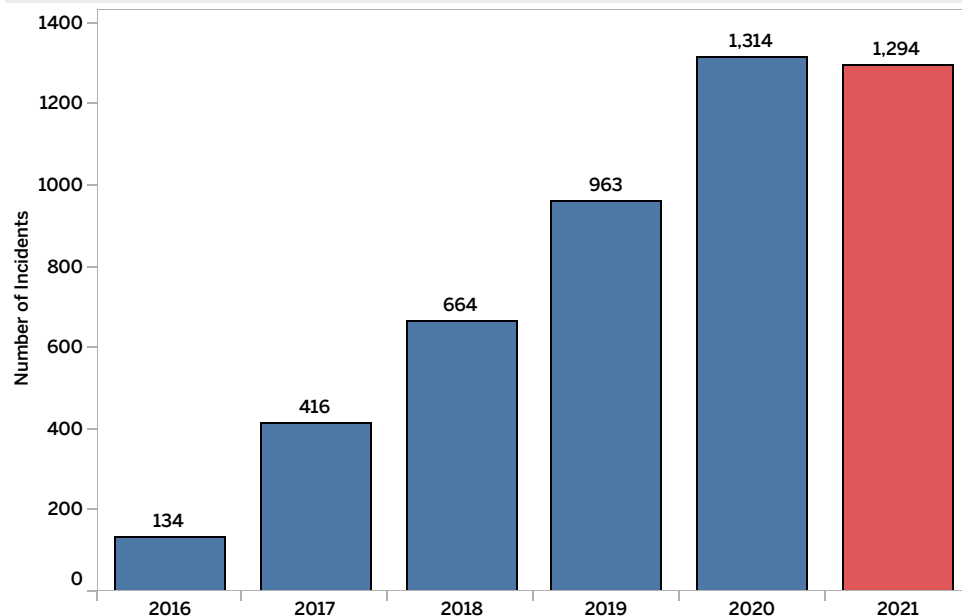
Sex, 2020-2021



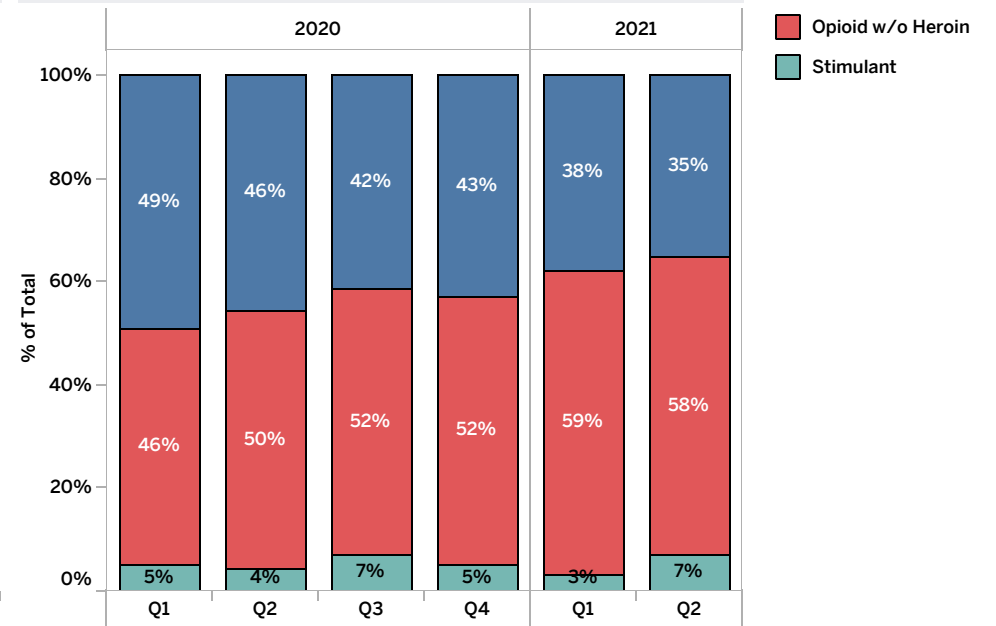
Age Group, 2020-2021



Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits - Quarters 1 and 2, 2016-2021



Drug Category by Quarter, 2020-2021



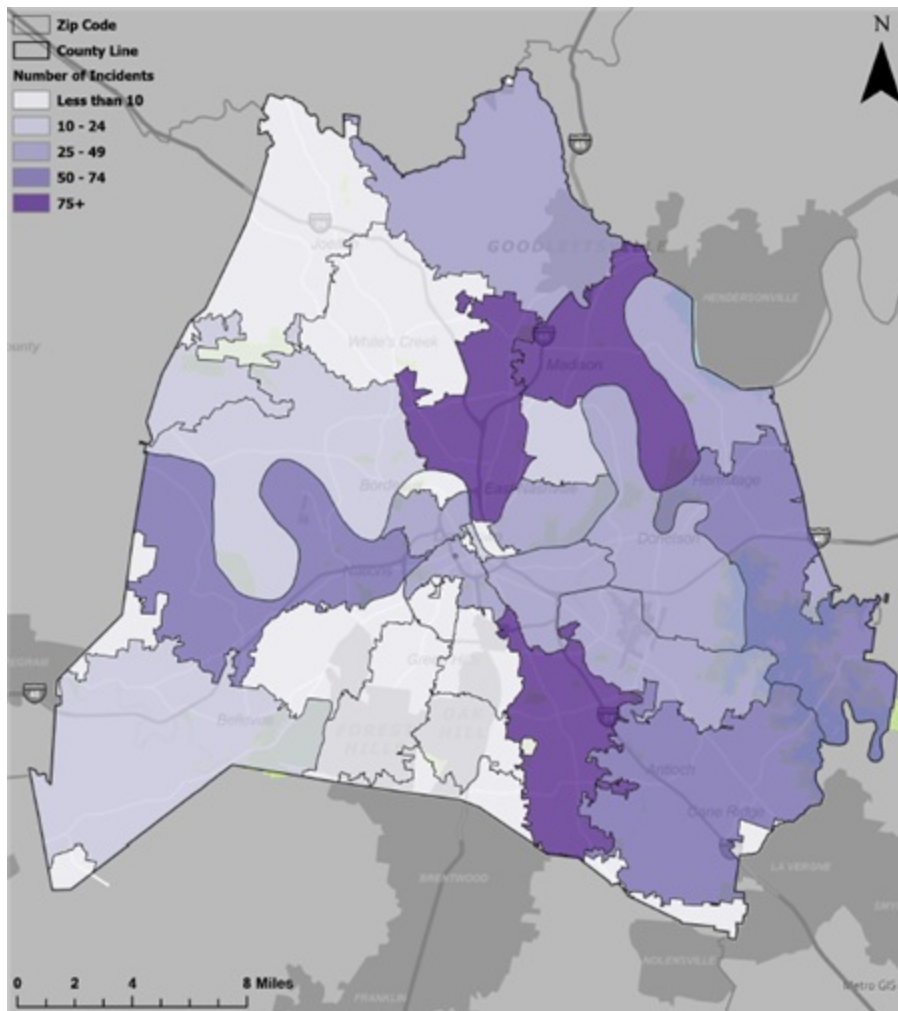
Geospatial Trends: Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

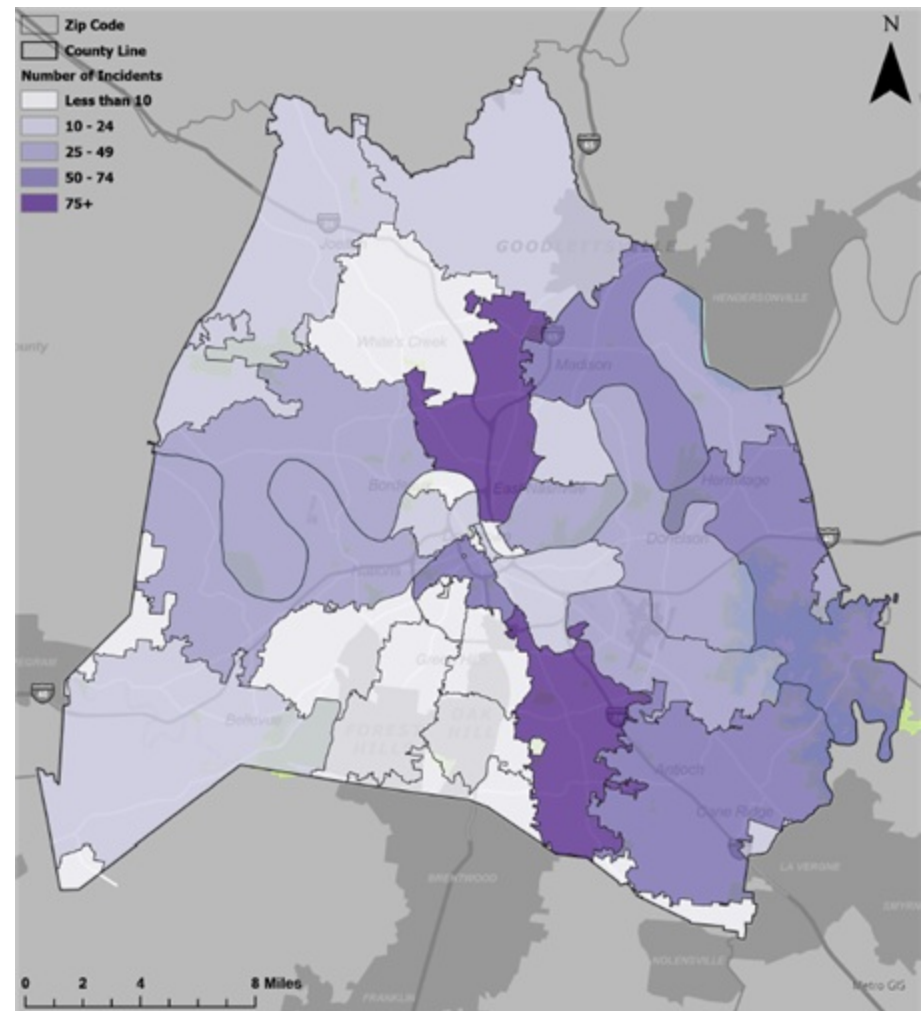
- In 2021, the majority of overdose-related ED visits have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211, 37207, 37115, 37076, and 37013.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37218 (+58%) and 37203 (+13%).

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

January-June 2020



January-June 2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2021 | January 1-June 30

Number of Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2020: 3,044 suspected drug overdoses
 2021: 2,770 suspected drug overdoses

Notable Trends

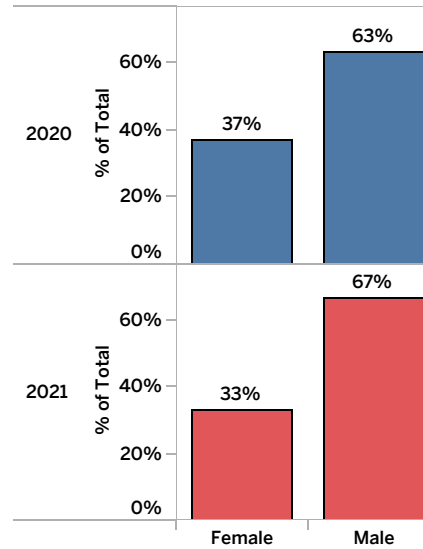
- During the first six months of 2021, suspected drug overdoses requiring NFD-EMS response decreased by 9% compared to the same time period last year.

- In 2021, among suspected drug overdoses where naloxone was given, 28% of incidents required multiple administrations compared to 30% during the same time period last year.

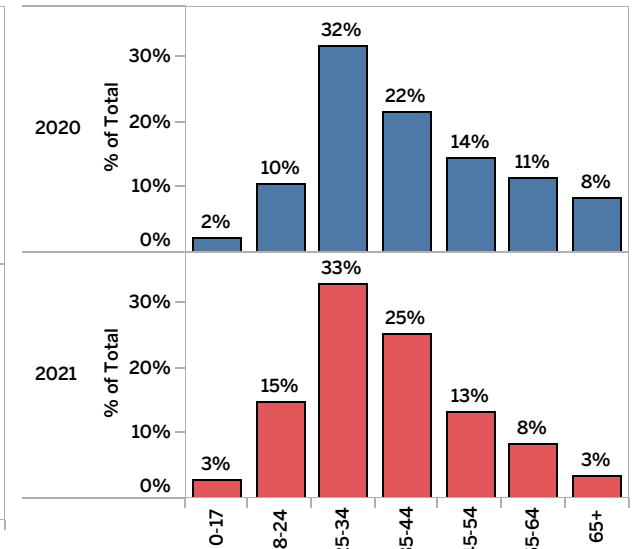
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Nashville were among males. This trend has remained consistent over the last 3 years.

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

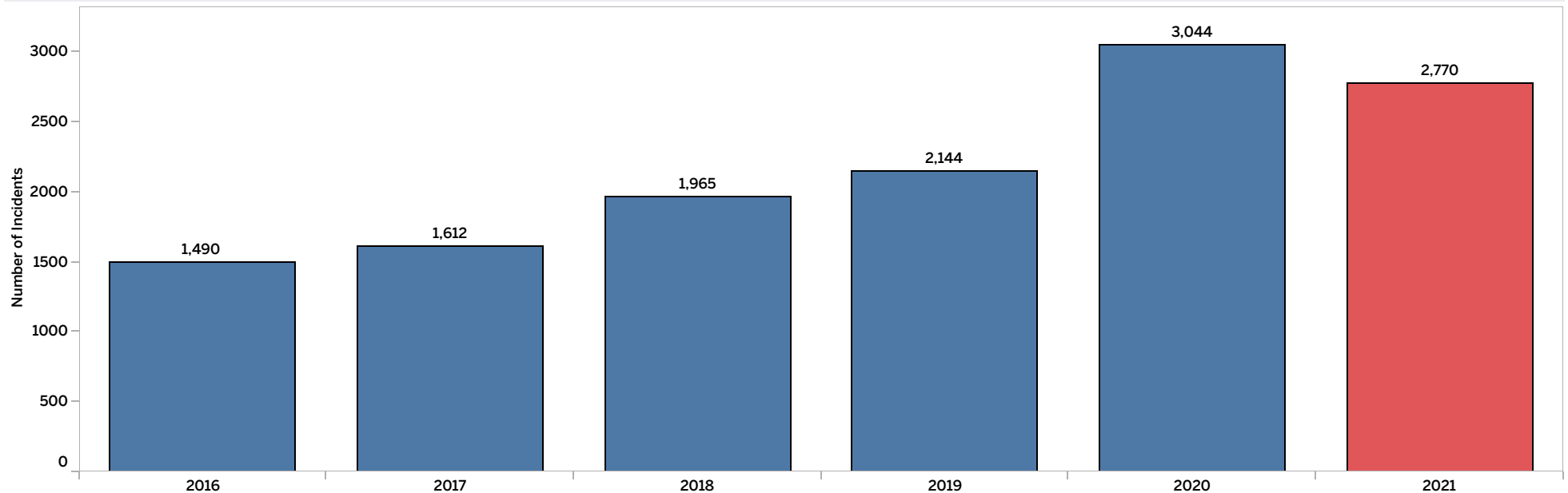
Sex, 2020-2021



Age Group (years), 2020-2021



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response - Quarters 1 and 2, 2016-2021



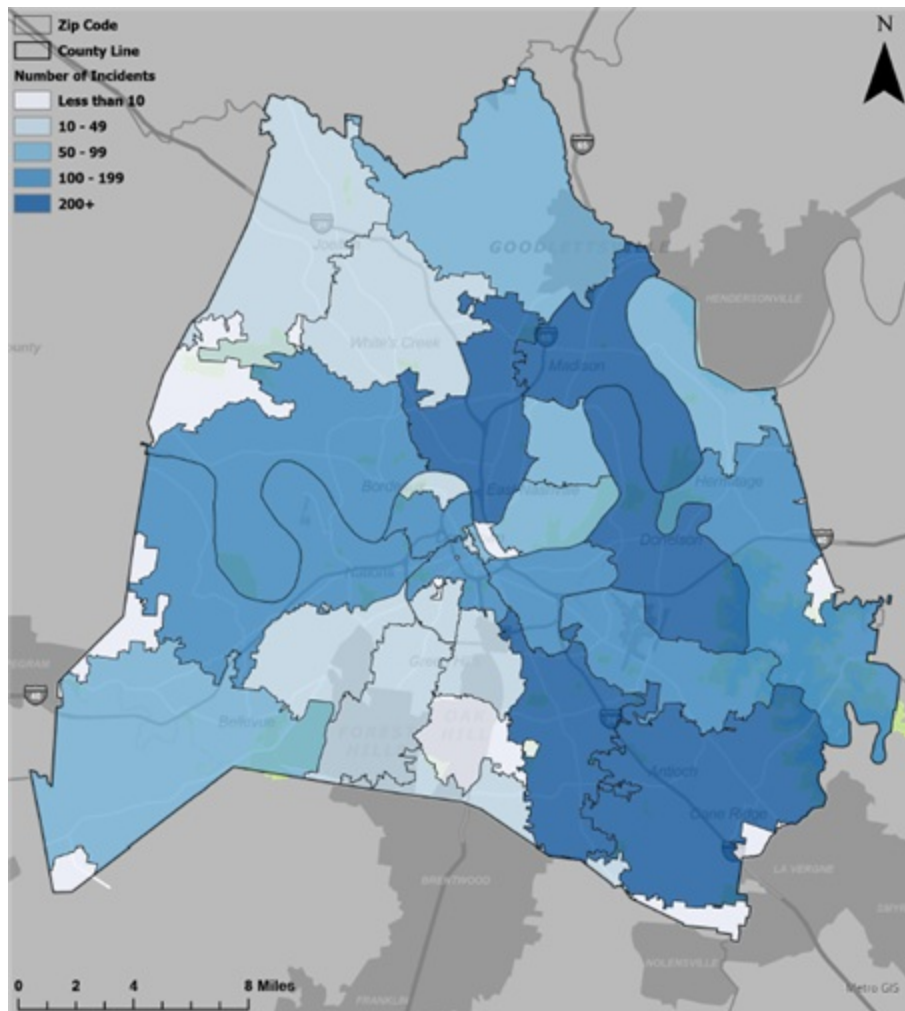
Geospatial Trends: Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

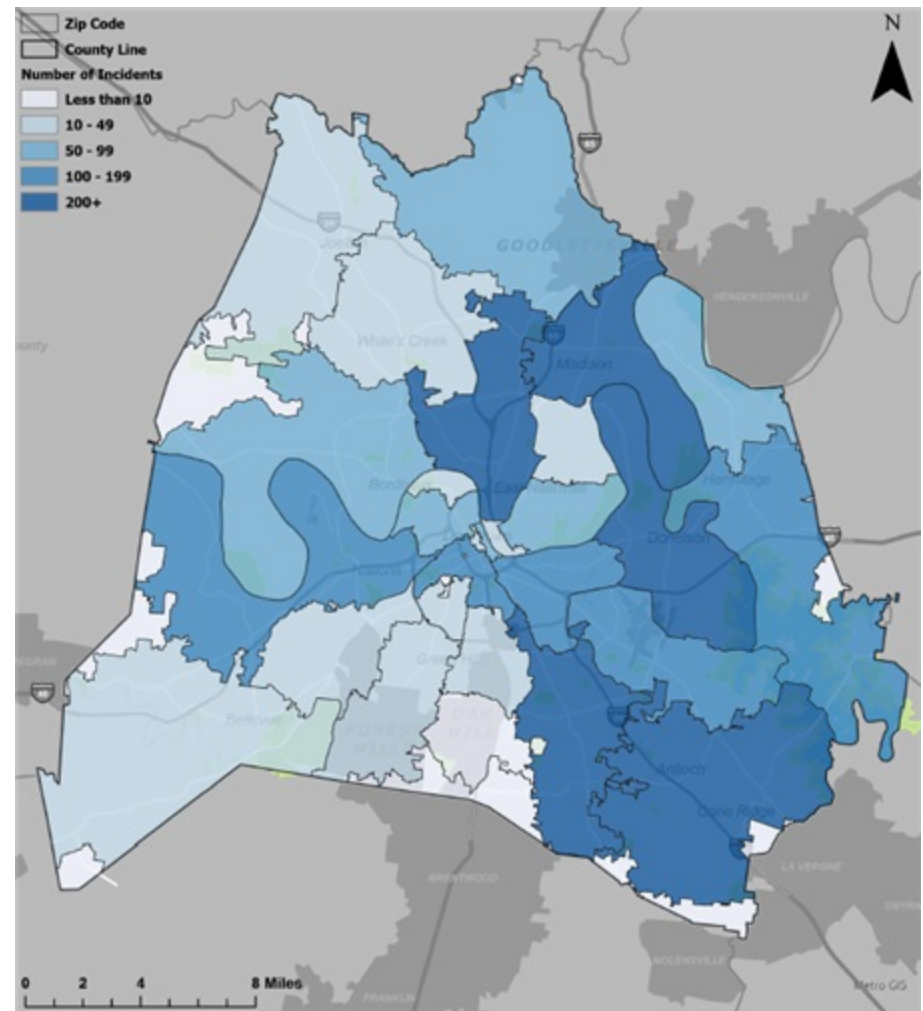
- In 2021, the majority of suspected drug overdoses have occurred in ZIP Codes 37115, 37211, 37207, 37013, and 37214.
- Compared to 2020, the largest increases in overdose incidents have occurred in ZIP Codes 37214 (+18%), 37217 (+15%), and 37203 (+13%).

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

January-June 2020



January-June 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

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/>.

Opioid/Overdose Response and Reduction Program – Drug Overdose Information

- Website: <https://www.nashville.gov/Health-Department/Drug-Overdose-Information.aspx>
- Contains various resources in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

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

Notes

There may be additional fatal/nonfatal drug overdoses reported over this time period in subsequent reports as incidents that occurred between April-June 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 Death Investigation and Decedent Information (DIDI) database and ranged from 01/01/2019-06/30/2021. **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.**

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2019-06/30/2021.
- 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 EMS Response

- Suspected drug overdose data were provided by the Nashville Fire Department EMS Data and ranged from 01/01/2019-06/30/2021.