

Overdose Response Quarterly Surveillance Update | 3rd Quarter 2020

Prepared by the 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 | Quarters 1-3 (January 1-September 30)

471 Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Between January and September of this year, there have been 471 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville. There were 468 drug overdose deaths in 2019.
- Compared to the first nine months of 2019, Nashville has seen a 39% increase in fatal drug overdoses in 2020 (2019 was the deadliest year on record).
- Among fatal drug overdoses in 2020, more than eighty percent of toxicology reports have 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 (50%).

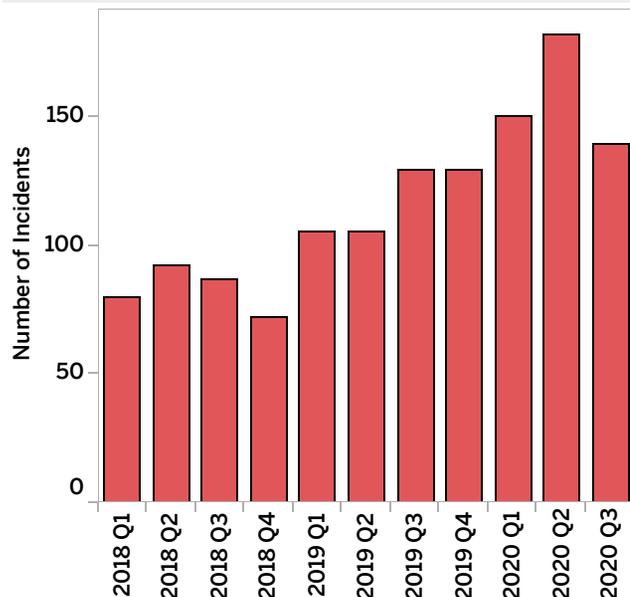
1,793 Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- Compared to the same time period last year, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 31%.
- Over the last 12 months, drug overdose-related ED visits reported to involve heroin have continued to decrease, comprising 45% of visits during the second quarter, while visits involving opioids without heroin have steadily increased during this same time period.
- 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.

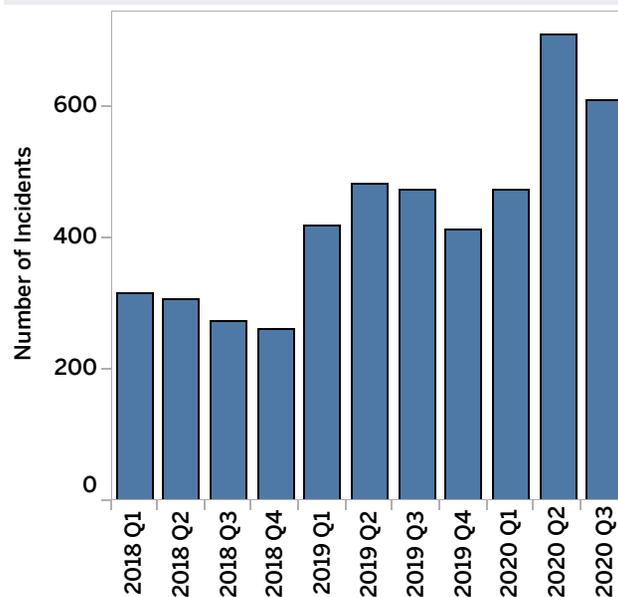
4,618 Suspected Drug Overdose Events

- Compared to the first nine months of 2019, suspected drug overdoses increased by 42% during the same period in 2020.
- Approximately 6 out of 10 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.

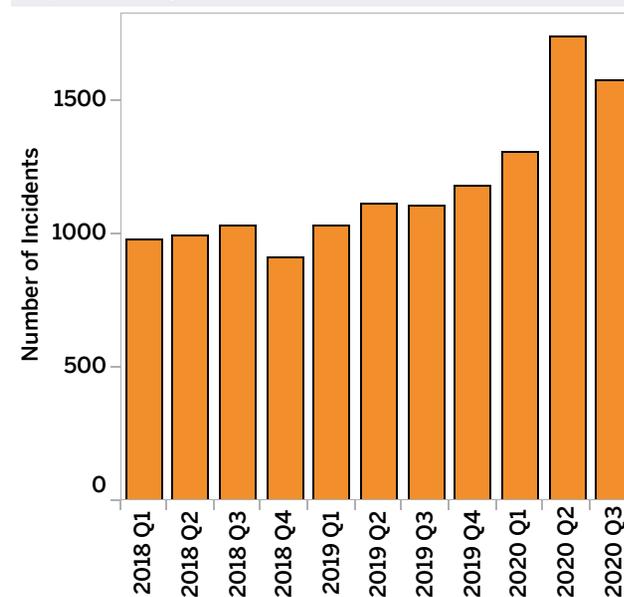
Fatal Drug Overdoses



Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits



Suspected Drug Overdoses



All Data are Provisional
Data sources can be found on Page 7

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Fatal Drug Overdoses

2020 | Quarters 1-3 (January 1-September 30)

Number of Fatal Drug Overdoses

2019: 339 fatal drug overdoses
2020: 471 fatal drug overdoses

Fatal Drug Overdose Trends

- Between January and September of this year, there have been 471 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville.

- Compared to the first nine months of 2019, Nashville has seen a 39% increase in fatal drug overdoses in 2020 (2019 was the deadliest year on record).

- Among fatal drug overdoses in 2020, more than eighty percent of toxicology reports have detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Nashville.

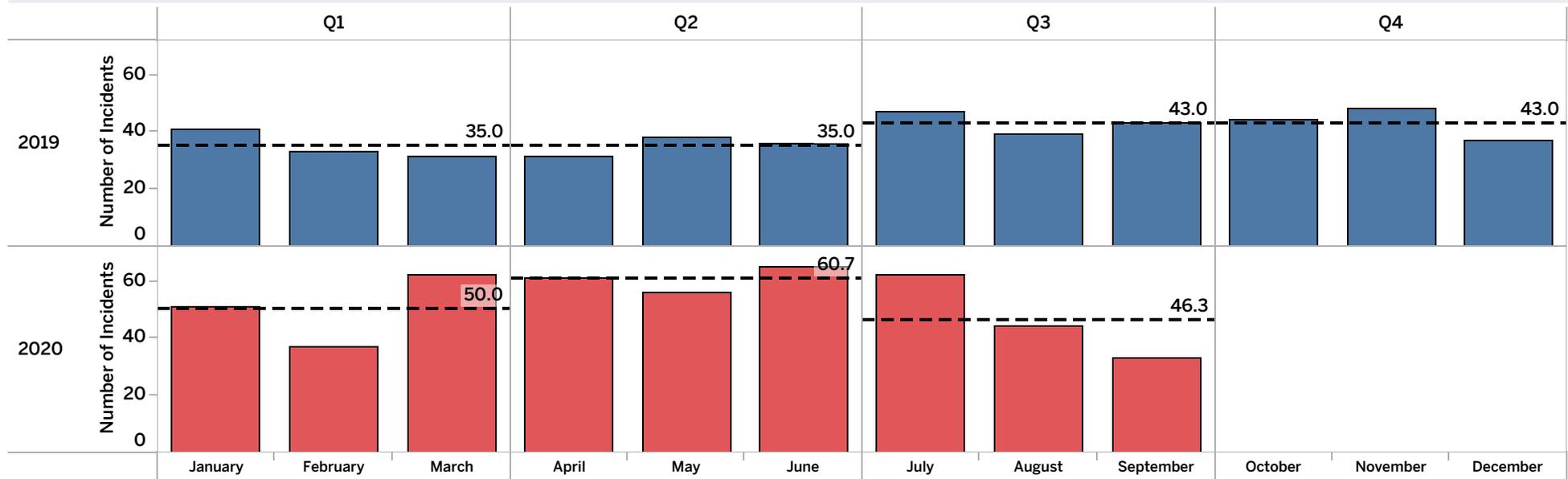
- Approximately 64% of all fatal drug overdoses were males while the majority of deaths have occurred among 25-44 year olds (50%).

Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Drug Category, 2019-2020

	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3
Cocaine	8.4%	5.4%	8.4%	14.5%	8.5%	4.1%	10.1%
Fentanyl	63.2%	79.6%	70.6%	70.0%	78.7%	87.1%	81.2%
Heroin	8.4%	3.2%	7.6%	4.5%	0.7%		
Methamphetamine	12.6%	8.6%	9.2%	7.3%	8.5%	7.1%	8.7%
Opioid	7.4%	3.2%	4.2%	3.6%	3.5%	1.8%	

Note: Data obtained from toxicology reports (including drug category) for deaths that occurred during the 3rd quarter of 2020 are not finalized and will be updated in subsequent reports.

Fatal Drug Overdoses with Quarterly Average, 2019-2020



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Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

2020 | Quarters 1-3 (January 1-September 30)

Number of Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

2019: 1,372 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits
 2020: 1,793 nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

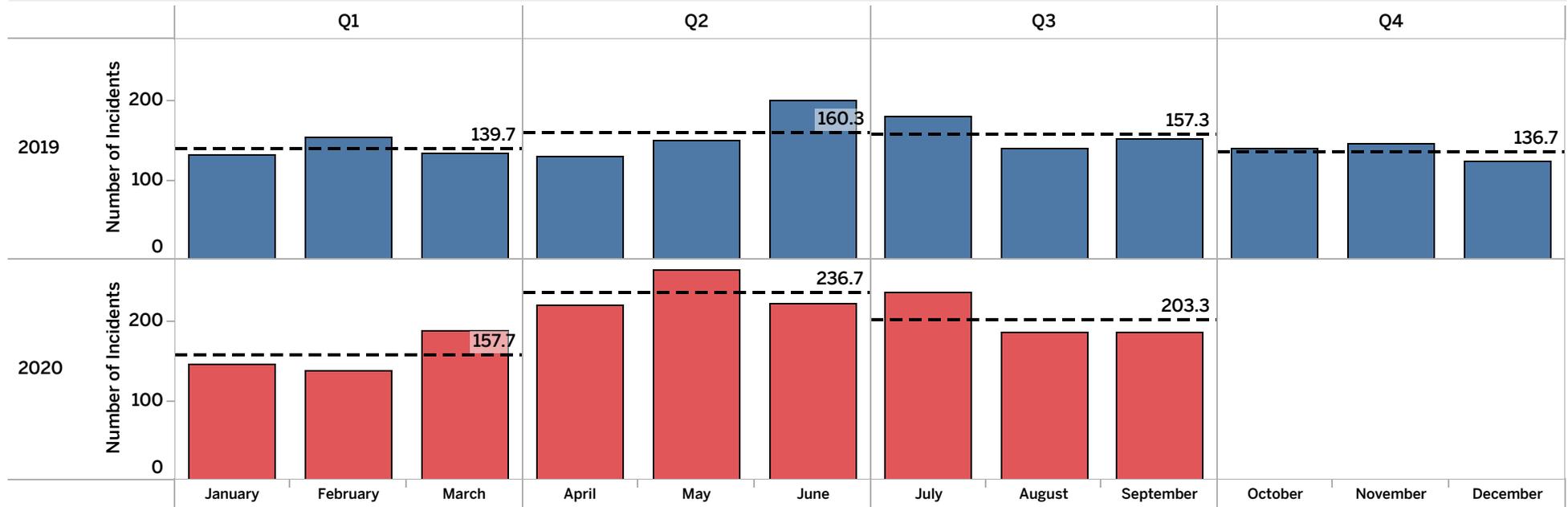
Nonfatal Drug Overdose Trends

- Compared to the same time period last year, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 31%.
- Over the last 12 months, drug overdose-related ED visits reported to involve heroin have continued to decrease, comprising 45% of visits during the second quarter, while visits involving opioids without heroin have steadily increased during this same time period.
- 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

	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3
Heroin	58.7%	55.3%	55.9%	55.1%	48.6%	44.6%	42.0%
Opioid w/o Heroin	41.3%	44.7%	44.1%	44.9%	45.9%	50.8%	50.8%
Stimulant					5.5%	4.5%	7.2%

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



Suspected Drug Overdoses

2020 | Quarters 1-3 (January 1-September 30)

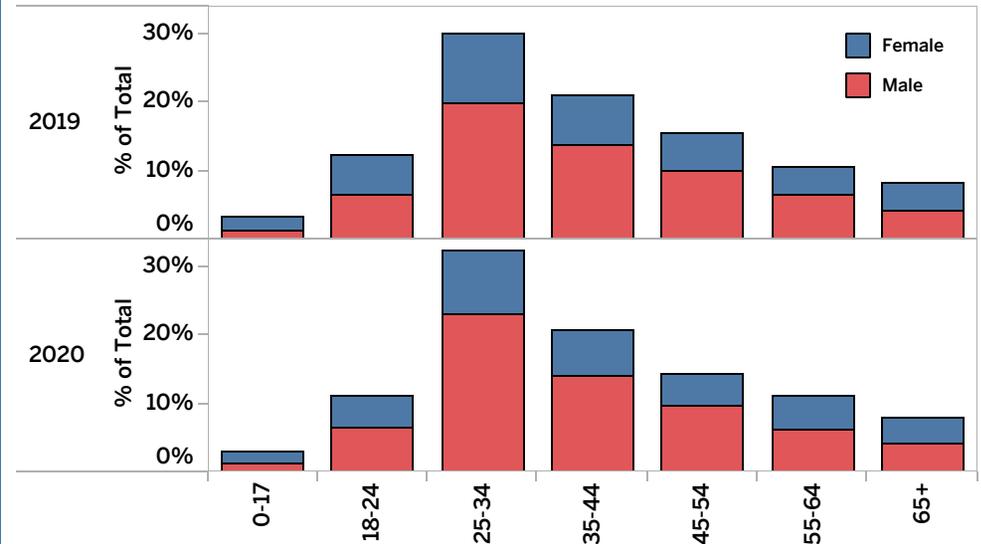
Number of Suspected Drug Overdose Events

2019: 3,249 suspected drug overdoses
 2020: 4,618 suspected drug overdoses

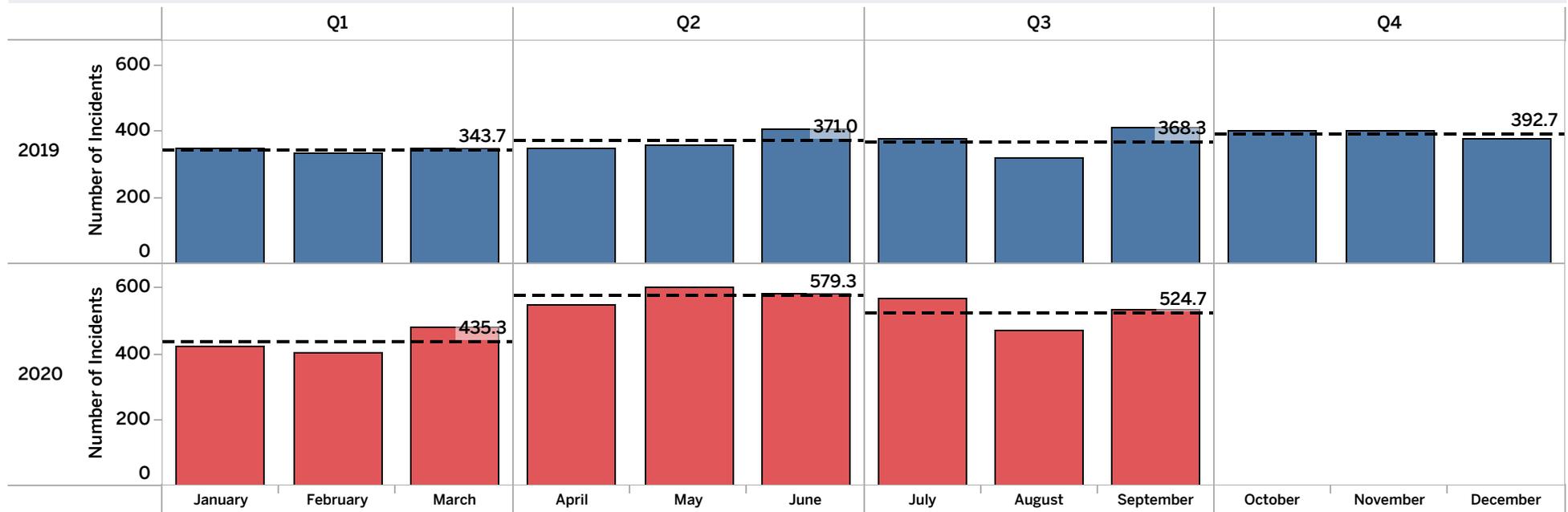
Suspected Drug Overdose Trends

- Compared to the first nine months of 2019, suspected drug overdoses increased by 42% during the same period in 2020.
- 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 by Age Group and Sex, 2019-2020



Suspected Drug Overdoses with Quarterly Average, 2019-2020



Fatal and Nonfatal Drug Overdoses by ZIP Code

Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Through the first nine months of 2020, the highest number of fatal drug overdoses have occurred in ZIP Codes 37207, 37211, 37209, 37115, and 37013, accounting for roughly one-third of all overdose deaths in Nashville.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Through the first nine months of 2020, the highest number of drug overdose-related ED visits have occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211, 37207, 37115, 37076, and 37013.

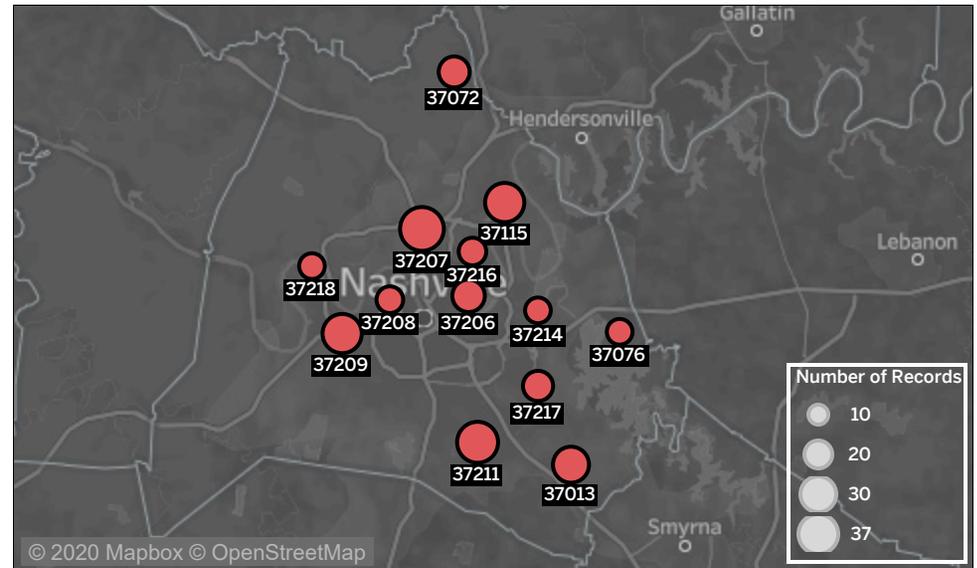
- Compared to the same time period last year, there were notable increases in drug overdose-related ED visits that occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37076 (+94%), 37208 (91%), 37207 (+83%), and 37217 (+71%).

Suspected Drug Overdoses

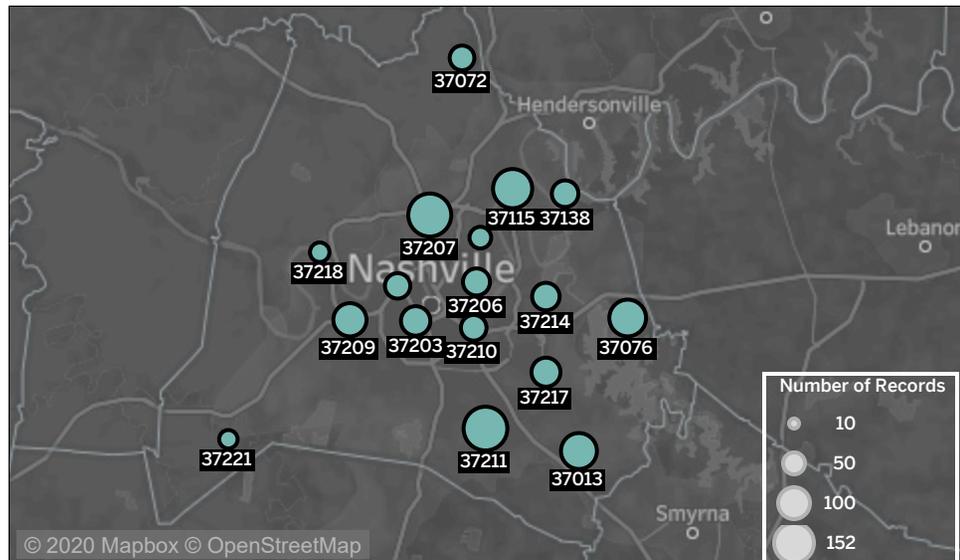
- In 2020, the majority of suspected drug overdoses have occurred in ZIP Codes 37115, 37211, 37207, 37013, and 37214.

- Compared to 2019, the most notable increases in suspected drug overdose events occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37214 (+103%), 37076 (+83%), 37210 (+70%), 37204 (+70%), and 37138 (+67%).

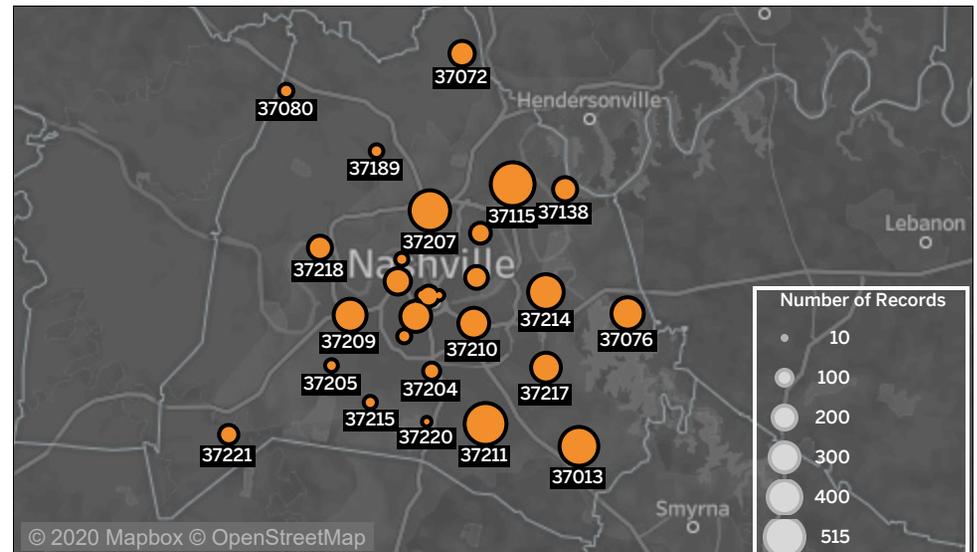
Fatal Drug Overdoses



Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits



Suspected Drug Overdoses



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 during the months of August and September 2020 are not yet finalized.

Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Fatal drug overdose data were provided by the Davidson County Medical Examiner's office and ranged from 01/01/2019-09/30/2020.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2019-09/30/2020.

- All ED visits including those involving nonfatal drug overdoses (categorized below) were reported to ESSENCE 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, and TriStar Summit Medical Center (Vanderbilt University Medical Center is not currently included, and, therefore, nonfatal overdose ED visits are likely to be underreported).

- Updated query language was utilized to capture nonfatal drug overdoses reported to ESSENCE in August 2020.

- ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes were used to classify nonfatal drug overdoses and are categorized as follows:

- Opioids: T40.0

- Heroin: T40.1

- Other opioids: T40.2

- Methadone: T40.3

- Other synthetic narcotics: T40.4

- Cocaine: T40.5

- Other/unspecified narcotics: T40.6

- Amphetamines: T43.62

- Notably missing from this report is the number of fentanyl-involved drug overdoses. Currently, due to various circumstances (drug screening not captured fentanyl, patient unaware of consuming a fentanyl-laced substance, etc.), fentanyl appears to be underreported.

Suspected Drug Overdoses

- Suspected drug overdose data were provided by the Nashville Fire Department EMS Data and ranged from 01/01/2019-09/30/2020.