

Overdose Response Annual Surveillance Update | 2019

Prepared by the Overdose 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

2019 | Quarters 1-4 (January 1-December 31)

468 Fatal Drug Overdoses

- In 2019, there were 468 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville. Compared to the 331 fatal drug overdoses that occurred in 2018, there was a 41% increase in 2019 and represented the highest number of fatal drug overdoses over a one-year period to date.
- More than 6 out of every 10 fatal drug overdoses in 2019 involved fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever.
- Approximately 68% of all fatal drug overdoses were males. This trend has remained consistent the last few years.
- The majority of deaths occurred among the 45-54 and 25-34 year age groups (26% and 24%, respectively).

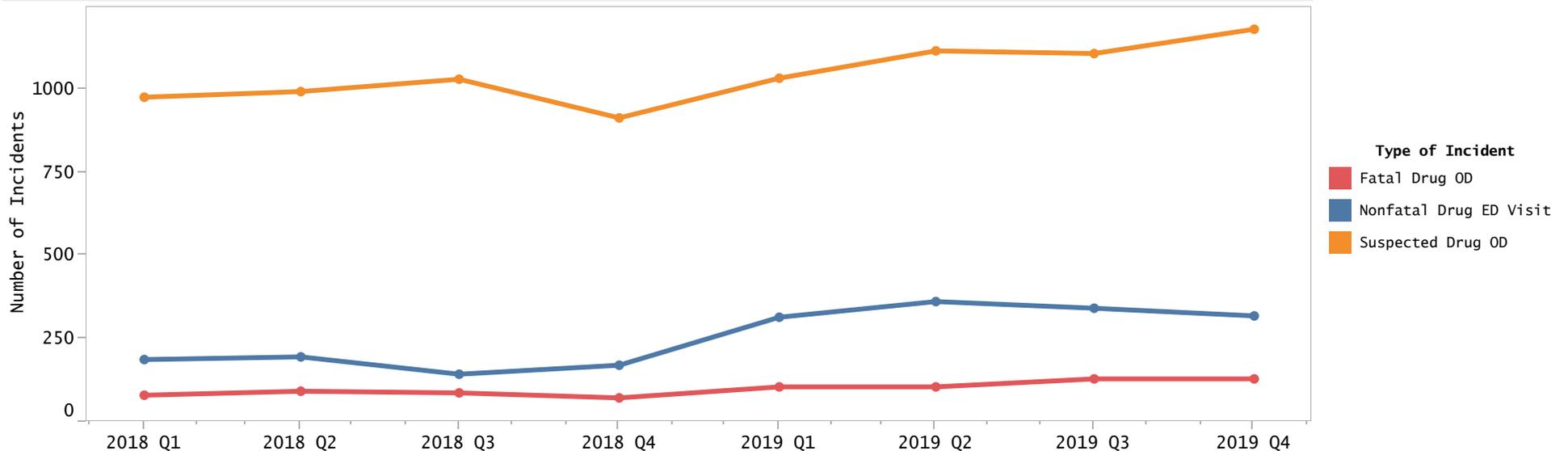
1,334 Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- Compared to 2018, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 92%.
- In 2019, approximately 63% drug overdose-related ED visits were reported to involve heroin compared to opioids without heroin (36%) and stimulants (1%).
- Between 2018 and 2019, the largest increase by drug category was observed among opioids excluding heroin.
- More than 6 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 39% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

4,427 Suspected Drug Overdose Events

- Compared to 2018, suspected drug overdoses increased by 13% in 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.

Fatal and Nonfatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter, 2018-2019



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Fatal Drug Overdoses

Source: Davidson County Medical Examiner

2019 | Quarters 1-4 (January 1-December 31)

Fatal Drug Overdoses

Total number of fatal drug overdoses

2018: 331 (Average: 28 fatal drug overdoses per month)

2019: 468 (Average: 39 fatal drug overdoses per month)

Fatal Drug Overdose Trends

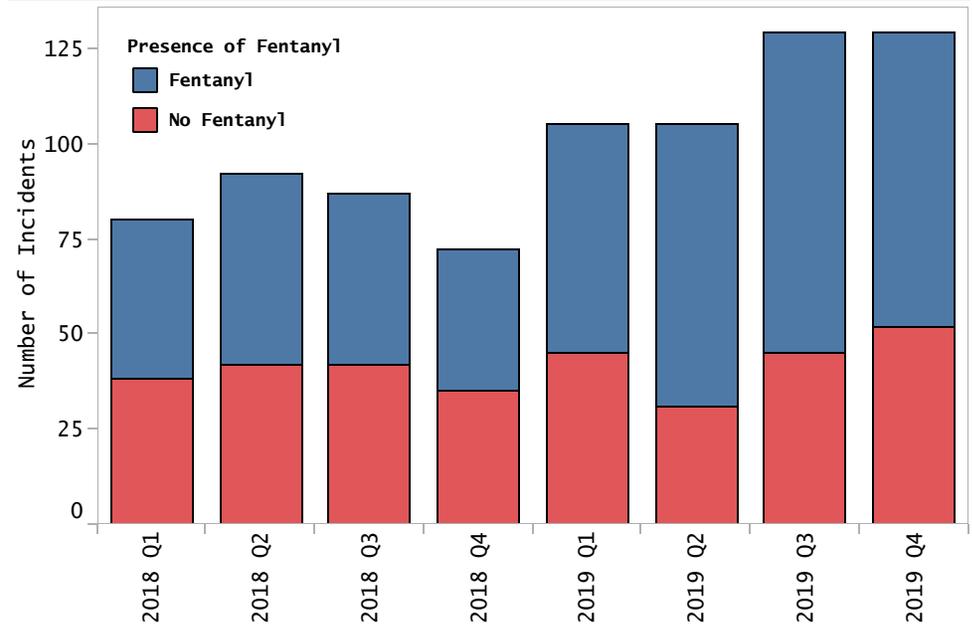
- In 2019, there were 468 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville. Compared to the 331 fatal drug overdoses that occurred in 2018, this was a 41% increase.

- More than 6 out of every 10 fatal drug overdoses in 2019 involved fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever.

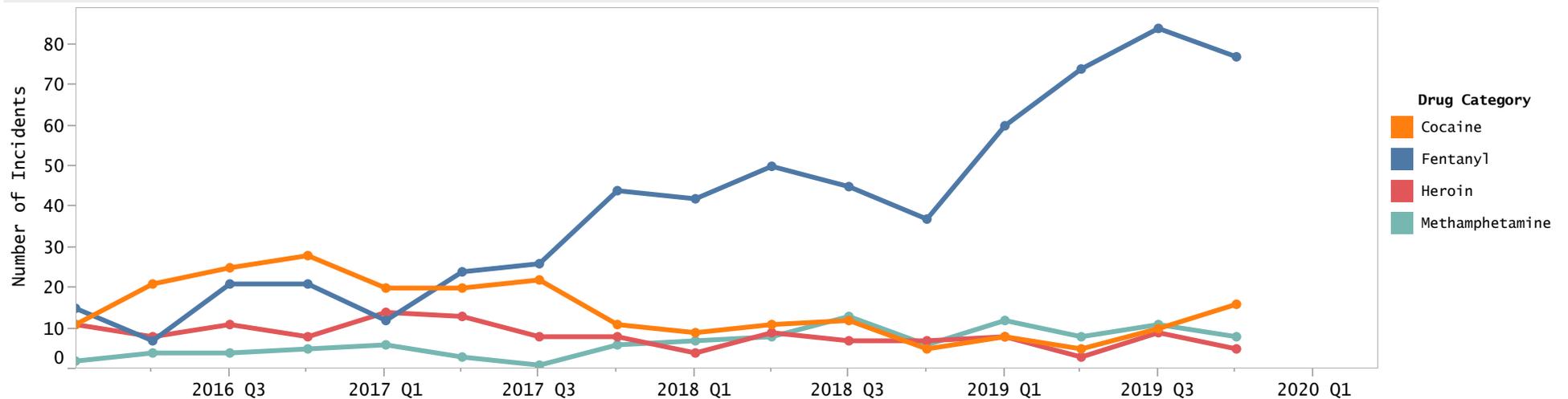
- Approximately 68% of all fatal drug overdoses were males. This trend has remained consistent over the last few years.

- The majority of deaths occurred among the 45-54 and 25-34 year age groups (26% and 24%, respectively).

Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Presence of Fentanyl, 2018-2019



Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Drug Category, 2016-2019



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Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

Source: ESSENCE-TN

2019 | Quarters 1-4 (January 1-December 31)

Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

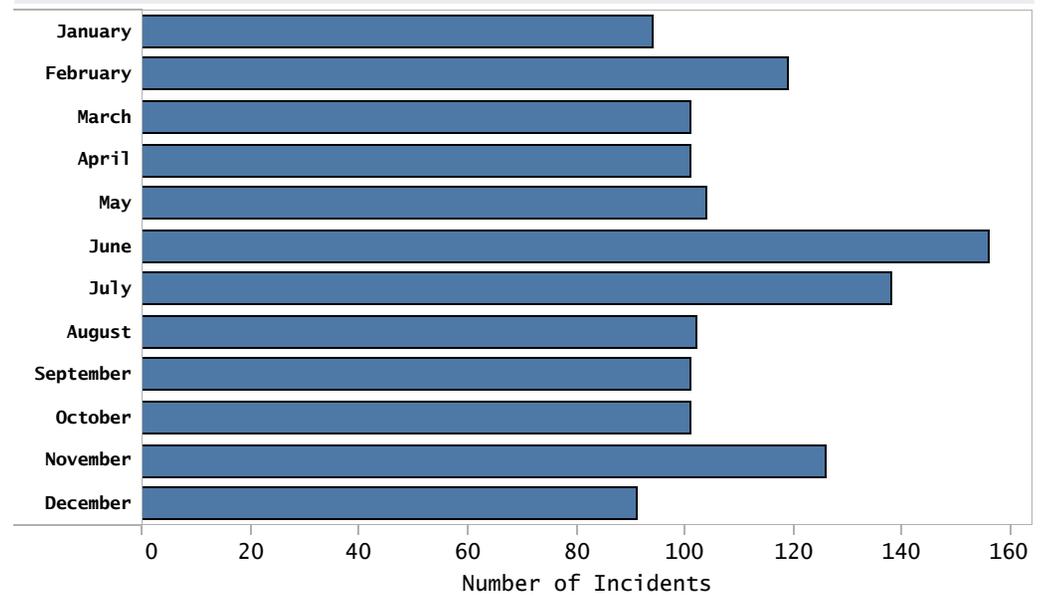
Total number of nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

2018: 695 (Average: 58 ED visits per month)
 2019: 1,334 (Average: 111 ED visits per month)

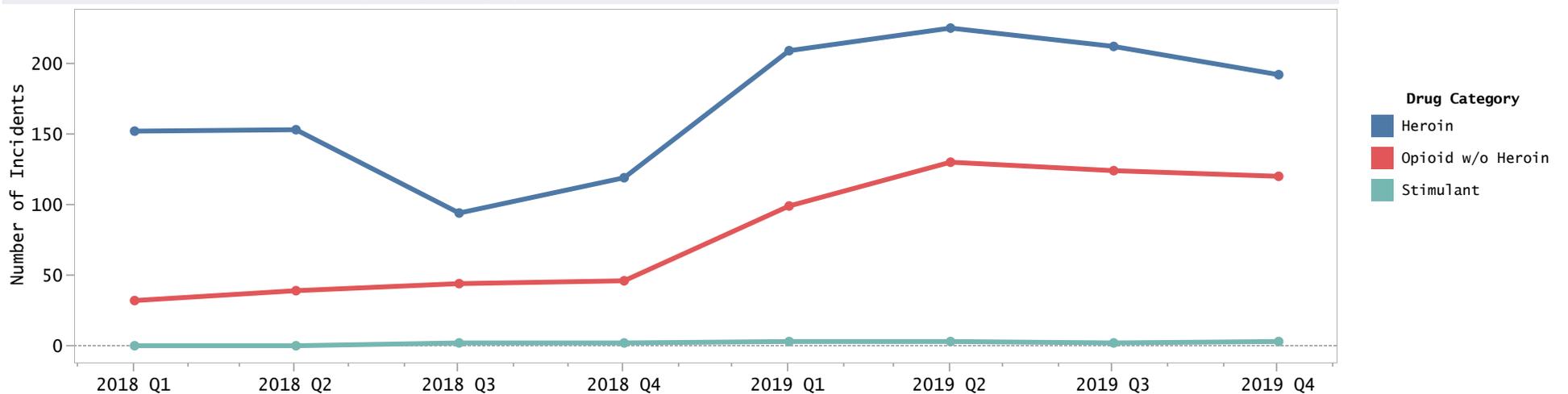
Nonfatal Drug Overdose Trends

- Compared to the same time period last year, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 92%.
- In 2019, approximately 63% drug overdose-related ED visits were reported to involve heroin compared to opioids without heroin (36%) and stimulants (1%).
- Between 2018 and 2019, the largest increase by drug category was observed among opioids excluding heroin.
- More than 6 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 39% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits, 2019



Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits by Drug Category, 2018-2019



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Suspected Drug Overdoses

Source: Nashville Fire Department EMS

2019 | Quarters 1-4 (January 1-December 31)

Suspected Drug Overdose Events

Total number of suspected drug overdoses

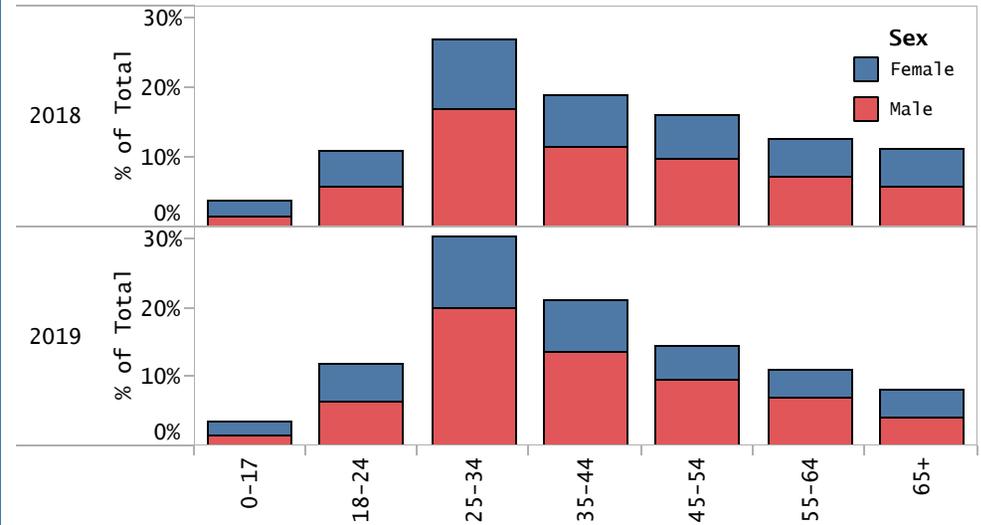
2018: 3,905 (Average: 325 suspected drug overdoses per month)

2019: 4,427 (Average: 369 suspected drug overdoses per month)

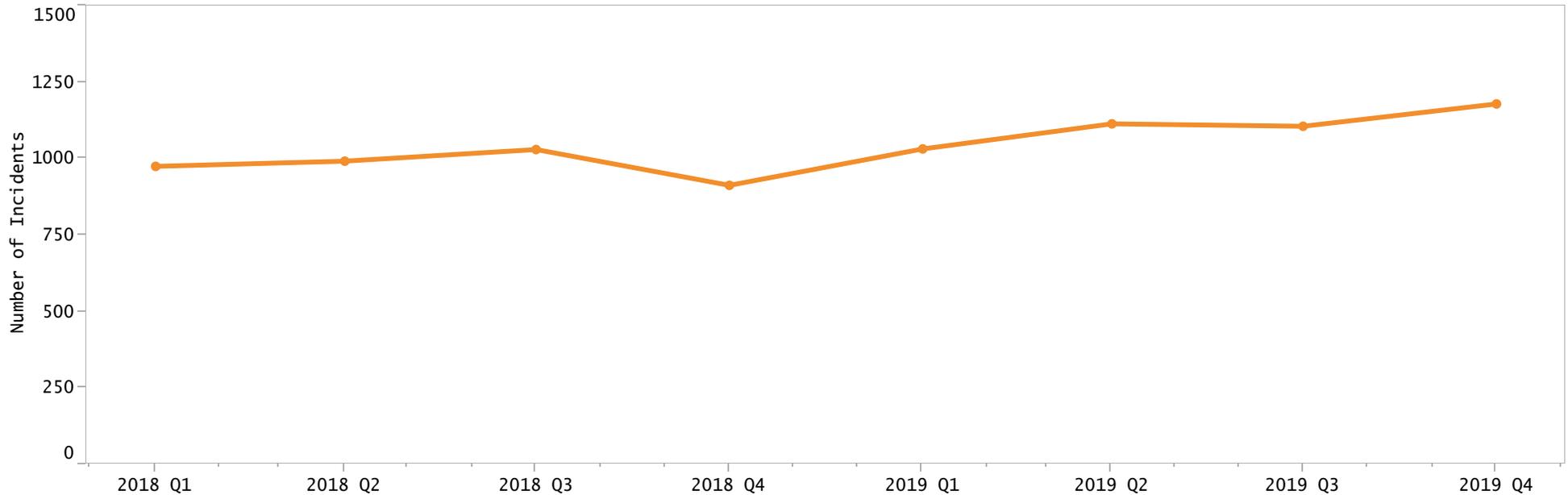
Suspected Drug Overdose Trends

- Compared to 2018, suspected drug overdoses increased by 13% in 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 by Age Group and Sex, 2018-2019



Suspected Drug Overdoses by Quarter, 2018-2019



Fatal and Nonfatal Drug Overdose Events by ZIP Code

Fatal Drug Overdose Trends

- In 2019, the highest number of fatal drug overdoses occurred in ZIP Codes 37207, 37211, 37013, and 37115, accounting for one-quarter of all deaths in Nashville.

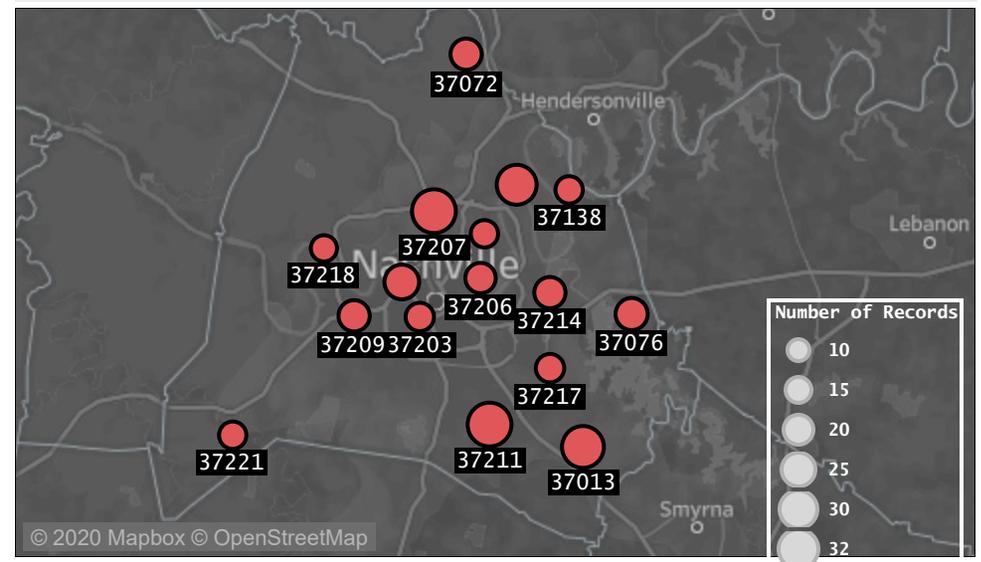
Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits Trends

- In 2019, the highest number of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211 (140), 37115 (116), 37207 (94), 37013 (87), and 37076 (70).
 - Compared to 2018, there were notable increases in drug overdose-related ED visits that occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37115 (+104%), 37013 (+98%), 37211 (+92%), and 37076 (+75%).

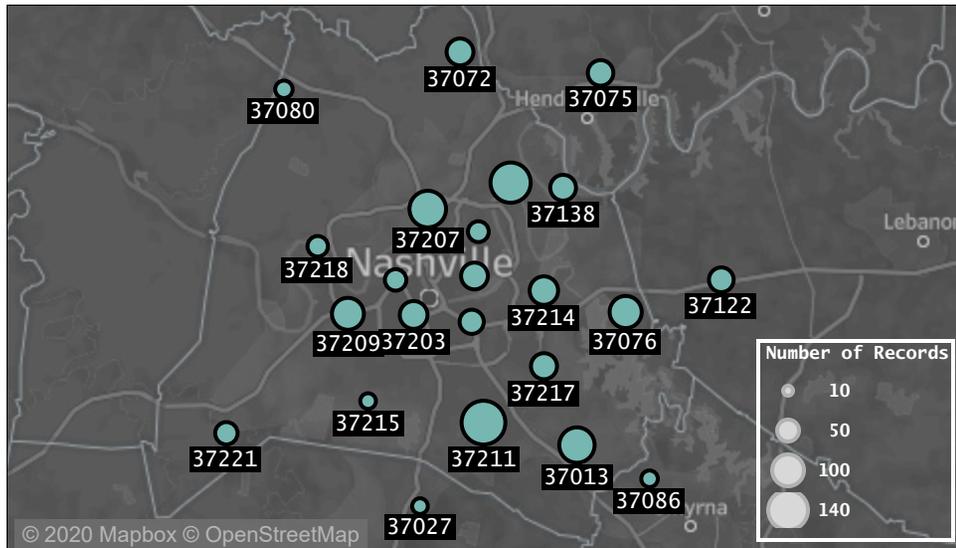
Suspected Drug Overdose Trends

- In 2019, the majority of suspected drug overdoses occurred in ZIP Codes 37115 (466), 37013 (452), 37211 (419), 37207 (393), and 37203 (286).
 - Compared to 2018, the most notable increases in suspected drug overdose events occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37203 (+30%), 37115 (+25%), 37013 (+23%), 37211 (+21%), and 37207 (+20%).

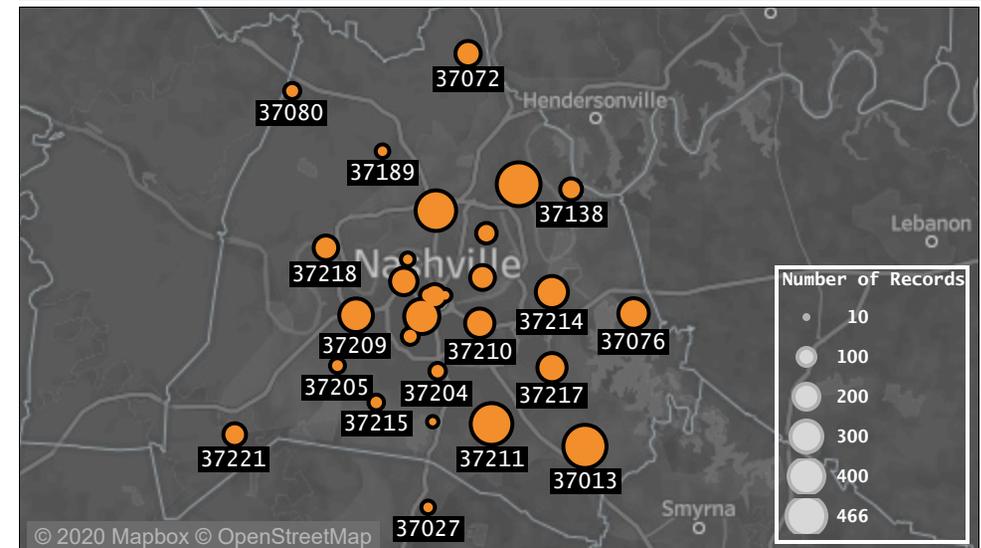
Fatal Drug Overdoses



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

Fatal Drug Overdoses

- Fatal drug overdose data were provided by the Davidson County Medical Examiner's office and ranged from 01/01/2016-12/31/2019.

Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2018-12/31/2019.

- 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

- Note: 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 2019.

- 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

- Opioids without heroin were categorized by the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes:

- Opioids: T40.0

- Other opioids: T40.2

- Methadone: T40.3

- Other synthetic narcotics: T40.4

- Other/unspecified narcotics: T40.6

- Heroin was categorized by the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes:

- Heroin: T40.1

- Stimulants were categorized by the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes:

- Cocaine: T40.5

- 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 01/01/2016-12/31/2019.