

# Overdose Response Quarterly Surveillance Update | 1st Quarter 2020

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

**2020 | Quarter 1 (January 1-March 31)**

### 148 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 was the highest number of fatal drug overdoses over a one-year period to date.
- At the end of the 1st quarter of 2020, there were 148 fatal drug overdoses. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2019, this represents a 38% increase.
- Three-quarters of all fatal drug overdoses in 2020 have involved fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever.
- Over 30% of deaths were among persons aged 25-34 years. The majority of deaths reported 1st quarter of 2019 were in the 45-54 year age group.

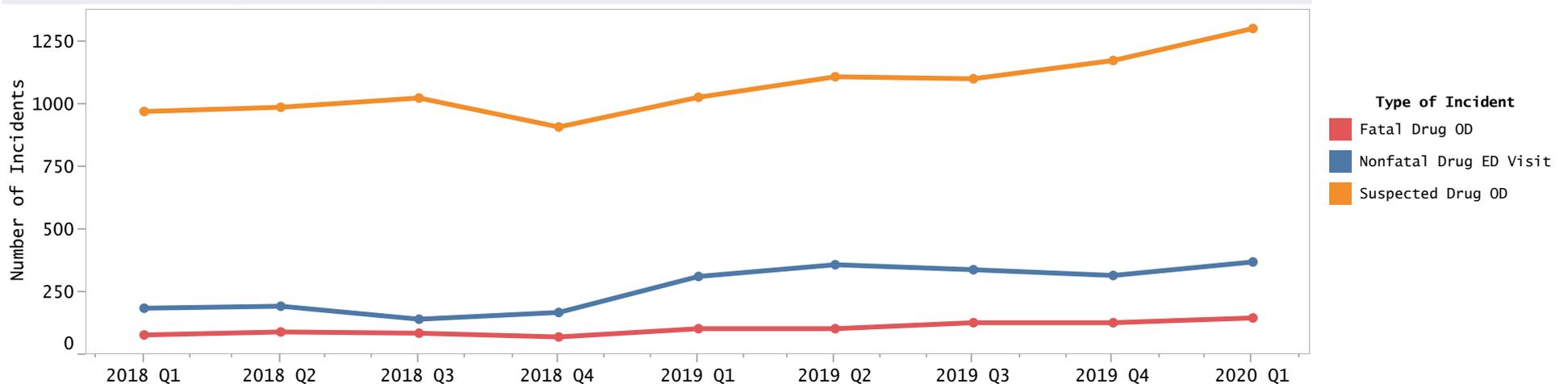
### 372 Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits

- Compared to the same time period last year, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 18%.
- Over half of drug overdose-related ED visits were reported to involve heroin. However, since the 4th quarter of 2019, non-heroin opioids have increased by 38%.
- 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males. By age group, 40% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.

### 1,306 Suspected Drug Overdose Events

- Compared to the same time period last year, suspected drug overdoses increased by 27%. When comparing 2018 and 2019 through quarter 1, suspected drug overdoses increased by 6%.
- 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 and Nonfatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter, 2018-2020**



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## Fatal Drug Overdoses

Source: Davidson County Medical Examiner

2020 | Quarter 1 (January 1-March 31)

### Fatal Drug Overdoses

YTD: Total number of fatal drug overdoses

2019: 105 (Average: 35 fatal drug overdoses per month)

2020: 148 (Average: 49 fatal drug overdoses per month)

### Fatal Drug Overdose Trends

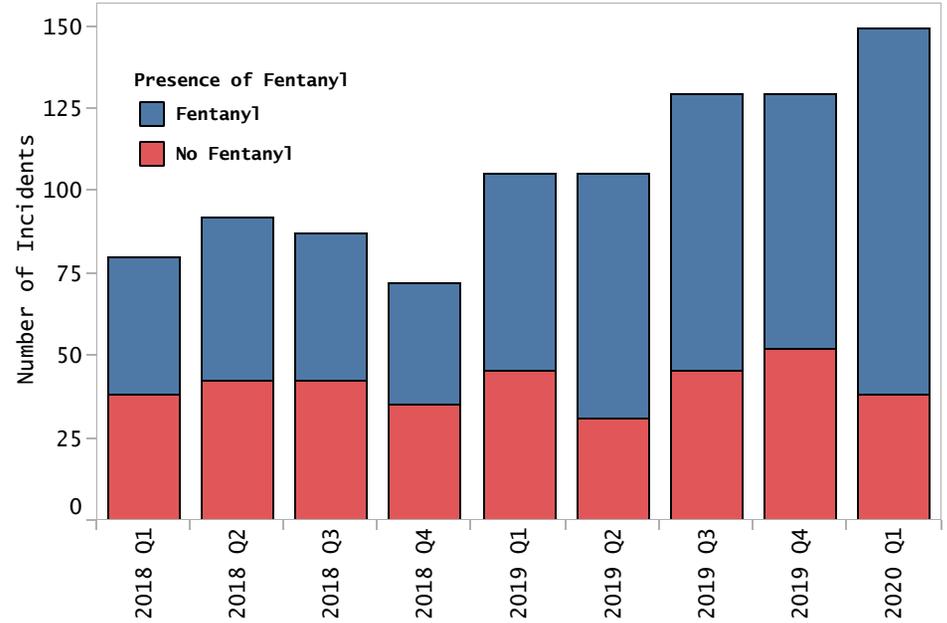
- In 2019, there were 468 fatal drug overdoses in Nashville. Compared to the 331 fatal drug overdoses that occurred in 2018, this was a 41% increase.

- At the end of the 1st quarter of 2020, there were 148 fatal drug overdoses. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2019, this represents a 38% increase.

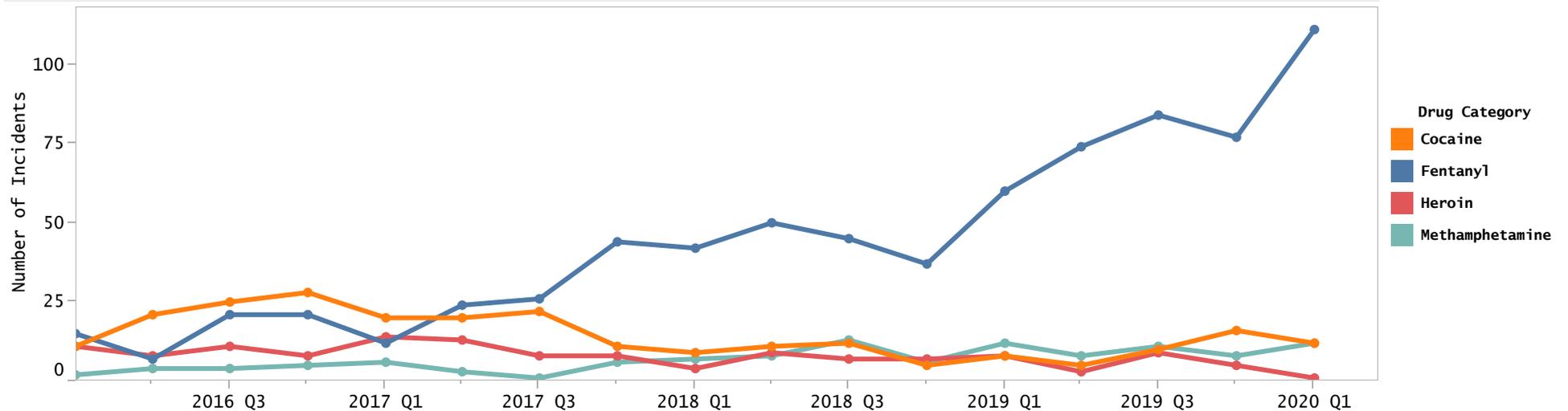
- Three-quarters of all fatal drug overdoses in 2020 have involved fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever.

- Over 30% of deaths were among persons aged 25-34 years. The majority of deaths reported 1st quarter of 2019 were in the 45-54 year age group.

Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Presence of Fentanyl, 2018-2020



Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Drug Category, 2016-2020



**Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits**  
 Source: ESSENCE-TN

**2020 | Quarter 1 (January 1-March 31)**

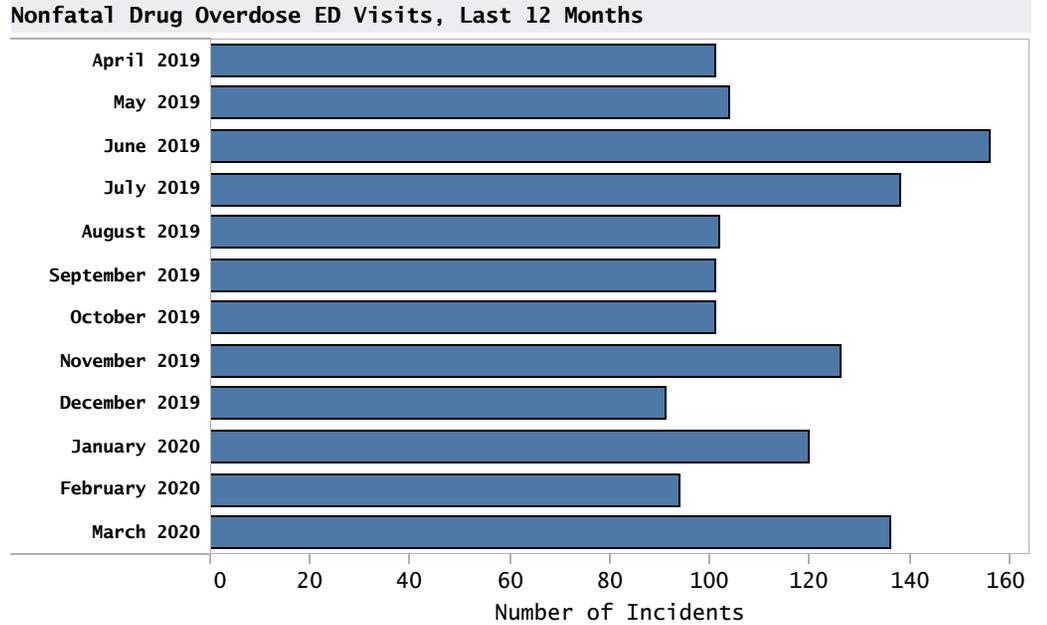
**Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department (ED) Visits**  
 YTD: Total number of nonfatal drug overdose ED visits

2019: 314 (Average: 105 ED visits per month)  
 2020: 372 (Average: 124 ED visits per month)

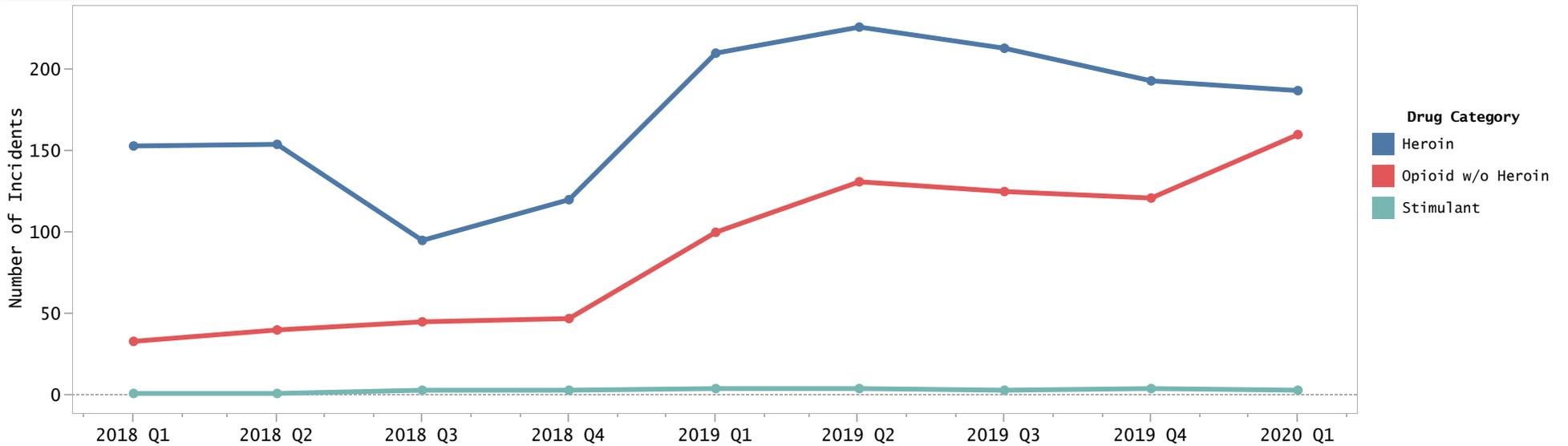
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**Nonfatal Drug Overdose Trends**

- Compared to the same time period last year, drug overdose-related ED visits have increased by 18%.
- Over half of drug overdose-related ED visits were reported to involve heroin. However, since the 4th quarter of 2019, non-heroin opioids have increased by 38%.
- 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Nashville were among males.
- By age group, 40% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among persons 25-34 years old.



**Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits by Drug Category, 2018-2020**



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## Suspected Drug Overdoses

Source: Nashville Fire Department EMS

**2020 | Quarter 1 (January 1-March 31)**

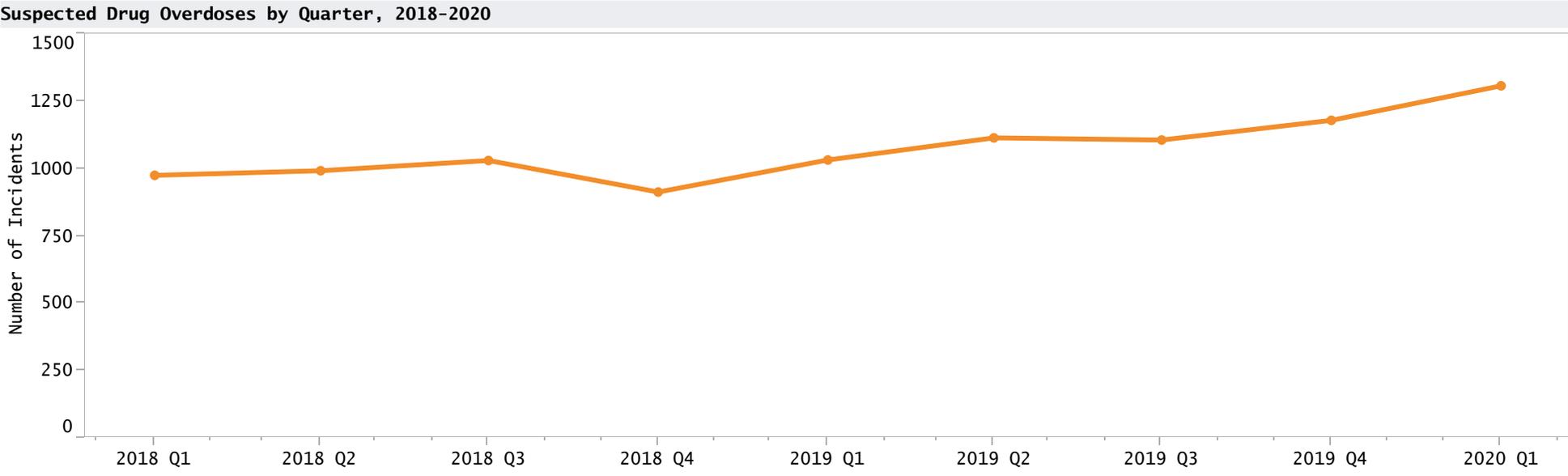
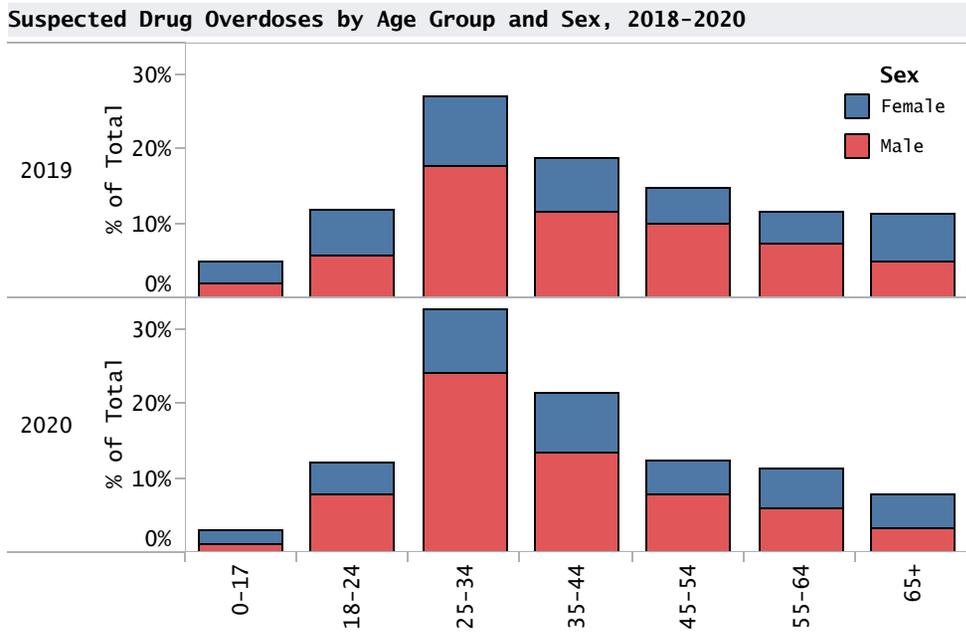
**Suspected Drug Overdose Events**  
 YTD: Total number of suspected drug overdoses

2019: 1,031 (Average: 344 suspected drug overdoses per month)  
 2020: 1,306 (Average: 435 suspected drug overdoses per month)

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**Suspected Drug Overdose Trends**

- Compared to the same time period last year, suspected drug overdoses increased by 27%. When comparing 2018 and 2019 through quarter 1, suspected drug overdoses increased by 6%.
- 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 Overdose Events by ZIP Code  
 1st Quarter 2020**

**Fatal Drug Overdose Trends by ZIP Code**

- Through the 1st quarter of 2020, ZIP Codes 37211 and 37207 reported 12 and 10 fatal drug overdoses, respectively.  
 - In 2019, these two ZIP Codes reported a total of 32 fatal drug overdoses which were the highest number in Nashville.

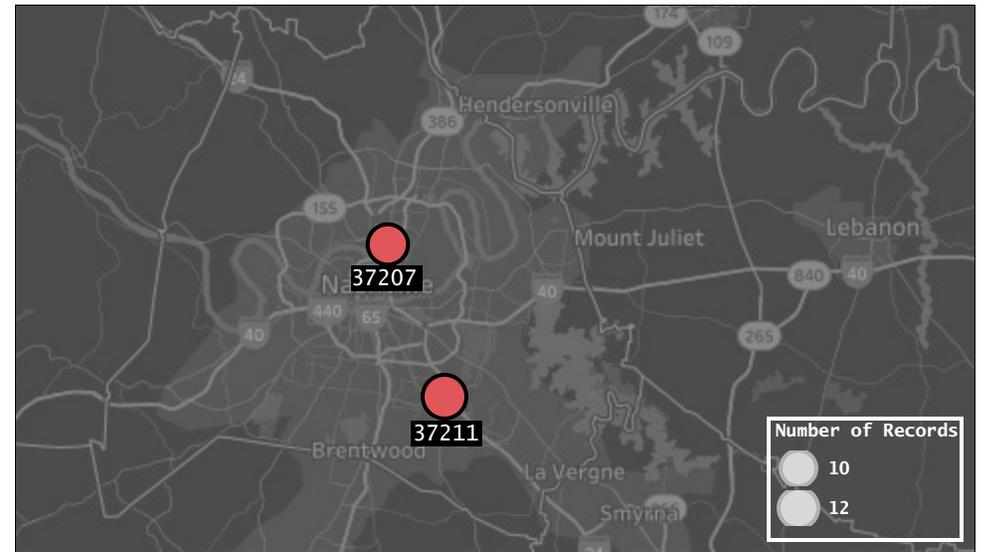
**Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits Trends by ZIP Code**

- Through the 1st quarter of 2020, the highest number of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37115 (34), 37211 (33), 37207 (28), 37013 (25), and 37209 (21).  
 - In 2019, drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among patients from ZIP Codes 37211 (140), 37115 (116), 37207 (94), 37013 (87), and 37076 (70).

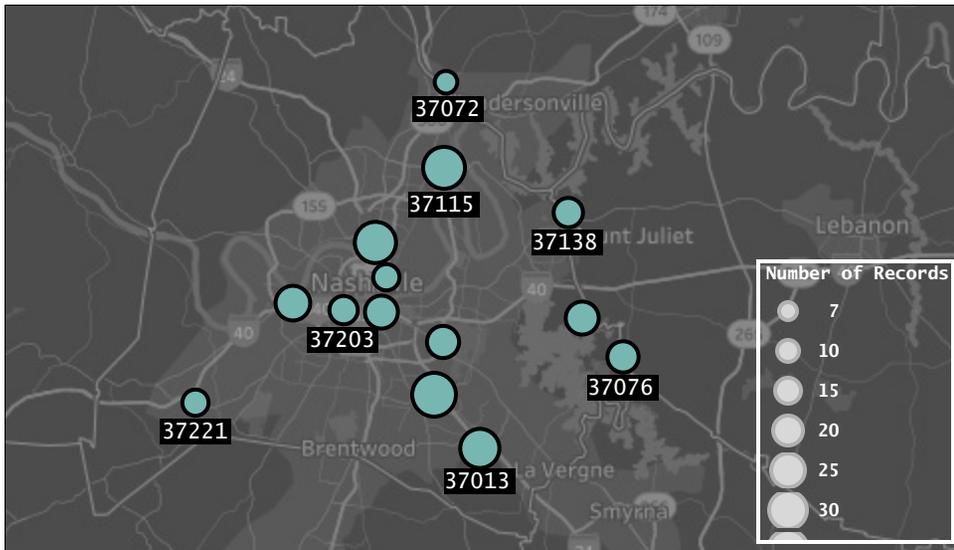
**Suspected Drug Overdose Trends by ZIP Code**

- Through the 1st quarter of 2020, the highest number of suspected drug overdoses occurred in ZIP Codes 37115 (153), 37211 (129), 37013 (127), 37207 (114), and 37203 (77).  
 - In 2019, the majority of suspected drug overdoses occurred in ZIP Codes 37115 (466), 37013 (452), 37211 (419), 37207 (393), and 37203 (286).

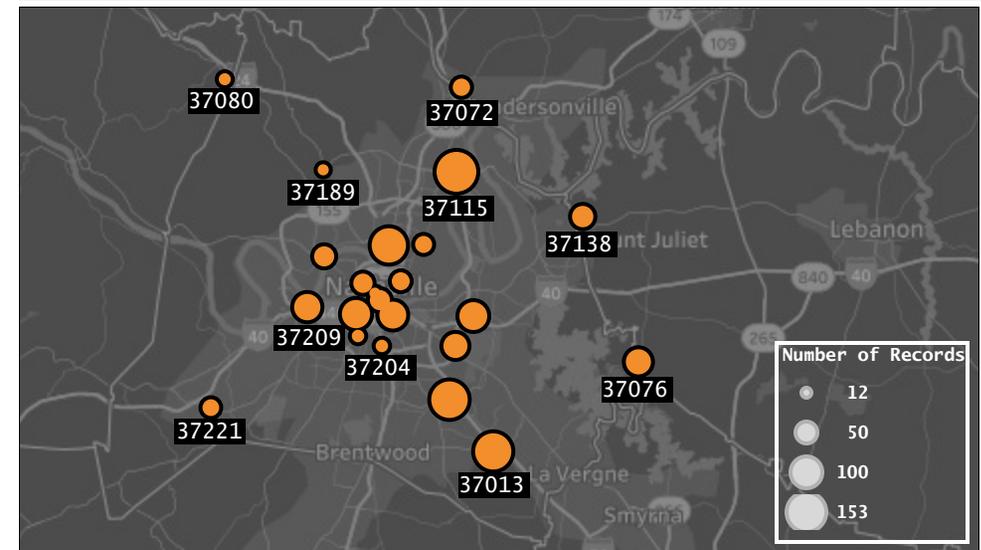
**Fatal Drug Overdoses**



**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 01/01/2016-03/31/2020.

### Nonfatal Drug Overdose ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN and ranged from 01/01/2018-03/31/2020.

- 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

- 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 01/01/2016-03/31/2020.