

HAMILTON / COUNTED

Accountability Through Data.





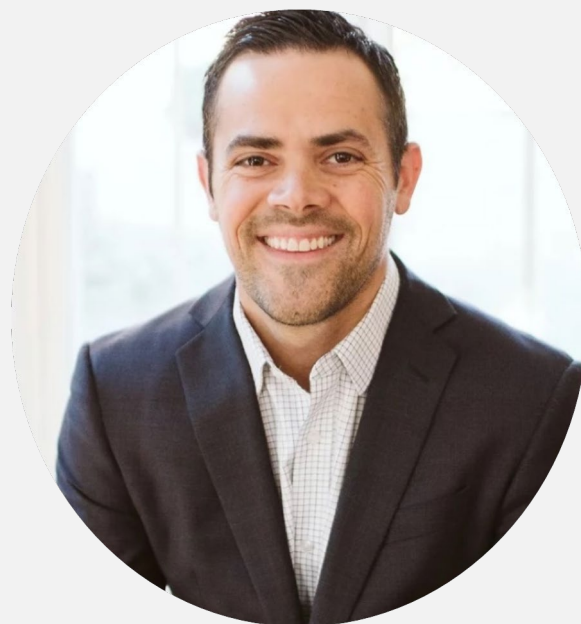
Table of Contents

3	A Message from Mayor Wamp
4-5	Crime in Hamilton County
6-7	Victim Services
8-9	Substance Misuse and Overdoses
10	Homelessness and Health
11-12	Sources





A Message from Mayor Wamp



“Embracing a data-driven philosophy will help us understand the core challenges facing our community.”

Each statistic in this report represents a distinct story and a family whose lives have been forever changed. While much of this data is sobering, it is important for leaders in our community to confront the difficult reality of crime, drug abuse, and homelessness in order for Hamilton County to reach its potential.”

Crime in Hamilton County



Hamilton County Crime Rates

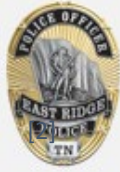
Per Capita is number of crimes per 10,000 residents

East Ridge data is not available for 2022; therefore, it has been subtracted from the 2023 data and the population has been adjusted to accurately compare per capita rates.

JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 2022 AND 2023	HAMILTON COUNTY Pop. 352,746 ^[1]				
	CRIME ^[2]	2022	Per Capita	2023	Per Capita
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1301	36.88	1313	37.2	0.92%
AUTO BURGLARY	2567	72.77	1896	53.7	-26.14%
AUTO THEFT	1163	32.97	1018	28.9	-12.47%
BURGLARY	1072	30.39	918	26.0	-14.37%
MURDER	24	0.68	25	0.7	4.17%
RAPE	131	3.71	114	3.2	-12.98%
ROBBERY	187	5.30	154	4.4	-17.65%
TOTALS:	6445	182.71	5438	154.2	-15.62%

Hamilton County Crime Rates ^[3] January 1 - September 30					
Crime Category	2022 Crime Count	2022 Crime Rate	2023 Crime Count	2023 Crime Rate	Percent Change
Violent Crime*	1643	46.6	1606	45.5	-2.25%
Property Crime**	4802	136.1	3832	108.6	-20.20%

Crime in Hamilton County



Breakdown of Crime by Municipality^[2]

Per Capita is number of crimes per 10,000 residents

JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 2022 AND 2023	UNINCORPORATED HAMILTON COUNTY Includes Lakesite and Walden Pop. 121,334				CHATTANOOGA Pop. 184,086				COLLEGEDALE Pop. 11,255			
	CRIME	2022	2023	Per Capita	% Change	2022	2023	Per Capita	% Change	2022	2023	Per Capita
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	153	166	13.7	8.50%	1091	1075	58.4	-1.47%	12	16	14.2	33.33%
AUTO BURGLARY	174	129	10.6	-25.86%	2292	1688	91.7	-26.35%	31	21	18.7	-32.26%
AUTO THEFT	101	87	7.2	-13.86%	1025	886	48.1	-13.56%	12	4	3.6	-66.67%
BURGLARY	151	102	8.4	-32.45%	847	744	40.4	-12.16%	26	20	17.8	-23.08%
MURDER	2	0	0.0	-100.00%	20	23	1.2	15.00%	1	2	1.8	100.00%
RAPE	30	10	0.8	-66.67%	96	98	5.3	2.08%	3	2	1.8	-33.33%
ROBBERY	6	7	0.6	16.67%	177	145	7.9	-18.08%	1	1	0.9	0.00%
TOTALS:	617	501	41.3	-18.80%	5548	4659	253.1	-16.02%	86	66	58.6	-23.26%

JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 2022 AND 2023	EAST RIDGE ^[3] Pop. 21,936				LOOKOUT MTN Pop. 2,070				RED BANK Pop. 11,959			
	CRIME	2022	2023	Per Capita	% Change	2022	2023	Per Capita	% Change	2022	2023	Per Capita
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	-	54		0.00%	0	0	0.0	0.00%	30	33	27.6	10.00%
AUTO BURGLARY	-	89		0.00%	1	6	29.0	500.00%	30	25	20.9	-16.67%
AUTO THEFT	-	47		0.00%	0	0	0.0	0.00%	14	29	24.2	107.14%
BURGLARY	-	45		0.00%	1	1	4.8	0.00%	28	16	13.4	-42.86%
MURDER	-	1		N/A	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0.0	0.00%
RAPE	-	10		0.00%	0	1	4.8	N/A	1	1	0.8	0.00%
ROBBERY	-	5		0.00%	0	0	0.0	0.00%	3	1	0.8	-66.67%
TOTALS:	-	251		-	2	8	38.6	300.00%	106	105	87.8	-0.94%

JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 2022 AND 2023	SIGNAL MTN Pop. 8,883				SODDY DAISY Pop. 13,159			
	CRIME	2022	2023	Per Capita	% Change	2022	2023	Per Capita
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	1	1.1	N/A	15	22	16.7	46.67%
AUTO BURGLARY	9	4	4.5	-55.56%	30	23	17.5	-23.33%
AUTO THEFT	0	0	0.0	0.00%	11	12	9.1	9.09%
BURGLARY	1	4	4.5	N/A	18	31	23.6	72.22%
MURDER	0	0	0.0	0.00%	1	0	0.0	-100.00%
RAPE	0	0	0.0	0.00%	1	2	1.5	100.00%
ROBBERY	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0.0	0.00%
TOTALS:	10	9	10.1	-10.00%	76	90	68.4	18.42%

Victim Services

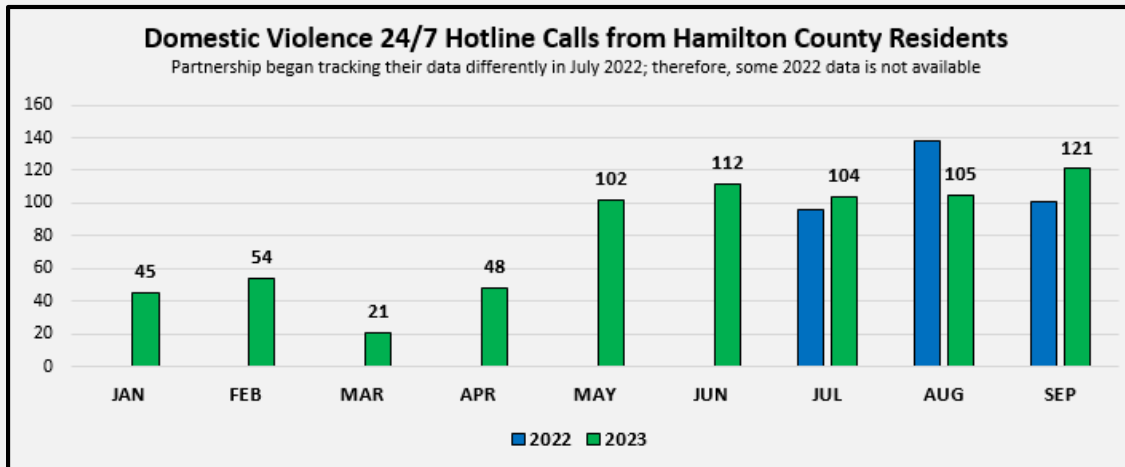
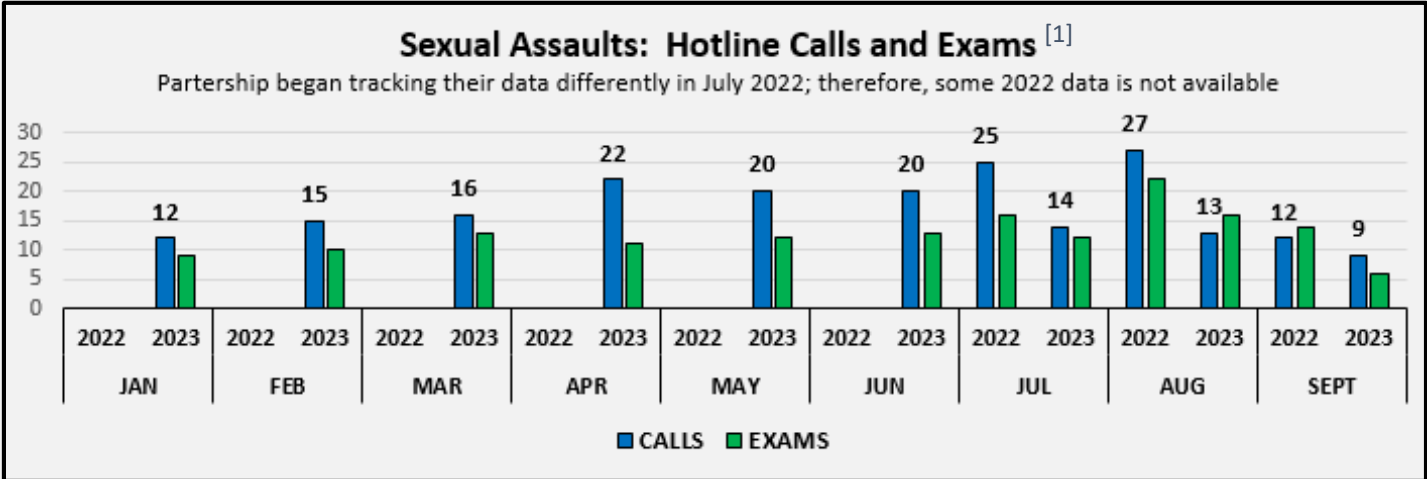


Partnership
for Families, Children and Adults

All data provided by the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults.

Sexual Assault exams are reflective of assaults that occurred in Hamilton County. Hotline calls for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence came from Hamilton County residents.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CUMULATIVE CALLS AND EXAMS JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER		
YEAR	CALLS	EXAMS
2022	64	52
2023	36	34



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CUMULATIVE CALLS JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER	
YEAR	CALLS
2022	335
2023	330

24/7 Crisis Hotline
423-755-2700

Crisis Text Line
423-356-3620

Partnership's 24/7 Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline is completely confidential.

Victim Services



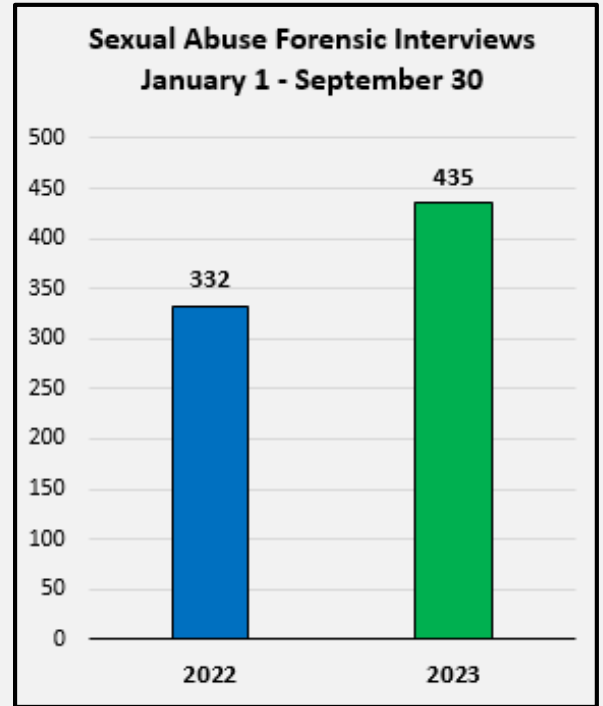
All referrals received by the CAC come from the Department of Children's Services or law enforcement through Hamilton County.^[2]

Every child with an allegation is taken in for a forensic interview, but not all are recommended for a medical exam. Sometimes, the child may not be dealing with acute abuse, but an incident that occurred years ago, which might not qualify for an exam.

Child Abuse Reporting Hotline
877-237-0004

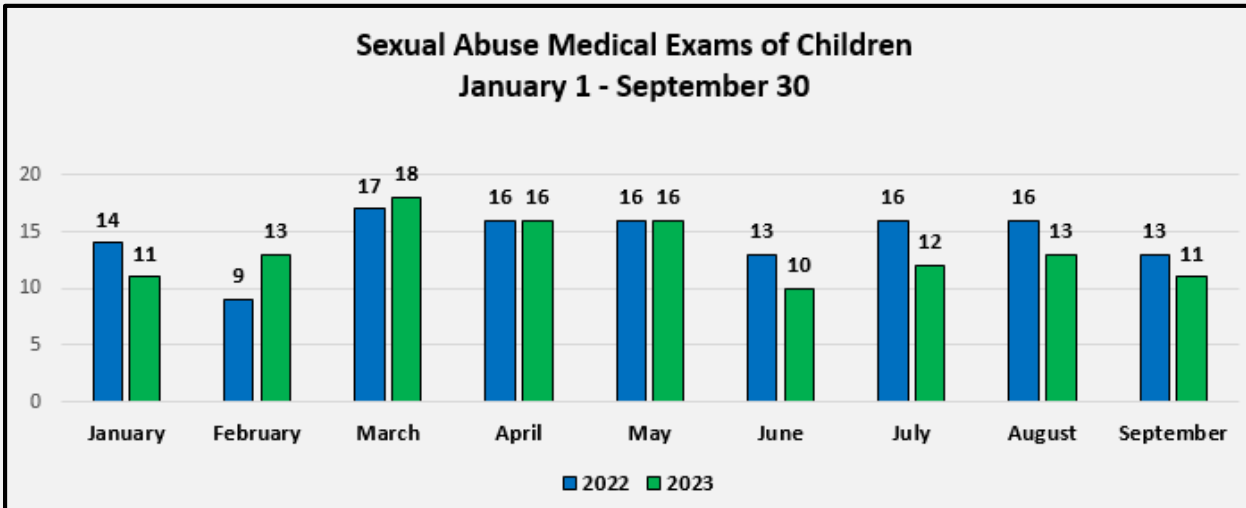
80% of children interviewed were for sexual abuse.

TOTAL FORENSIC INTERVIEWS	
JAN 1 - SEP 30	
2022	2023
409	550



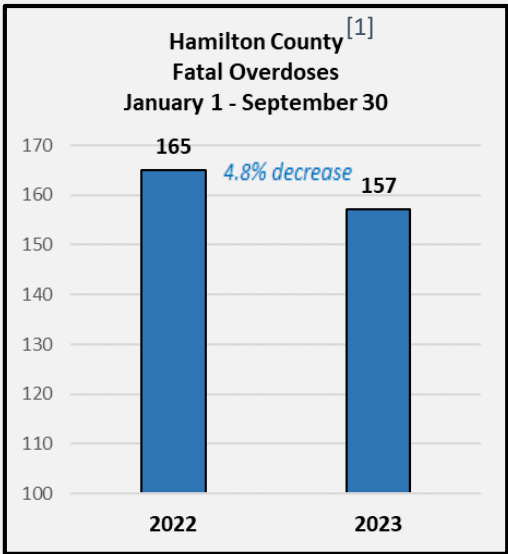
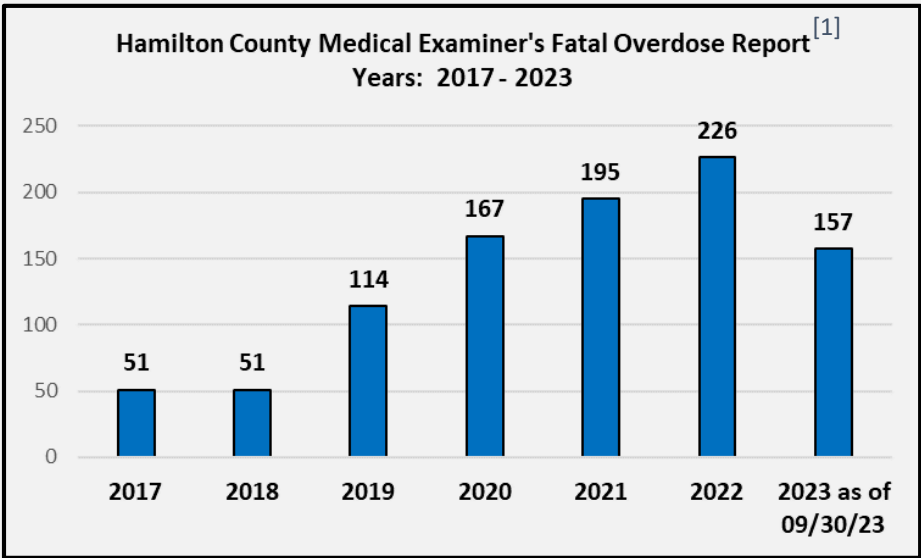
TOTAL SEXUAL ABUSE EXAMS	
JAN 1 - SEP 30	
2022	2023
130	120

Reasons children are forensically interviewed include drug exposure, physical abuse, severe lack of supervision, sexual abuse, severe medical maltreatment, and witness to violence.^[3]

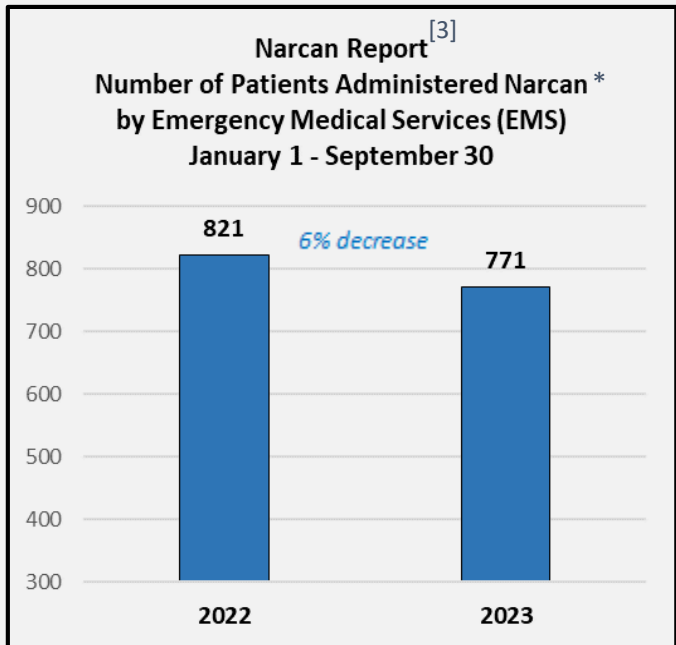
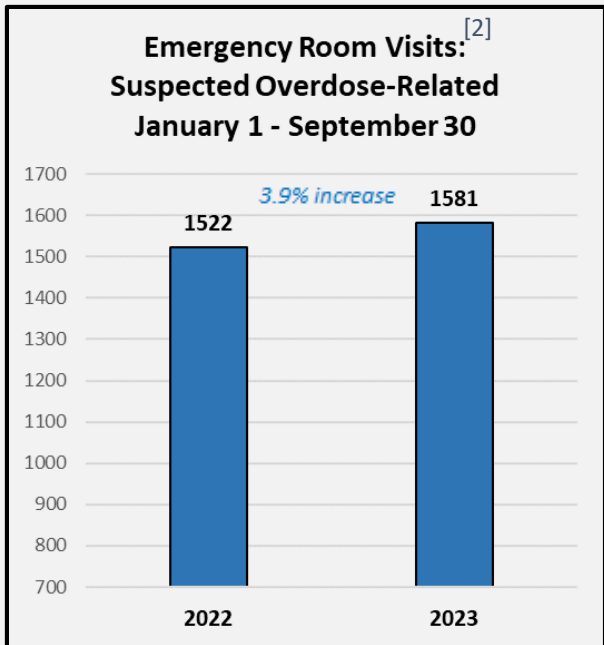
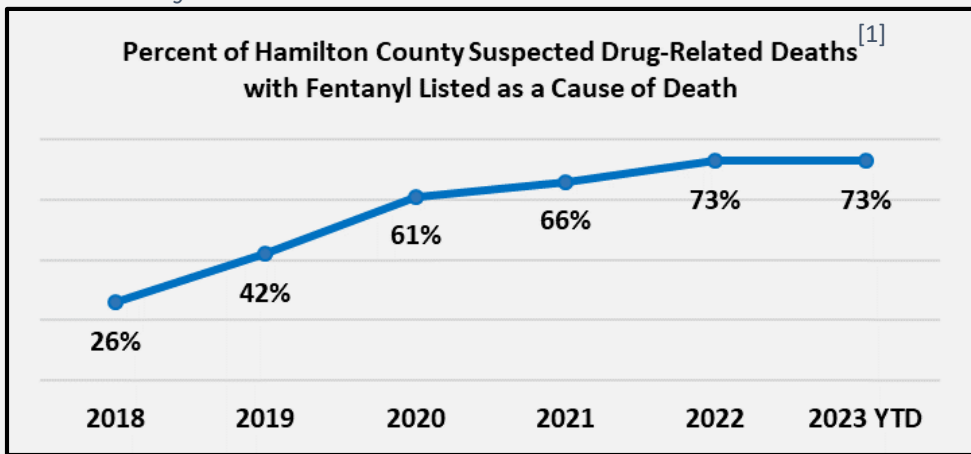


Substance Misuse and Overdose Trends

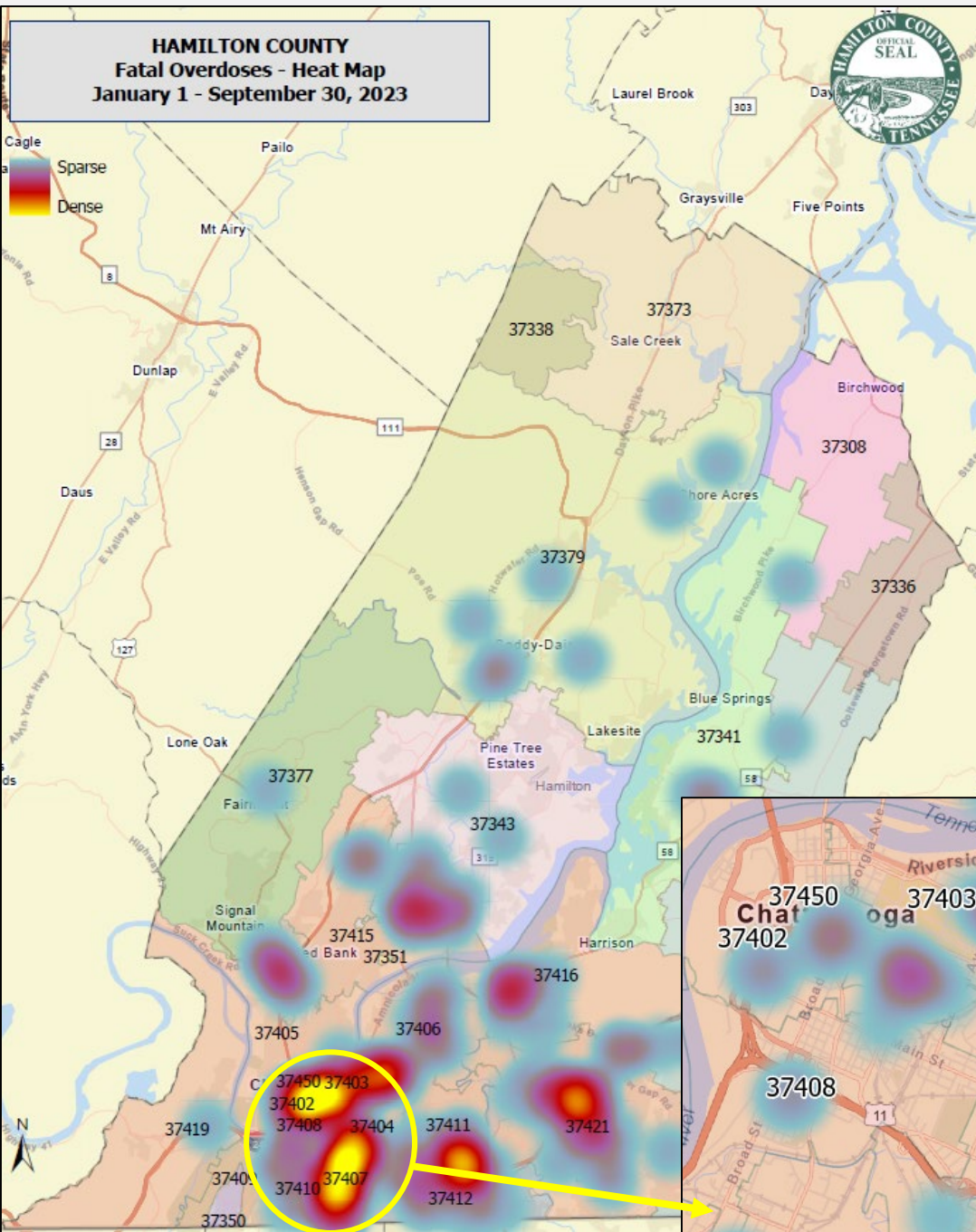
Hamilton County had 6 times more fatal overdoses than murders this year.



Fentanyl remains the driver in overdose deaths since 2018.



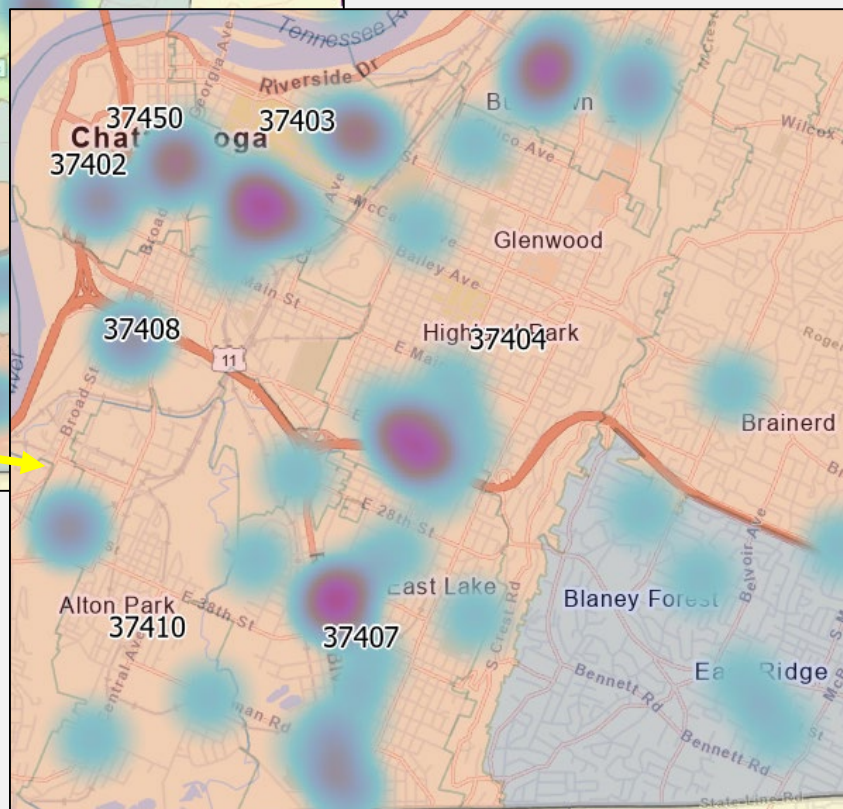
Substance Misuse and Overdose Trends



Heat maps are used to show concentration of geographical patterns rather than quantity.

The zip code 37407, commonly known as the East Lake area, has the highest concentration of fatal overdoses incidents this year so far.

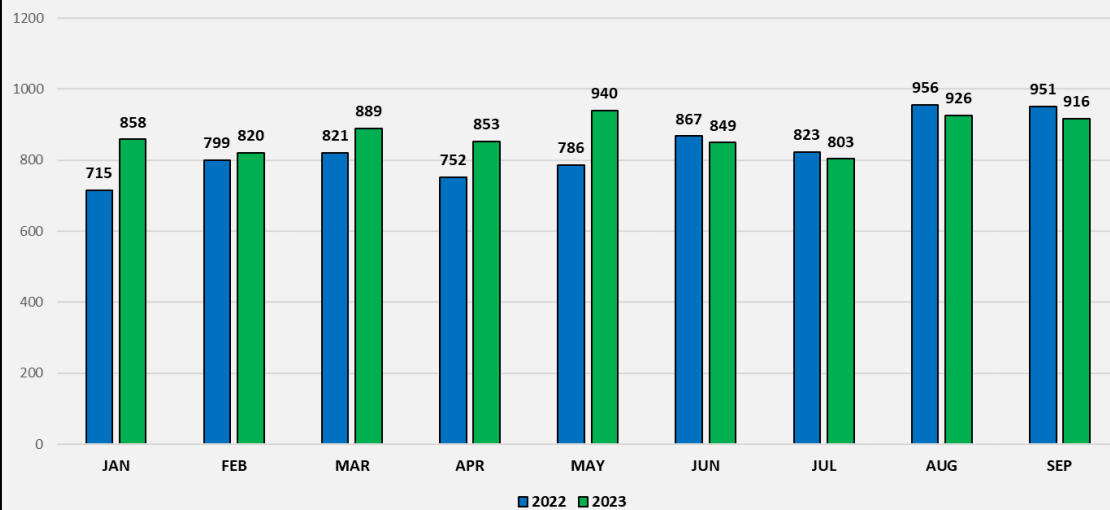
Another highly dense area of fatal overdose incidents includes 37421, the East Brainerd and Hickory Valley area.



Homelessness And Health



Hamilton County Homeless Health Care Center ^[1]
Patients by Month



CUMULATIVE PATIENTS

JAN 1 - SEPT 30

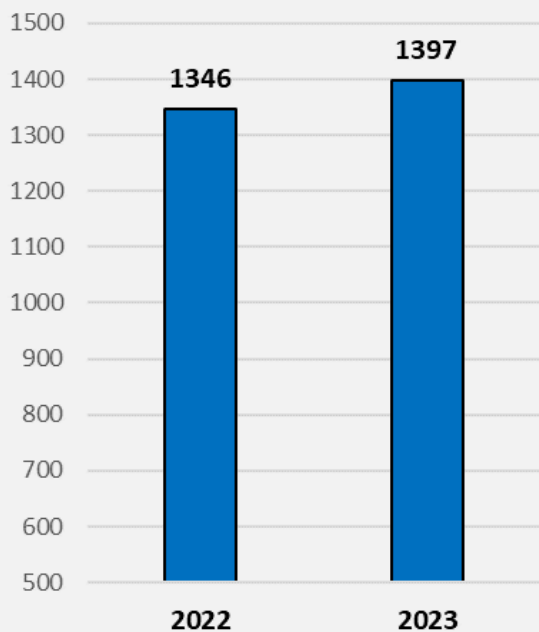
2022	2023
3,528	3,519

3,528

3,519

Cumulative patients are only counted once per year

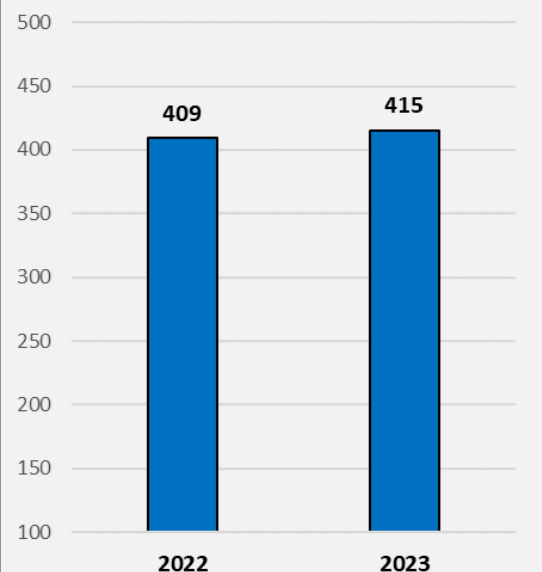
"STREET" PATIENTS* JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30



* "Street" patients are only counted once per year

Almost half of the total patients served in September 2023 were from the street.

"STREET PATIENTS" SEPTEMBER



Sources

CRIME IN HAMILTON COUNTY

[1] - Population is a current estimate from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/hamiltoncountytennessee>. All populations are an estimation. Hamilton County population, less East Ridge (21,936) is 352,746.

[2] - All crime data provided by the respective Hamilton County municipal agency using their Records Management System. 2023 data is considered "operational" and subject to change.

* Violent Crimes: The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines violent crimes as those offenses that involve force or threat of force and is composed of four offenses: murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/violent-crime>

** Property Crimes: The FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims.

Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/property-crime#:~:text=Definition,of%20force%20against%20the%20victims.>

Part 1 Crime is defined by the National Uniform Crime Reporting Program and refers to serious crime that occur with regularity in all areas of the country and are likely to be reported to police. Part 1 violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Part 1 property crimes include burglary, theft, and auto theft.

Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions>

[3] - East Ridge Police Department changed Records Management Systems in August 2022; therefore, 2022 data is not available and will not be included in crime rates.

VICTIM SERVICES

[1] - Sexual assault exams are counted by the county in which the assault occurred, not necessarily where the victim lives.

[2] - The following child maltreatment data counts children as 18 years old and younger.

[3] - A child may disclose more than one type of violence but are categorized by the type of violence from their initial intake from the Department of Children's Services.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND OVERDOSES

[1] - Fatal overdose data provided by the Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office and the Hamilton County Health Department's Epidemiologists. You can find the epidemiologists overdose surveillance reports here:

<https://health.hamiltontn.org/en-us/communityhealth/overdoseprevention.aspx>

There may be additional suspected drug-related death data reported over this time period in subsequent reports as data is finalized.

Drug-related deaths are those deaths that the Hamilton County Health Department receives from the Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office with a cause of death listed as an acute overdose or a death resulting from chronic drug abuse.

Acute overdose deaths are those deaths in which the Hamilton County Medical Examiner listed drugs (either an overdose or a toxicity) as a primary cause of death or contributing cause of death on the death certificate and in the medical examiner report. The Medical Examiner determines the cause of death and contributing cause of death following a thorough investigation, including (as appropriate): scene investigation, medical records review, external examination, autopsy, histology, and postmortem toxicology reports. Some deaths may have substances listed on the toxicology report in concentrations that are not high enough to result in or contribute to a death, and are therefore, not a cause of death; in these cases, these deaths do not count as an acute overdose death.

Chronic drug abuse deaths are those deaths in which the cause of death is due to chronic substance abuse and the individuals did not overdose at the time of death.

Jurisdiction: Currently, the Hamilton County Medical Examiner Office (which is also the Southeast Tennessee Regional Forensic Center) primarily handles deaths that occur within Hamilton County with occasional cases referred from adjoining counties. Those referred cases do not count in the Hamilton County statistics. Individuals who are injured or overdose in other counties, transported to a medical facility in Hamilton County and die in Hamilton County, will have their death certificate done by the Hamilton County Medical Examiner Office. Those cases are included in Hamilton County statistics. The converse also holds: an injury or overdose occurring in Hamilton County, with death in a different county or state, will be included in that jurisdiction's statistics, not Hamilton County.

[2] - Non-fatal data: All non-fatal overdose-related emergency department visits from Hamilton County hospitals were included in this data, regardless of the patient's county of residence. Data was pulled from ESSENCE - NSSP using the CDC All Drug Overdose (version 2) query, which includes relevant ICD-10-CM codes, ICD-9-CM codes, SNOMED codes, and relevant terms in the chief complaint free text field.

There may be additional suspected nonfatal overdose-related emergency department visit data reported over this time period in subsequent reports as data is finalized.

[3] - Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) NARCAN data provided by EsoSuite.

* "Narcan is the brand name for naloxone, the medication designed to reverse an opioid overdose. This means that it attaches to opioid receptors and reverses and blocks the effects of other opioids. Naloxone can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose. But, naloxone has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system, and it is not a treatment for opioid use disorder. Examples of opioids include heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, and morphine." Source: *National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.* <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>

Sources

HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

[1] - Hamilton County's Homeless Health Care Center data provided by eClinicalWorks from the Hamilton County Health Department.

* Homelessness Housing Status Definitions

Homeless Shelter – Patients who are living in an organized shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. Shelters that generally provide meals and a place to sleep are regarded as temporary and often limit the number of days or the hours of the day that a resident may stay at the shelter.

Transitional Housing – Transitional housing units are generally small units (six people is common) where people transition from a shelter and are provided extended, but temporary, housing stays (generally between 6 months and 2 years).

Doubled Up – Patients who are living with others. The arrangement is considered to be temporary and unstable, though a patient may live in a succession of such arrangements over a protracted period.

Street – Patients who are living outdoors, in a vehicle, in an encampment, in makeshift housing/shelter, or in other places generally not deemed safe or fit for human occupancy.

Permanent Supportive Housing – Permanent supportive housing usually is in service-rich environments, does not have time limits, and may be restricted to people with some type of disabling condition.

Other – Patients who were housed when first seen during the year and were no longer homeless, but who were still eligible for the program because they experienced homelessness during the previous 12 months.

Unknown – Patients known to be experiencing homeless whose housing arrangements are unknown.

Table of Contents page photos contributed by J. Adams. J. Adams fell in love with photography as a student at the Baylor School. Two decades later he has found both passion and peace through visual storytelling. He has been a creative professional for over 15 years; managing social media platforms, videography, graphic design, photography, and other digital media needs for numerous civic and nonprofit clients throughout the southeast. He currently serves as the City of Chattanooga's Creative Media Specialist.

Message from Mayor Wamp page photo contributed by Hamilton County employee and local photographer, Shelia Cannon.

Hamilton Counted created by Senior Data Analyst Jennifer Baggett