

HAMILTON / COUNTED

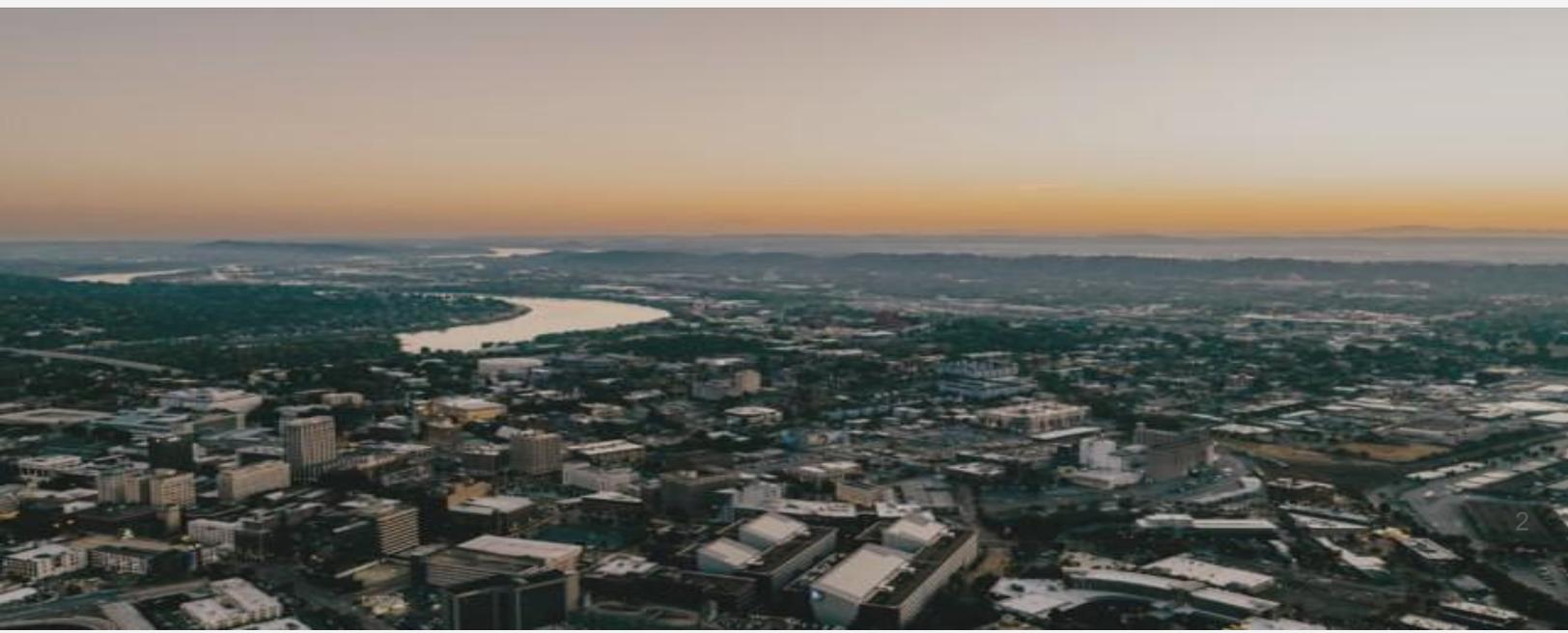
Accountability through data.





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A Message from Mayor Wamp



Our new quarterly format allows us to better identify trends across Hamilton County and make informed decisions about how taxpayer dollars and incoming opioid abatement settlement dollars from the State of Tennessee are spent. There's plenty of hope on the horizon as we build better communities in every neighborhood across our diverse county.

Overall crime has remained steady through the first quarter of the year—but we continue to see an increase in the number of murders with all seven this year occurring in the city of Chattanooga. While the recent downtown shootings are not included in this data, it's yet another reminder there are dangerous criminals in our community who will stop at nothing to harm innocent lives.

Calls to Partnership's Domestic Violence Hotline doubled in the first three months of the year compared to the same time last year. While there is no definitive answer for this increase, Partnership has focused on improving data collection, particularly from the homeless population in Chattanooga. Along with an emphasis on data collection, they have also focused on educating the community on the resources available to victims through community events.

The opioid epidemic is the biggest crisis our country faces—and Hamilton County is no exception. While every death is a tragedy, we are encouraged that fatal overdoses are down 22 percent through the first quarter this year compared to the first quarter last year. The work will not stop to hold dealers of deadly drugs accountable and use every resource in our power to connect individuals with the necessary support and assistance.

Basic needs across our community remain unmet. Our numbers show that participation in the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program has increased nearly 25 percent in the last two years and the number of food boxes distributed by the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is up 25 percent just in the last year.

The data reported here forces us to confront our community's most pressing challenges. I can assure you my team comes to work every day looking for solutions so everyone in Hamilton County can thrive.

Crime in Hamilton County



Per Capita is number of crimes per 10,000 residents.

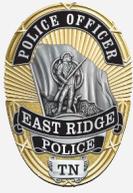
East Ridge data is not available for 2022; therefore, the East Ridge population has been subtracted when computing overall crime rates in 2022. Their population and data have been included in the 2023 and 2024 data.

January 1 - March 31	HAMILTON COUNTY Pop. 374,682 ^{[1][3]}						
	CRIME ^[2]	2022	Per Capita	2023	Per Capita	2024	Per Capita
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	360	10.21	417	11.13	353	9.4	-15.35%
AUTO BURGLARY	873	24.75	612	16.33	554	14.8	-9.48%
AUTO THEFT	440	12.47	332	8.86	377	10.1	13.55%
BURGLARY	378	10.72	280	7.47	270	7.2	-3.57%
MURDER	4	0.11	5	0.13	7	0.2	40.00%
RAPE	54	1.53	44	1.17	37	1.0	-15.91%
ROBBERY	81	2.30	47	1.25	39	1.0	-17.02%
TOTALS:	2190	62.08	1737	46.36	1637	43.7	-5.76%

Quarter 1: January 1 - March 31						
Hamilton County Non-Fatal Shootings ^[4]	2023		2024		% Change Incidents	% Change Victims
	Incidents	Victims	Incidents	Victims		
COLLEGEDALE	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
CITY OF CHATTANOOGA	16	18	16	19	0.00%	5.56%
EAST RIDGE	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
HAMILTON COUNTY	1	2	0	0	-100.00%	-100.00%
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
RED BANK	1	1	0	0	-100.00%	-100.00%
SODDY DAISY	0	0	1	1	N/A	N/A
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	18	21	17	20	-5.56%	-4.76%

Hamilton County Crime Rates ^{[1][2] [3]} January 1 - March 31							
Crime Category	2022	Per Capita	2023	Per Capita	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024
Violent Crime ^[*]	499	14.1	513	13.7	436	11.64	-15.01%
Property Crime ^[**]	1691	47.9	1224	32.7	1201	32.05	-1.88%

Crime in Hamilton County



Per Capita is number of crimes per 10,000 residents and is reflective of the 2024 year.

January 1 - March 31	UNINCORPORATED HAMILTON COUNTY Includes Lakesite and Walden					CHATTANOOGA Pop. 184,086					COLLEGEDALE Pop. 11,255				
CRIME	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	45	49	60	4.9	22.45%	297	331	262	14.2	-20.85%	2	7	3	2.7	-57.14%
AUTO BURGLARY	51	42	36	3.0	-14.29%	793	507	462	25.1	-8.88%	11	5	18	16.0	260.00%
AUTO THEFT	36	26	16	1.3	-38.46%	391	276	341	18.5	23.55%	3	2	1	0.9	-50.00%
BURGLARY	49	37	48	4.0	29.73%	312	216	192	10.4	-11.11%	4	7	9	8.0	28.57%
MURDER	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	3	5	7	0.4	40.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%
RAPE	15	5	1	0.1	-80.00%	37	32	31	1.7	-3.13%	2	0	1	0.9	0.00%
ROBBERY	1	2	1	0.1	-50.00%	79	44	37	2.0	-15.91%	1	1	0	0.0	-100.00%
TOTALS:	197	161	162	13.4	0.62%	1912	1411	1332	72.4	-5.60%	23	22	32	28.4	45.45%

January 1 - March 31	EAST RIDGE ^[3] Pop. 21,936					LOOKOUT MTN Pop. 2,070					RED BANK Pop. 11,959				
CRIME	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	-	16	11	5.01	-31.25%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	9	9	8	6.7	-11.11%
AUTO BURGLARY	-	36	19	8.66	-47.22%	0	4	1	4.8	-75.00%	8	8	9	7.5	12.50%
AUTO THEFT	-	16	7	3.19	-56.25%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	7	8	9	7.5	12.50%
BURGLARY	-	10	10	4.56	0.00%	0	1	0	0.0	-100.00%	9	1	4	3.3	300.00%
MURDER	-	0	0	0.00	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%
RAPE	-	5	4	1.82	-20.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%
ROBBERY	-	0	1	0.46	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%
TOTALS:	0	83	52	23.71	-37.35%	0	5	1	4.8	-80.00%	33	26	30	25.1	15.38%

January 1 - March 31	SIGNAL MTN Pop. 8,883					SODDY DAISY Pop. 13,159				
CRIME	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024	2022	2023	2024	Per Capita	% Change 2023 to 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	2	2.3	N/A	7	5	7	5.3	40.00%
AUTO BURGLARY	4	1	5	5.6	400.00%	6	9	4	3.0	-55.56%
AUTO THEFT	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	3	4	3	2.3	-25.00%
BURGLARY	0	2	1	1.1	-50.00%	4	6	6	4.6	0.00%
MURDER	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	1	0	0	0.0	0.00%
RAPE	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	2	0	0.0	-100.00%
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.0	0.00%
TOTALS:	4	3	8	9.0	166.67%	21	26	20	15.2	-23.08%



Partnership

for Families, Children and Adults

Victim Services

24/7 Crisis Hotline
423-755-2700

Crisis Text Line
423-356-3620

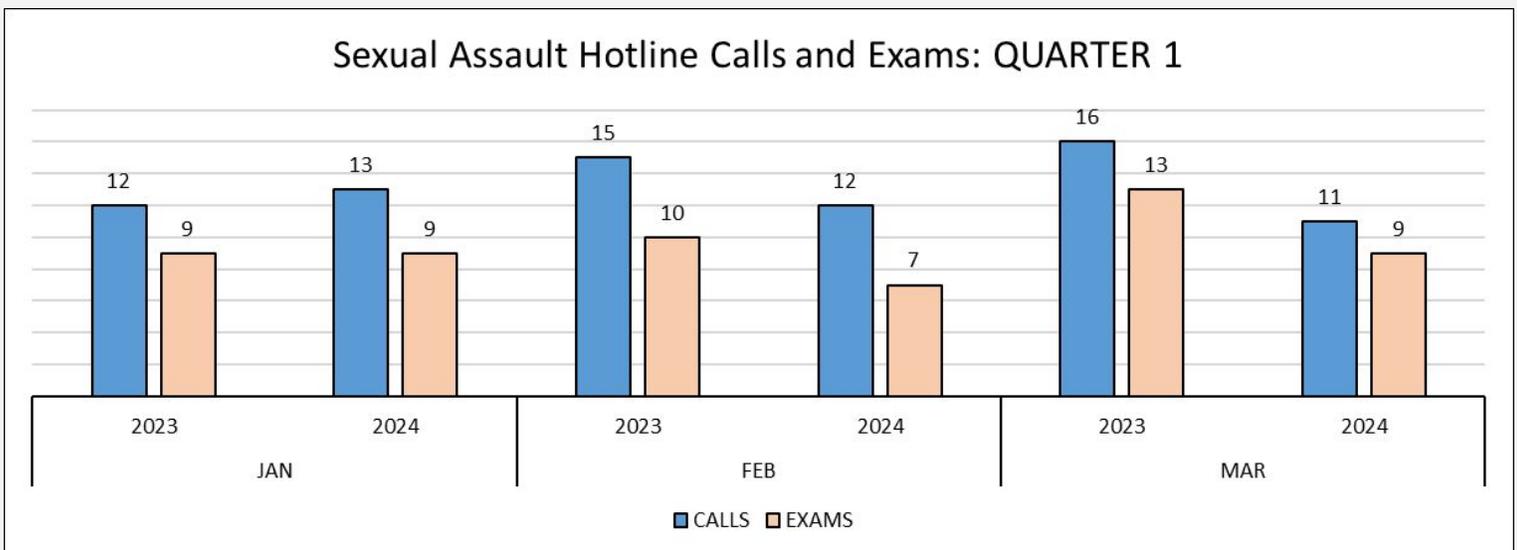
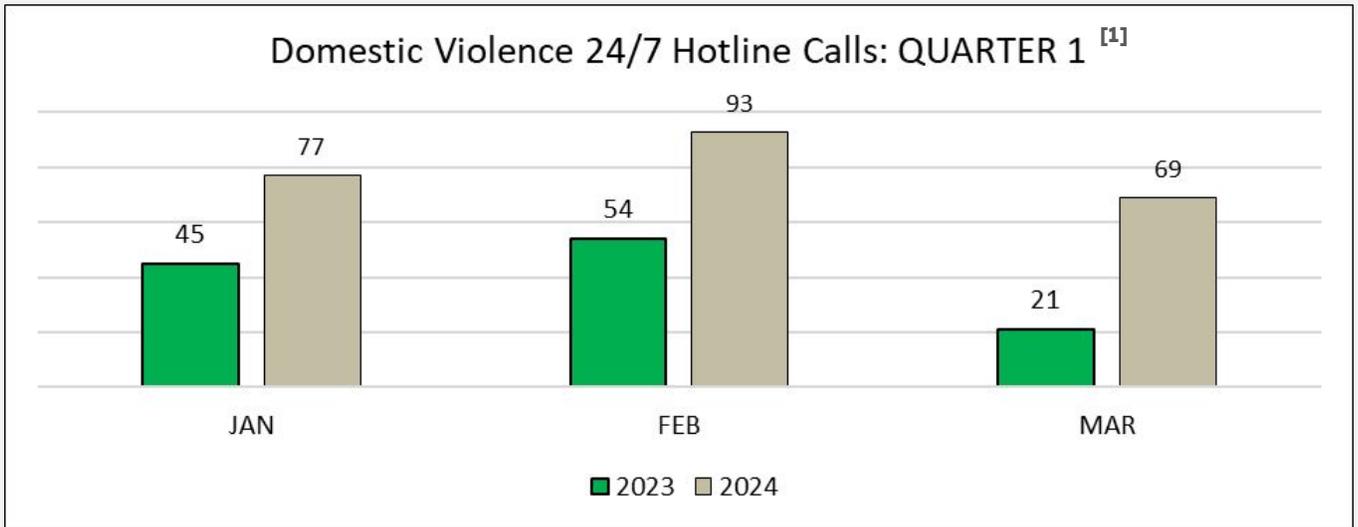
Partnership's 24/7 Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline is completely confidential.

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.

While there is no definitive answer as to why calls to the domestic violence hotline rose nearly 100 percent in the first quarter of the year, Partnership has done a better job of collecting data, particularly from the homeless population in Chattanooga. Additionally, they have focused on educating the community on resources available to victims through community events.

Total Calls and Exams: Q1			
Jan - Mar	2023	2024	% Change
DV CALLS	120	239	99.16%
SA CALLS	43	36	-16.27%
SA EXAMS	32	25	-21.87





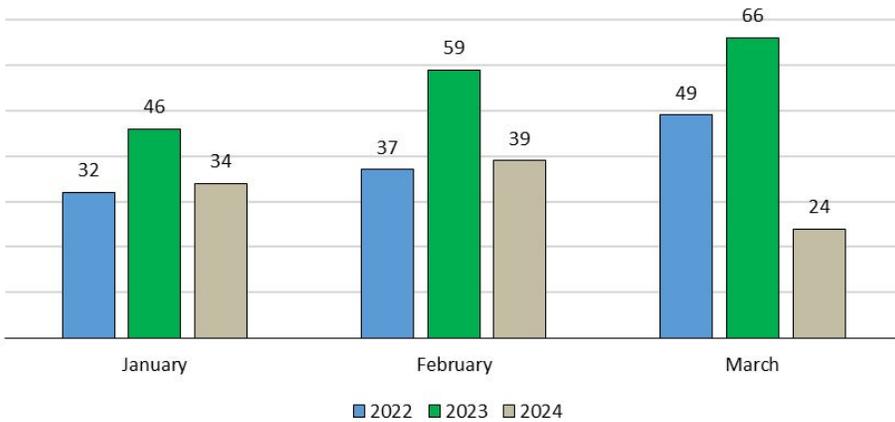
**Child Abuse
Reporting Hotline
877-237-0004**

Victim Services

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

Every child with an allegation is forensically interviewed, but not all are recommended for a medical exam. The child may not be dealing with acute abuse rather an incident that occurred years ago, which might not qualify the child for an exam. All services are provided at no cost to clients for as long as services are needed.^{[2] [3]}

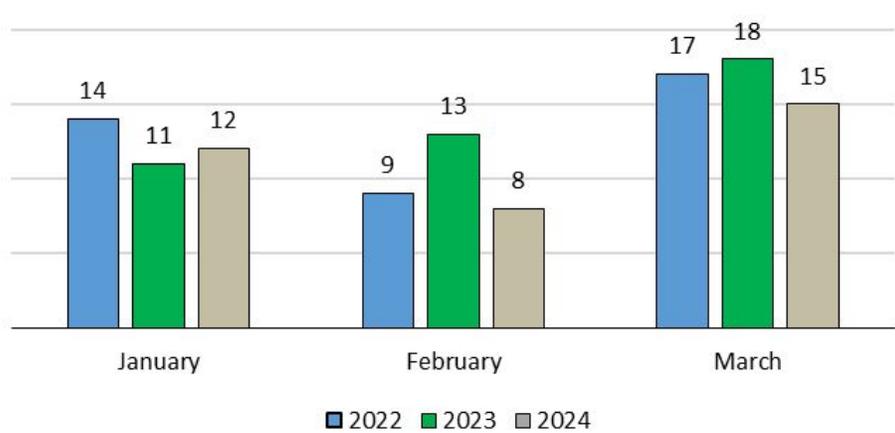
Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews^[3]
January 1 - March 31



Total Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews

Jan 1 - Mar 31			
2022	2023	2024	% Change 2022 to 2024
118	171	97	-17.80%

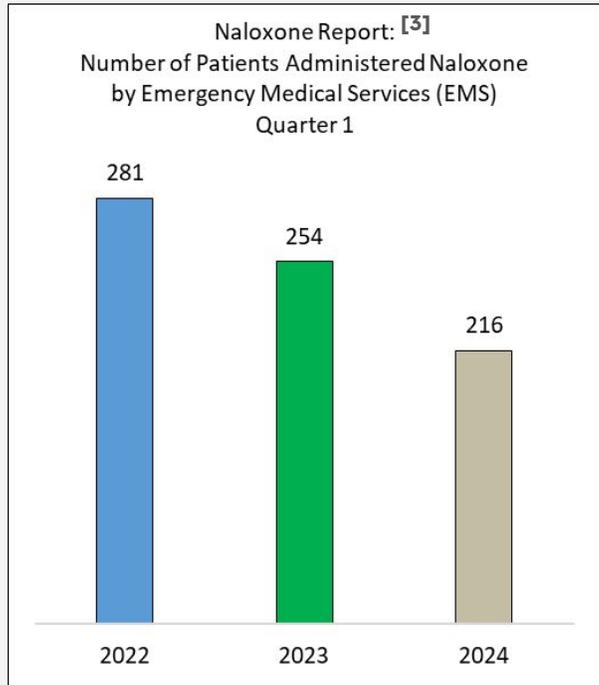
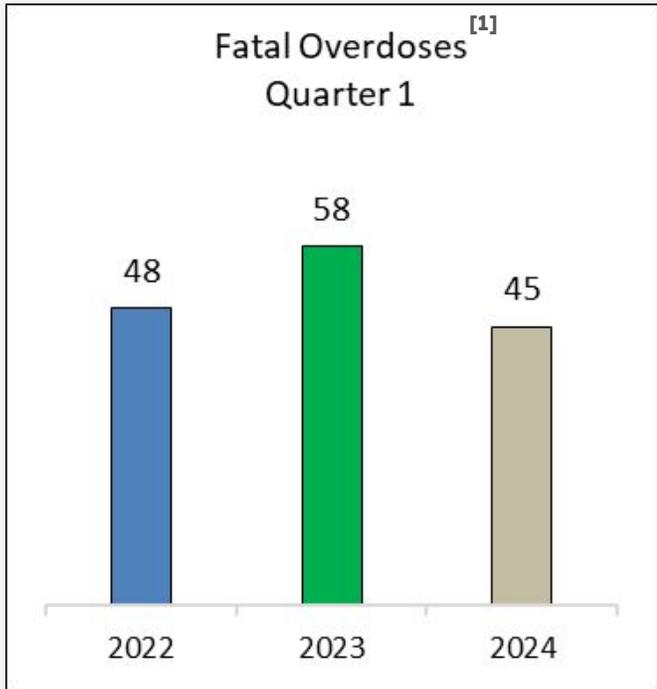
Sexual Abuse Medical Exams of Children
January 1 - March 31



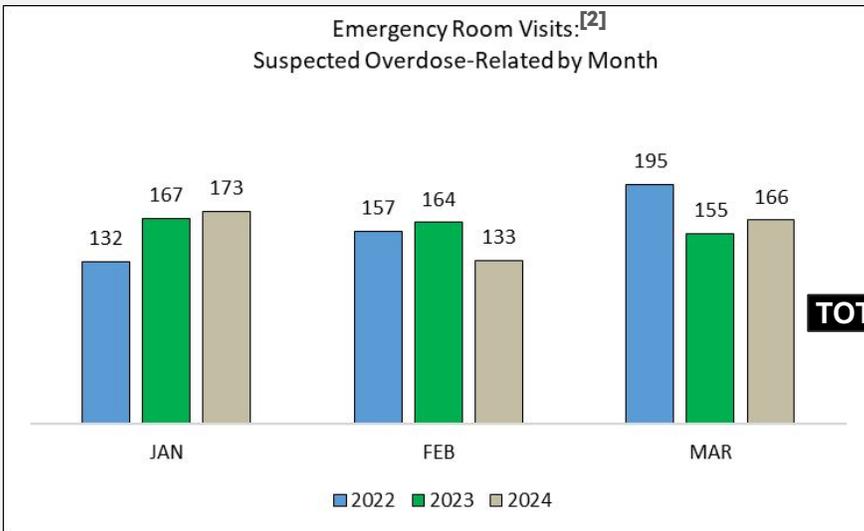
Total Sexual Abuse Exams

Jan 1 - Mar 31			
2022	2023	2024	% Change 2022 to 2024
40	42	35	-12.50%

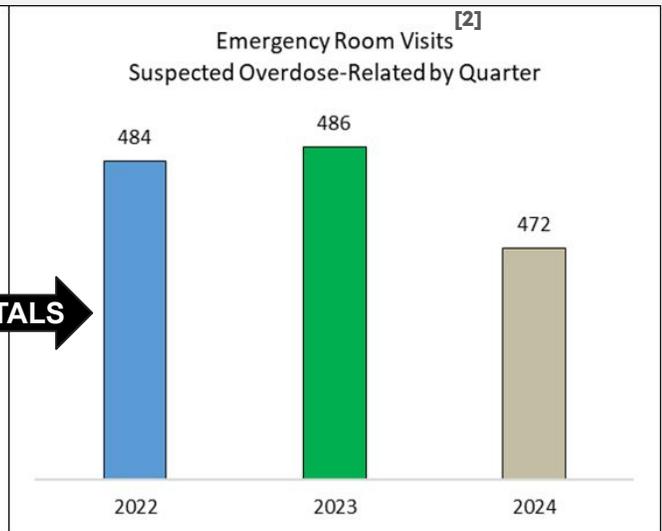
Substance Misuse and Overdose Trends



Fatal overdoses have **decreased by 22.4%** in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter in 2023.



TOTALS →



Innovative Response to Opioids Crisis Update

Since the first Opioid Abatement Settlement payment came to Hamilton County from the State of Tennessee, county leadership has been working diligently, alongside local partners, to identify the best use of the funds. Our efforts includes:

- Helping fund the District Attorney's Office Chief Opioid Prosecutor, whose sole mission is to prosecute dealers of deadly drugs (*see data at the bottom of the page*)
- Hiring a Senior Data Analyst responsible for conducting research, analyzing data on opioid-related incidents, identifying areas of need in the community, and facilitating coordination with key data research partners
- Hiring a Director of Intergovernmental Affairs with more than a decade of mental health and criminal justice experience to further our efforts to combat this deadly epidemic
- Enhancing the Parents as Teachers Program at the Hamilton County Health Department by bringing on a social counselor whose primary responsibility is to provide support services in the homes of parents who suffer from addiction and dependency
- Distributing approximately \$300,000 to community organizations who have shown innovative strategies in fighting the opioid epidemic
- Partnering with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) to plan and implement a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program at the Hamilton County Jail and Detention Center with a goal to transition inmates into recovery courts or other organizations who provide treatment services and support
- Partnering with HCSO to expand the reentry program at the jail to include cosmetology, electrical, welding, and carpentry
- Hosting an Opioid Abatement Summit for key decision makers across East Tennessee sharing effective strategies in deploying resources to fight the opioid crisis
- Initiating planning for an all-new quick response team of first responders and trained emergency professionals to treat overdose victims and connect them with resources for rehabilitation

Prosecution Data ^[4]

- 2nd degree murder cases resulting in convictions: **4 cases**
- Pending 2nd degree murder cases: **13 cases**
- Pending A or B felony drug cases: **66 cases**
- Total drug related and accompanying cases being handled: **109 cases**

Substance Misuse and Overdose Resources

1. [Hamilton County Coalition](#)

The Hamilton County Coalition works to prevent overdose deaths, promote addiction recovery, and reduce underage drinking and tobacco use. They have a number of community partners who stand ready to connect individuals and families with resources, training, and recovery programs to combat the opioid epidemic.

2. [Tennessee REDLINE](#)

Tennessee REDLINE serves as a 24/7/365 referral service to addiction treatment that connects individuals and their families looking for help with substance use disorder. Anyone can call or text 800-889-9789 for confidential referrals. The service is provided by the Tennessee Association for Alcohol, Drug, and other Addiction Services (TAADAS) through a contract with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS).

3. [SAMHSA](#)

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) offers a free, confidential, 24/7/365 treatment referral and information service in English and Spanish for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Anyone can call their national helpline at 1-800-662-4357.

4. [988 Lifeline](#)

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7/365, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for individuals and their loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

5. [Find Help Now](#)

FindHelpNowTN.org features a near real-time treatment opening locator for substance misuse that guides individuals to available treatment opening based on factors such as the type of treatment needed, insurance programs and payment methods, gender identity, in-or-out-patient treatment options, and location. Facilities on the site are asked to update the availability of their residential, in-patient, and out-patient services regularly to ensure the most current information is available.

6. [United Way Chattanooga](#)

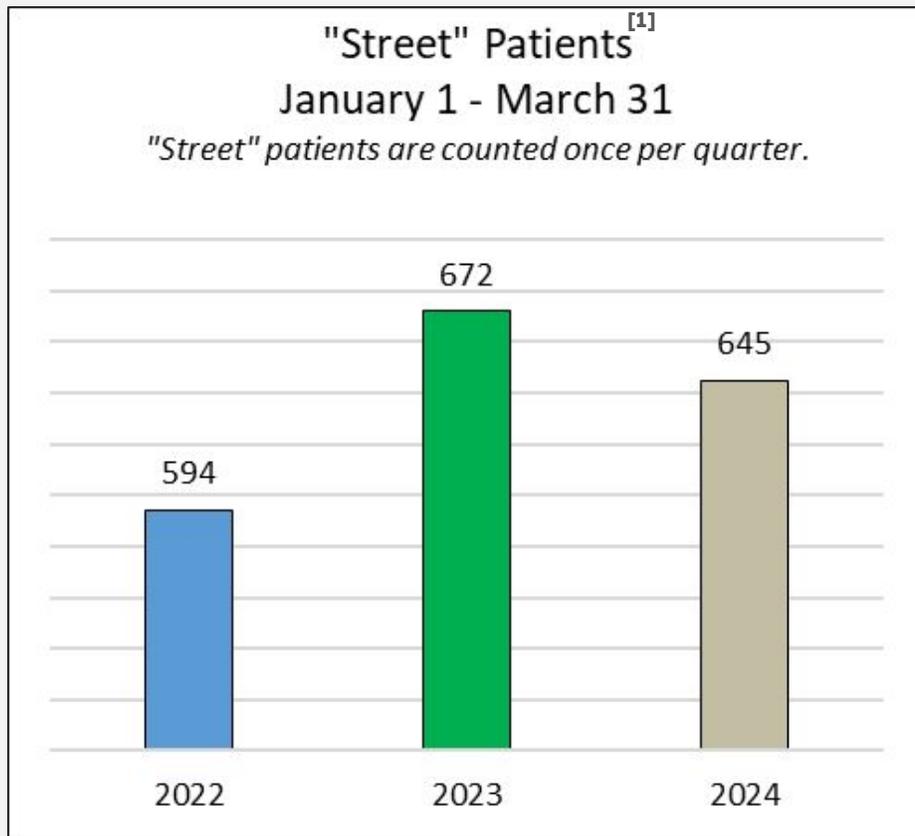
United Way of Greater Chattanooga unites individuals and families with resources allowing people to reach their full potential through education, stability, and health and well-being. Individuals with a 423 area code can call or text 211 for support during a crisis Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Homelessness and Health

All data comes directly from the Hamilton County Homeless Health Care Center.

“Street patients” matches the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) definition of “unsheltered.”

An unsheltered person would meet the requirements to be considered “Category 1 – Literally Homeless.” In general, for purposes of the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, HUD considers individuals and families sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g., abandoned buildings, train stations, or camping grounds) as “unsheltered” homeless.^[2]



TOTAL CLINIC VISITS: Q1 ^[1]		
2022	2023	2024
4,598	4,946	5,046

Important note: The above graph counts visits to the clinic, not the number of patients visiting the clinic. A patient is counted every time they visit the clinic in these numbers.

Social Services



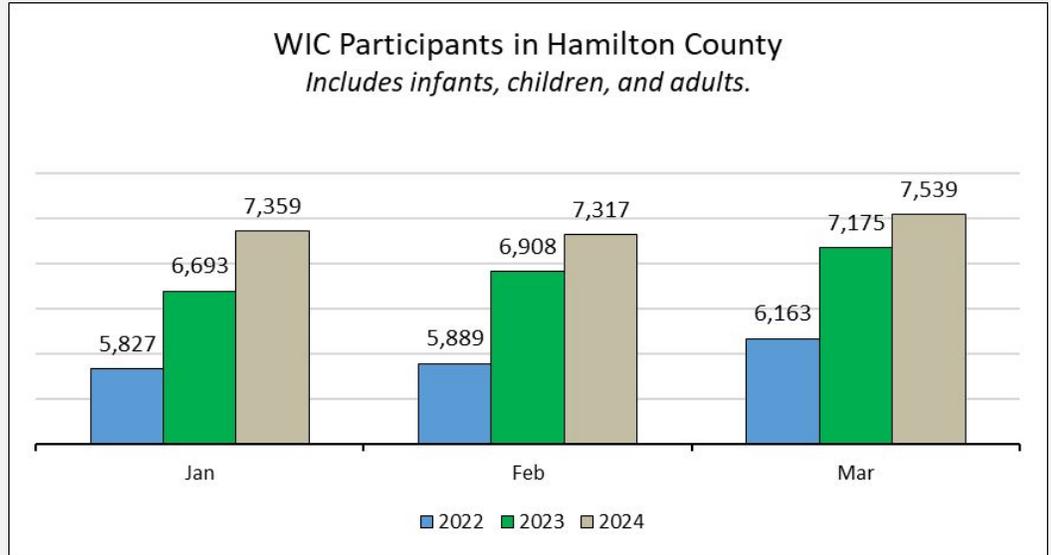
Women, Infants, and Children

The WIC program is funded through the USDA. WIC services are provided through the Tennessee Department of Health in 126 entities across the state, including county health departments, stand-alone clinics, and hospital sites.

The program is designed to provide supplemental food assistance and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children until age five. [1]

First quarter WIC participation has increased 24% since 2022.

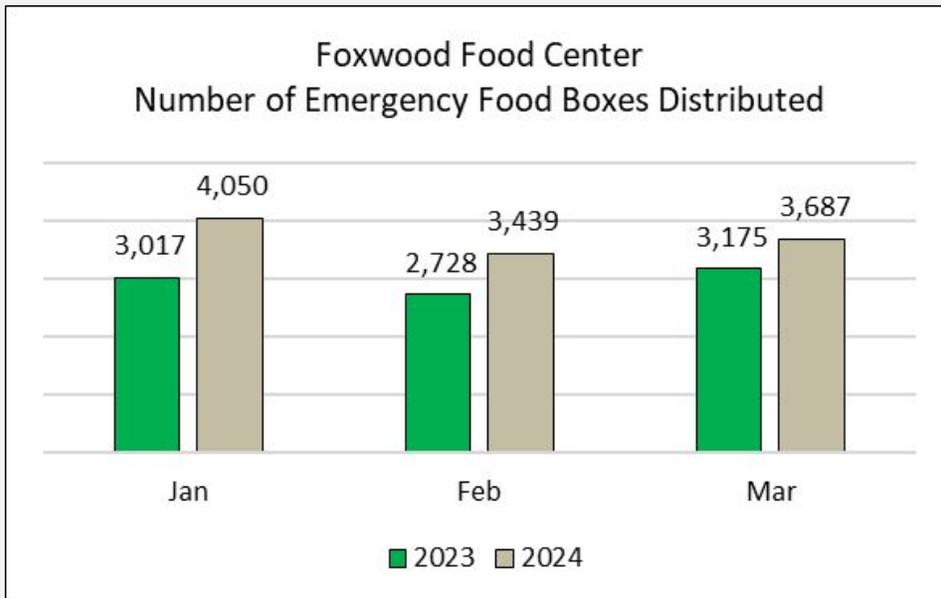
WIC Participants Average Per Quarter			
2022	2023	2024	% Change 2022 to 2024
5,960	6,925	7,405	24.24%



CHATTANOOGA AREA FOOD BANK

The Chattanooga Area Food Bank partners with retailers, manufacturers, farmers, buying alliances and individual donors to end hunger in the region. [2]

Foxwood Food Center is Hamilton County's largest brick and mortar food pantry, and the only one operated by the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.



Total Food Boxes Distributed: Q1		
2023	2024	% Change 2023 to 2024
8,920	11,176	25.29%

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 is provided by the respective Hamilton County municipal agency using their Records Management System. 2024 data is considered "operational" and subject to change as each agency finalizes their data.

* 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 counts, rates, and percent changes.

[4] - Non-fatal shooting incident definition and information can be found here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9187788/>

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.

Sources

[3] - Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Naloxone 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>

[4] - Prosecutor data came directly from the prosecutor's office.

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.

[2] - HUD's definitions and categories of homeless can be found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-1/>

SOCIAL SERVICES

[1] - All WIC data is provided by the Hamilton County Health Department and the TN Department of Health WIC Program.

[2] - All Food Bank data is provided by the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

Table of Contents page McDonald Farm photo by photographer Robin Rudd / Chattanooga Times Free Press and the Tennessee River photo by William Vest and Jay Buchanan.

A Message from Mayor Wamp page photos contributed by Hamilton County Press Secretary, Haley Burton.

Hamilton Counted report created by Senior Data Analyst Jennifer Baggett.