

# Data Brief: Drug Overdose in Knox County, TN

2012-15

Office of Informatics & Analytics



*Numbers count. Every number is a story. Every story is a person.*

## Knox County All Drug Overdose Quick Stats

**153**

Overdose Deaths,  
2015

**961**

Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Outpatient  
Visits, 2015

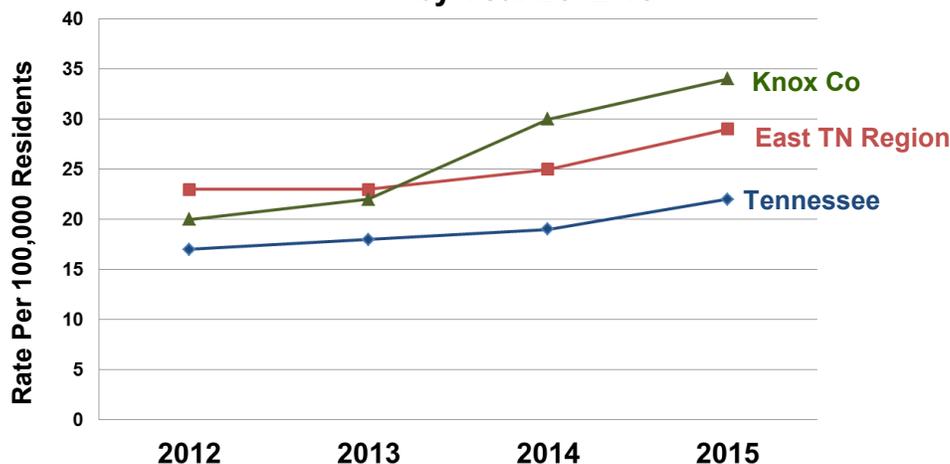
**447**

Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Inpatient  
Stays, 2015

### Deaths from Drug Overdose in Knox County, TN

In 2015, there were 1,451 drug overdose deaths in TN. Since 2012, the drug overdose death rate in Knox County, TN increased by 70%, whereas the rate for TN increased by 29%. Knox County is surrounded by the East TN Region (ETR). Since 2012, the rate for ETR increased by 26%.

**Number of Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 TN Residents, by Year 2012-15**



**East TN Region:** Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union

### Deaths from Opioids in Knox County, TN

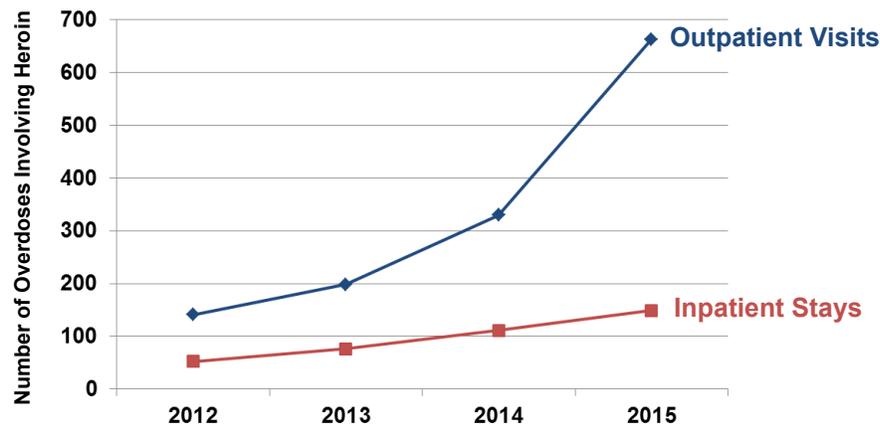
In Knox County, TN, 122 of the 153 recorded drug overdose deaths in 2015 involved an opioid. In all of TN, 72% of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid in 2015.

Knox County, TN Deaths, 2012-15				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose deaths	89	96	133	153
Number of drug overdose deaths involving an opioid	64	75	94	122
Number of drug overdose deaths involving heroin	0	1	7	20

## Nonfatal Drug Overdoses in Tennessee

The numbers of TN nonfatal drug overdoses resulting in outpatient visits and inpatient stays have remained stable from 2012 to 2015. However, nonfatal drug overdoses involving heroin resulting in outpatient visits and inpatient stays have increased. For nonfatal drug overdoses involving heroin, there were nearly five times more outpatient visits and nearly three times more inpatient stays in 2015 than in 2012.

**Number of Outpatient Visits and Inpatient Hospital Stays Involving Heroin, TN, by Year 2012-15**



## Nonfatal Drug Overdoses in Knox County, TN

In Knox County, TN, there were 961 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an outpatient visit in 2015. Of those, 104 involved an opioid (excluding heroin). In Knox County, TN, there were 447 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an inpatient stay in 2015. Of those, 115 involved an opioid (excluding heroin).

**Knox County, TN, Nonfatal Drug Overdoses 2012-15**

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose outpatient visits	918	856	912	961
Number of outpatient visits involving all opioids (excludes heroin)	97	66	78	104
Number of outpatient visits involving heroin	14	15	20	87
Number of all drug overdose inpatient stays	474	430	424	447
Number of inpatient visits involving opioids (excludes heroin)	121	107	110	115
Number of inpatient visits involving heroin	2	3	6	11

### Understanding the Indicators

- An *indicator* is something that points to an issue or a condition. Indicators are best used when comparable over time.
- *Opioids* are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin as well as powerful pain relievers available legally by prescription.
- A *Nonfatal Drug Overdose* is a drug overdose that does not cause death.
- An *Inpatient Stay* is a hospitalization. An *Outpatient Visit* is typically to an emergency department. Patients represented in this data brief are only counted once. If a patient started in the emergency department and then was hospitalized, the patient is counted as an *Inpatient Stay*.
- **Data Source:** Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Policy, Planning, and Assessment. Hospital Discharge and Death Data file (2012-15). Analysis by Tennessee Office of Informatics and Analytics Prescription Drug Overdose Program.