

# Data Brief: Drug Overdose in Polk County, TN

2012-15

Office of Informatics & Analytics



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

## Polk County All Drug Overdose Quick Stats

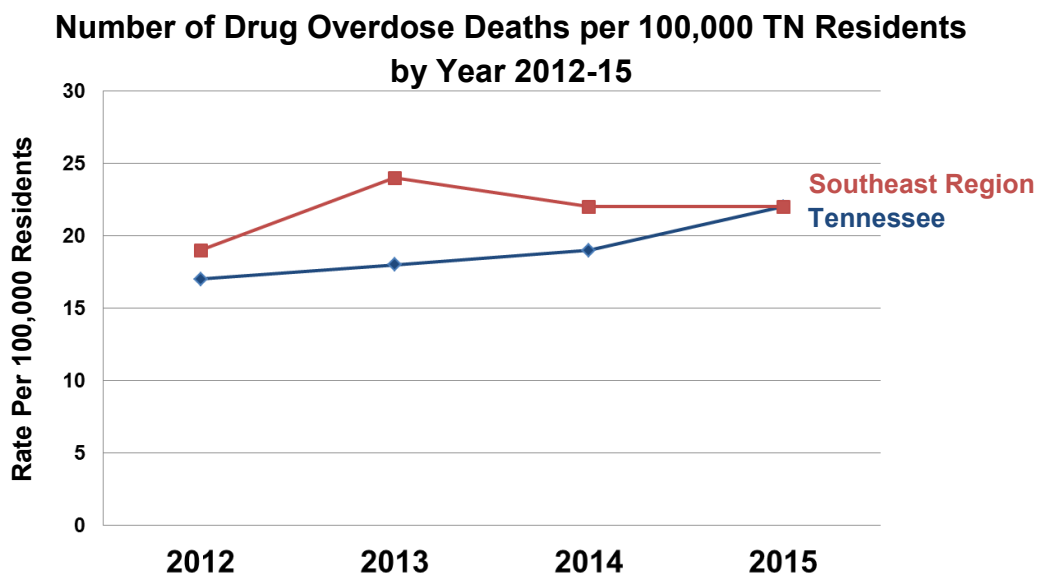
**3**  
Overdose Deaths,  
2015

**27**  
Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Outpatient  
Visits, 2015

**22**  
Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Inpatient  
Stays, 2015

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

In 2015, there were 1,451 drug overdose deaths in TN. Since 2012, the drug overdose death rate in TN increased by 29%. Numbers in this county are too small to calculate a stable rate, so regional rates are provided. Polk County, TN is located in the Southeast Region (SER). Since 2012, the SER drug overdose death rate has fluctuated.



**Southeast Region:** Bledsoe, Bradley, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

### Deaths from Opioids in Polk County, TN

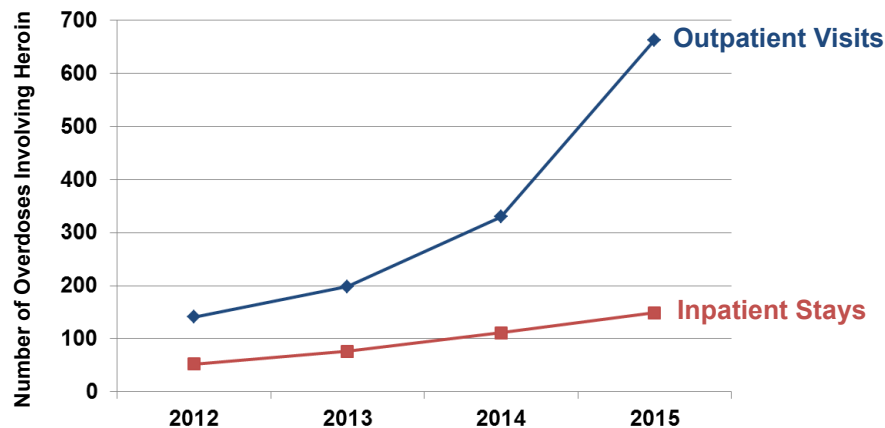
In Polk County, TN, all of the 3 recorded drug overdose deaths in 2015 involved an opioid. In all of TN, 72% of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid in 2015.

Polk County, TN Deaths, 2012-15				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose deaths	2	4	2	3
Number of drug overdose deaths involving an opioid	2	2	2	3
Number of drug overdose deaths involving heroin	0	0	0	0

## 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 Polk County, TN

In Polk County, TN, there were 27 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an outpatient visit in 2015. Of those, 3 involved an opioid (excluding heroin). In Polk County, TN, there were 22 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an inpatient stay in 2015. Of those, 5 involved an opioid (excluding heroin).

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose outpatient visits	41	38	39	27
Number of outpatient visits involving all opioids (excludes heroin)	3	6	5	3
Number of outpatient visits involving heroin	0	0	0	0
Number of all drug overdose inpatient stays	28	24	26	22
Number of inpatient visits involving opioids (excludes heroin)	11	3	6	5
Number of inpatient visits involving heroin	0	0	0	0

### 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.