

# Data Brief: Drug Overdose in Shelby County, TN

2012-15

Office of Informatics & Analytics



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

## Shelby County All Drug Overdose Quick Stats

**188**

Overdose Deaths,  
2015

**1,477**

Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Outpatient  
Visits, 2015

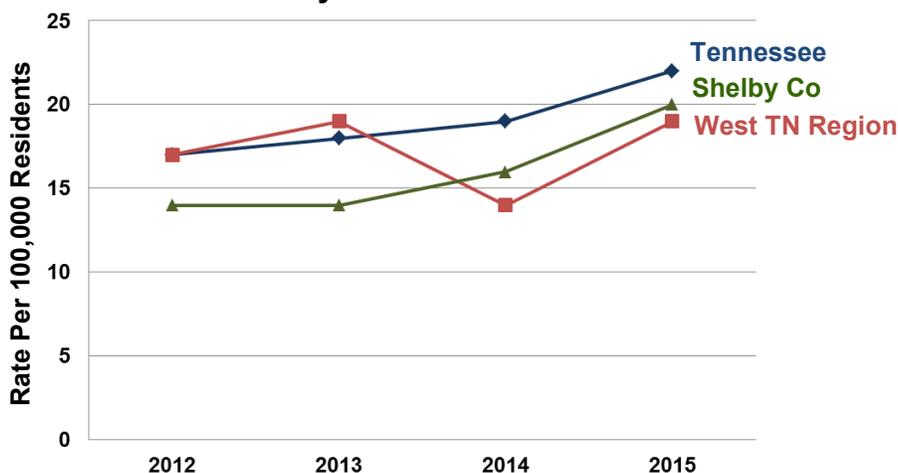
**653**

Nonfatal Drug  
Overdose Inpatient  
Stays, 2015

### Deaths from Drug Overdose in Shelby 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%. Shelby County, TN is located adjacent to the West TN Region (WTR). Since 2012, the WTR drug overdose death rate has fluctuated.

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



**West TN Region:** Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, Weakley

### Deaths from Opioids in Shelby County, TN

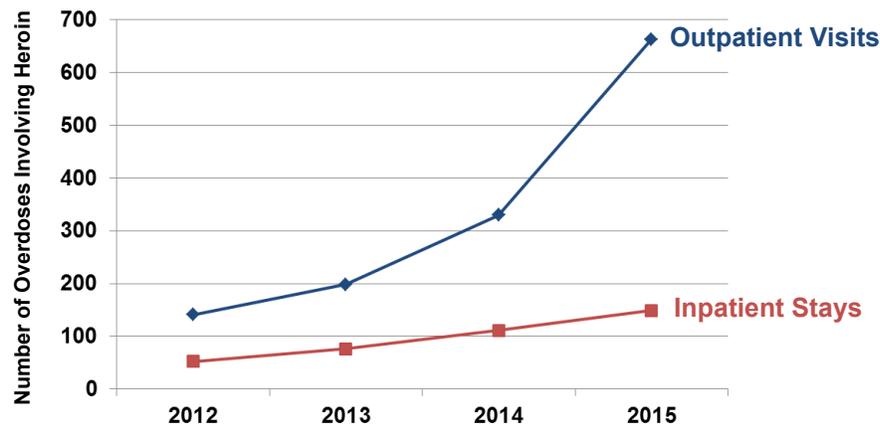
In Shelby County, TN, 135 of the 188 recorded drug overdose deaths in 2015 involved an opioid. In all of TN, 72% of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid in 2015.

Shelby County, TN Deaths, 2012-15				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose deaths	130	136	148	188
Number of drug overdose deaths involving an opioid	79	93	113	135
Number of drug overdose deaths involving heroin	30	36	69	68

## 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 Shelby County, TN

In Shelby County, TN, there were 1,477 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an outpatient visit in 2015. Of those, 112 involved an opioid (excluding heroin). In Shelby County, TN, there were 653 nonfatal drug overdoses that resulted in an inpatient stay in 2015. Of those, 85 involved an opioid (excluding heroin).

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of all drug overdose outpatient visits	1,191	1,287	1,314	1,477
Number of outpatient visits involving all opioids (excludes heroin)	76	75	89	112
Number of outpatient visits involving heroin	47	92	96	174
Number of all drug overdose inpatient stays	685	765	737	653
Number of inpatient visits involving opioids (excludes heroin)	65	90	88	85
Number of inpatient visits involving heroin	22	33	26	42

### 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.