

# HAMILTON / COUNTED

**Accountability Through Data.**





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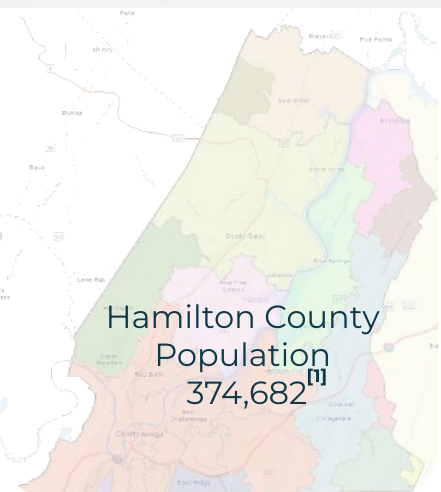
## A Message from Mayor Wamp



**“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 At-A-Glance



The following data is not a complete picture of crime in Hamilton County, but is intended to provide a general insight into the current state of crime areas served by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the Chattanooga Police Department.

Future Hamilton Counted reports will include crime data from additional municipalities in Hamilton County.

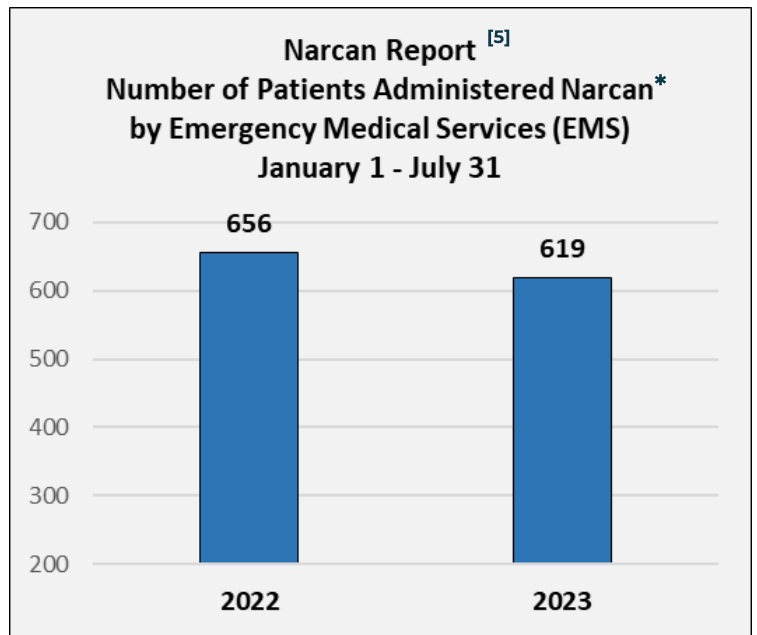
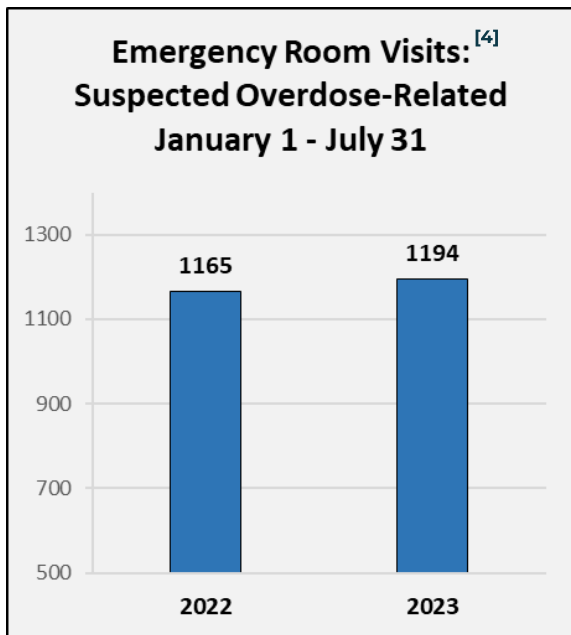
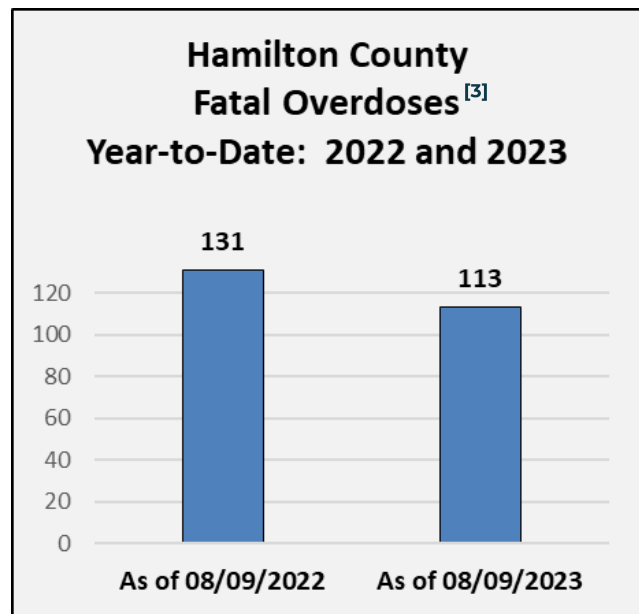
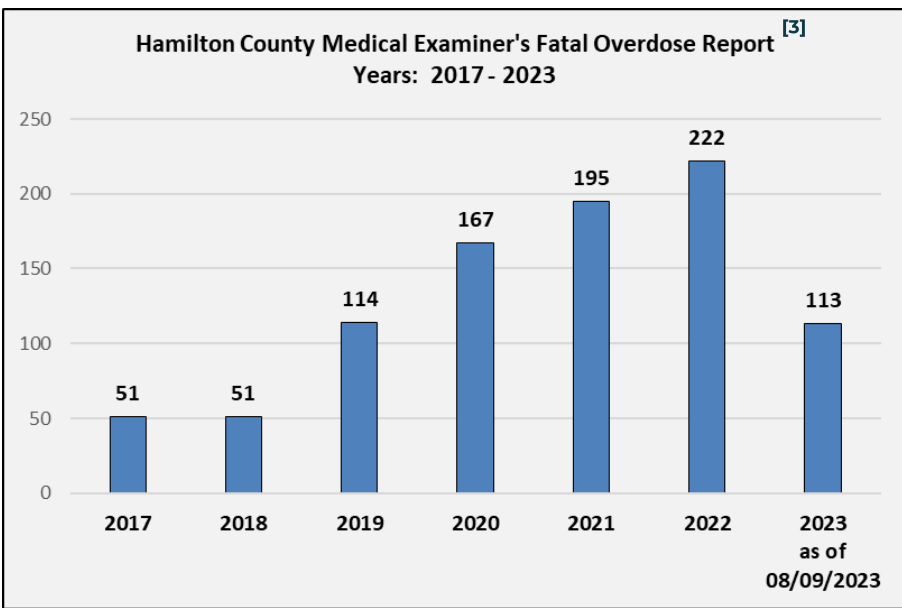
## Year-Over-Year Crime in Our Community <sup>[2]</sup>

| JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30:<br>2022 and 2023 | Hamilton County Sheriff's Office |      |          | Chattanooga Police Department |      |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|----------|-------------------------------|------|----------|
|                                       | 2022                             | 2023 | % CHANGE | 2022                          | 2023 | % CHANGE |
| <b>CRIME*</b>                         |                                  |      |          |                               |      |          |
| MURDER                                | 2                                | 0    | -100.00% | 11                            | 12   | 9.09%    |
| RAPE                                  | 24                               | 10   | -58.33%  | 61                            | 66   | 8.20%    |
| ROBBERY                               | 4                                | 6    | 50.00%   | 133                           | 95   | -28.57%  |
| AGGRAVATED ASSAULT                    | 93                               | 105  | 12.90%   | 692                           | 696  | 0.58%    |
| BURGLARY                              | 111                              | 84   | -24.32%  | 575                           | 466  | -18.96%  |
| AUTO BURGLARY                         | 111                              | 99   | -10.81%  | 1592                          | 1057 | -33.61%  |
| AUTO THEFT                            | 67                               | 63   | -5.97%   | 722                           | 526  | -27.15%  |

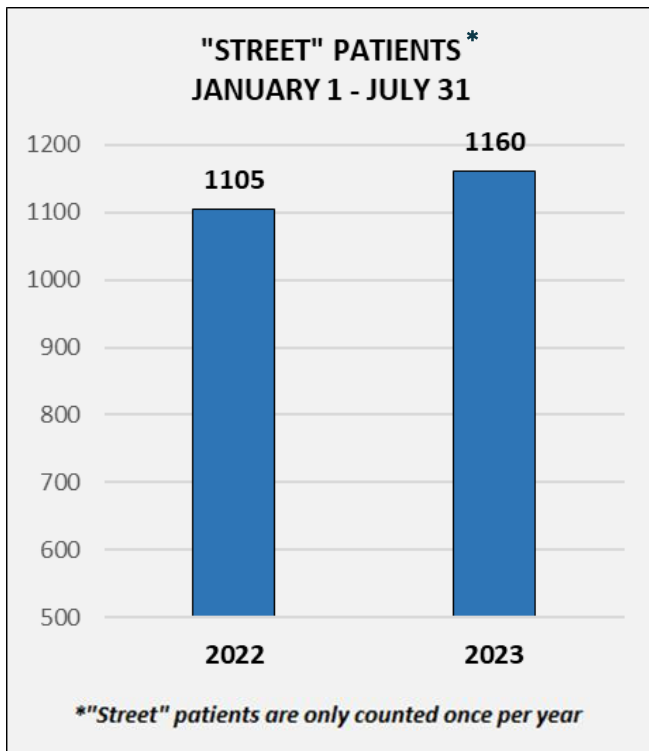
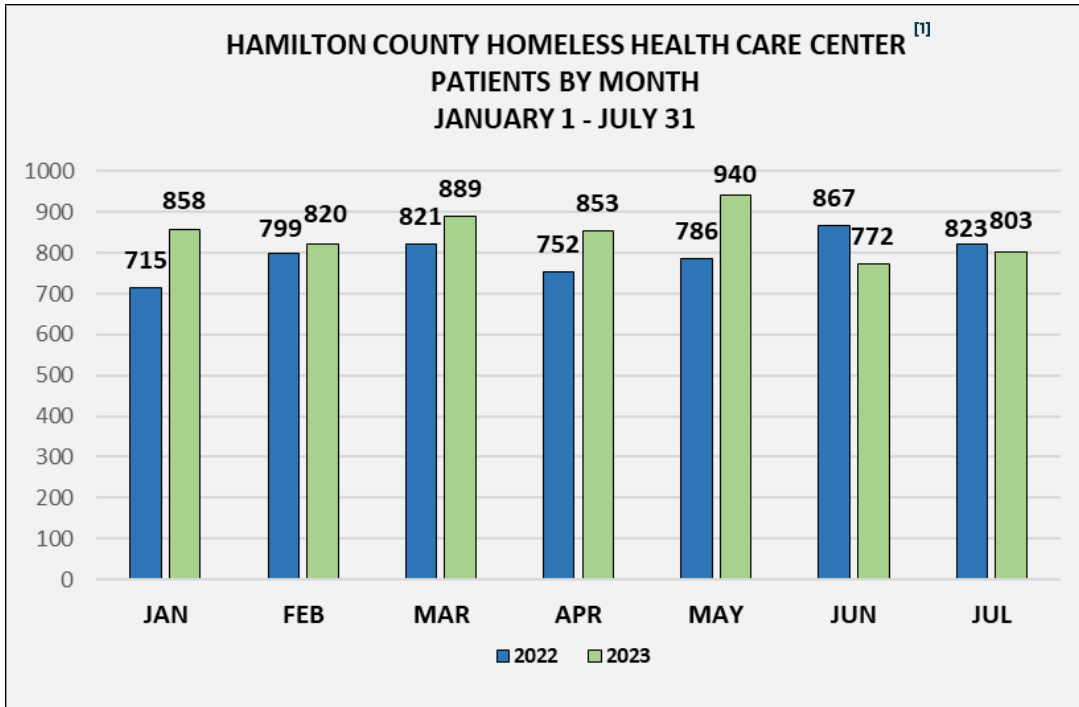
# Substance Misuse and Overdoses Trends

In 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly established the Opioid Abatement Fund and the Opioid Abatement Council to manage funds from opioid lawsuit settlements to Tennessee counties. These funds allocated to counties must be spent on opioid abatement and remediation purposes. Direct disbursements to counties are still being determined as settlements continue to finalize. Hamilton County expects to receive significant both restricted and unrestricted funds annually for more than a decade. The Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council is expected to open applications for community organizations to apply for funds in the fall of 2023.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Fentanyl remains the driver in overdose deaths.** In 2022, Fentanyl was listed as the cause of death in 73% of the total number of suspected drug-related deaths in Hamilton County, compared to 71% in 2021.<sup>[2]</sup>



# Homelessness and Health



| <b>CUMULATIVE PATIENTS <sup>[1]</sup></b>                  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>JAN 1 - JULY 31</b>                                     |              |
| <b>2022</b>  | <b>2023</b>  |
| <b>2,848</b>   | <b>2,908</b> |
| <b>2.1% increase</b>                                       |              |
| <i>*Cumulative patients are only counted once per year</i> |              |

# Sources

## CRIME AT-A-GLANCE

[1] - Population is a current estimate from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/hamiltoncountytennessee>

[2]- Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Chattanooga Police Department data provided by their Crime Analysis Units using their Records Management System. 2023 data is considered "operational" and subject to change.

\* Definitions of Crimes:

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>

## SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND OVERDOSES

[1] - Information on the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council and Fund can be found here:

<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/news/2023/2/24/tennessee-s-opioid-abatement-council-announces-first-round-of-direct-payments-to-county-governments.html>

and here:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/mentalhealth/documents/OAC\\_2023\\_County\\_Funding.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/mentalhealth/documents/OAC_2023_County_Funding.pdf)

[2] - Fentanyl data provided by the Hamilton County Health Department's Epidemiologists. You can find their 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.

Includes suspected and acute overdoses and suspected deaths resulting from chronic drug abuse.

[3] - 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.

# Sources

## **SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND OVERDOSES CONTINUED**

**[4]** - 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.

**[5]** - 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<sup>®</sup>), hydrocodone (Vicodin<sup>®</sup>), 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>

## **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*