



Rutherford County Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
Narcotics Unit

Current Drug Trends



What drugs do we find in Rutherford County?



You name it, we have it in our community...

- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Marijuana
- LSD & Psilocybin
- Pharmaceuticals
- MDMA - Ecstasy, "Molly"
- Synthetics
- Methamphetamine





Heroin



Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant. Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder or as a black sticky substance, known as “black tar heroin.”





How is Heroin used?



- Heroin can be injected, inhaled by snorting or sniffing, or smoked.
- All three routes of administration deliver the drug to the brain very rapidly, which contributes to its health risks and to its high risk for addiction, which is a chronic relapsing disease caused by changes in the brain and characterized by uncontrollable drug-seeking no matter the consequences.
- When it enters the brain, heroin is converted back into morphine, which binds to molecules on cells known as opioid receptors.



Why?



The heroin surge can be traced to the rise of prescription painkillers such as OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet. The drugs are heroin's chemical sibling — containing compounds derived from or similar to opium.





Why?



Mexican drug dealers met the new demand with cheap heroin and made it so that customers didn't have to risk their safety or reputation by being seen going to street corners to get it. Mexican heroin, which dominates the American market, sells for \$4 to \$10-\$30 a dose compared with \$40 to \$80 for an 80-milligram pain pill.

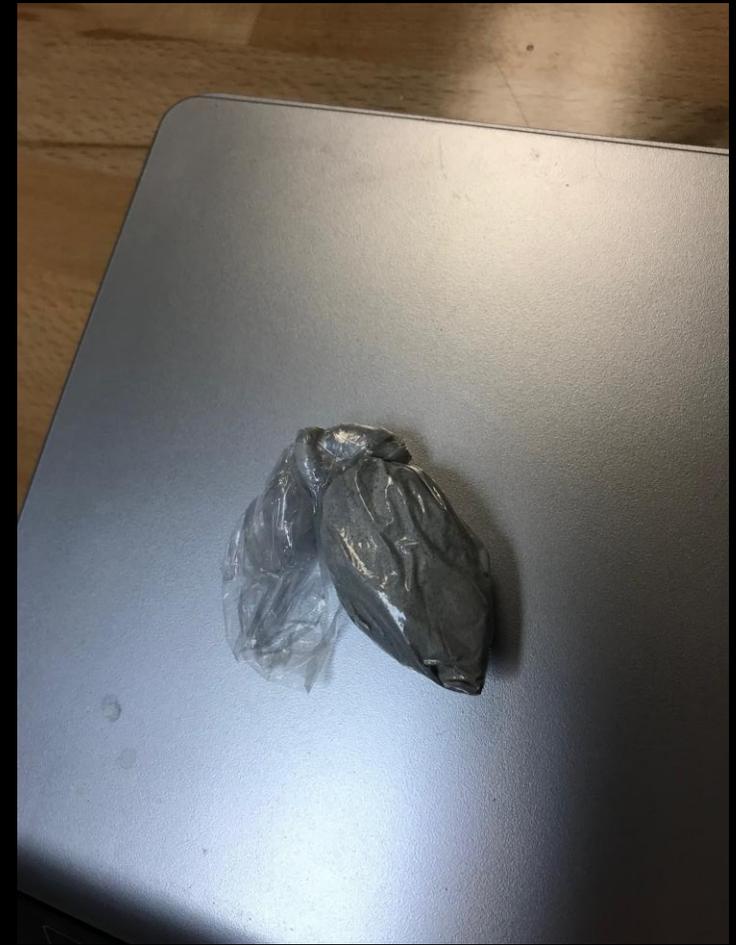
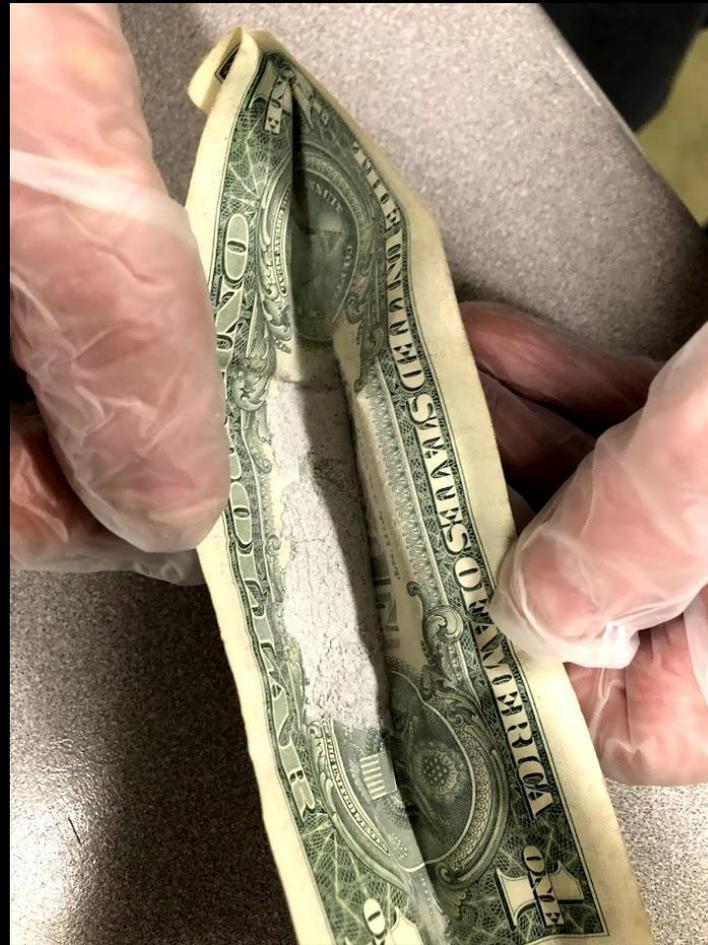


Heroin



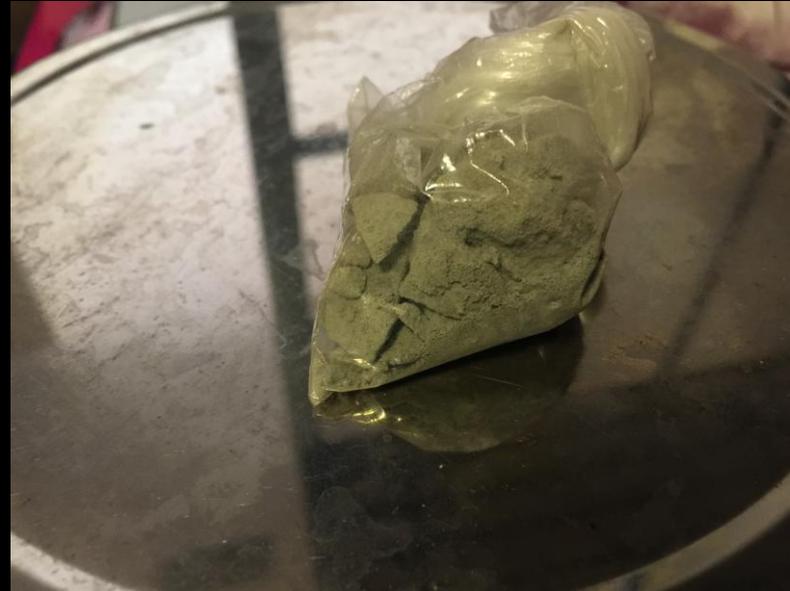


Heroin / Fentanyl





Heroin / Fentanyl





Fentanyl



- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin.
- Fentanyl was historically added to heroin to increase its potency, or be disguised as highly potent heroin. Now the main trend is people are seeking pure fentanyl over heroin.



Fentanyl



- Clandestinely-produced fentanyl is primarily manufactured in Mexico.
- Pharmaceutical grade fentanyl is usually imported from Asia and trafficked across the southern boarder.



Signs and Symptoms of Heroin/Fentanyl Use



- Dry Mouth
- Flushed Skin
- Constricted Pupils
- Fading In and Out of Wakefulness
- May Nod Off Suddenly
- Slowed Breathing (Overdose)
- Unclear Thinking
- Deteriorated Decision Making
- Itching
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Skin Infections
- Low Immunity to Illness
- Suppressed Pain
- Spontaneous Abortion in Pregnant Women





Things To Look For:



- Powdery or Crumbly Substance (can be white, grey or brown)
- Black Sticky Tar Like Substance
- Syringes
- Small Glass or Metal Pipes
- Belts or Tubing
- Aluminum Foil With Burn Marks
- Spoons With Residue and Burn Marks
- Many Users Will Wear Long Sleeves, etc. to Conceal Needle Marks





What do the pupils
tell us? - Heroin



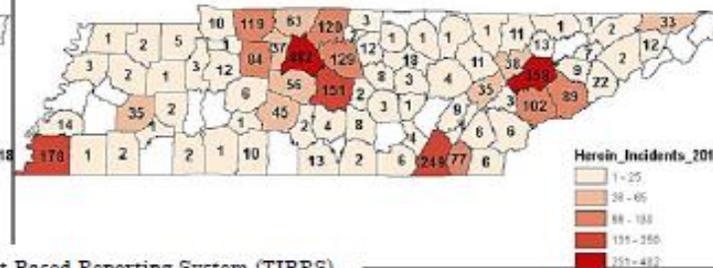
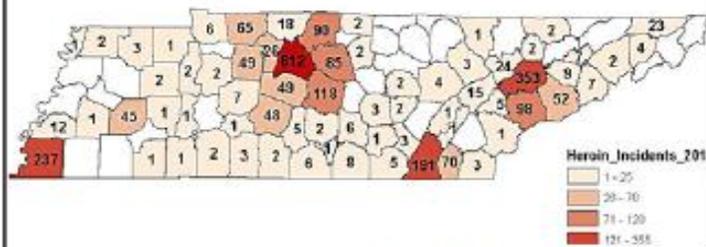
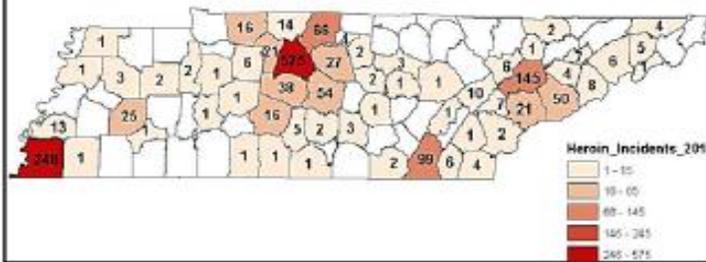
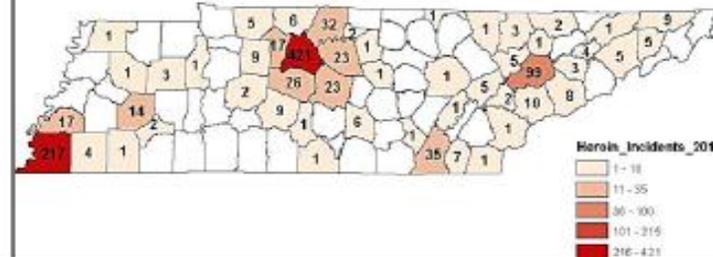
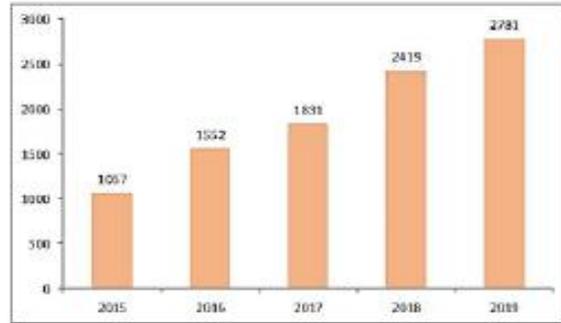
Heroin use will cause constriction of the pupils





TENNESSEE DRUG TRENDS – HEROIN

Heroin Incidents per County 2015 - 2019



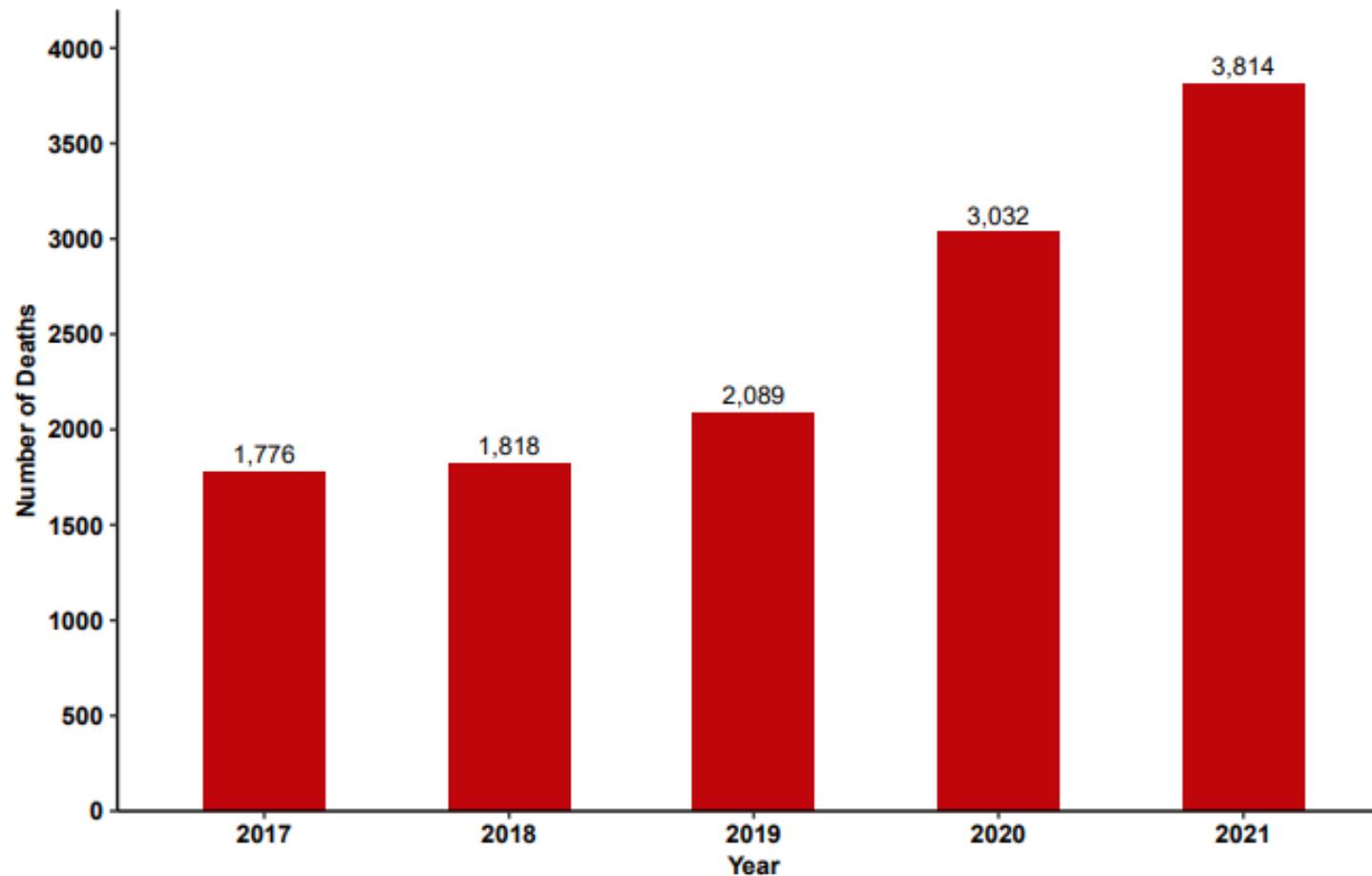
Data Source: Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS)



Overdose Deaths

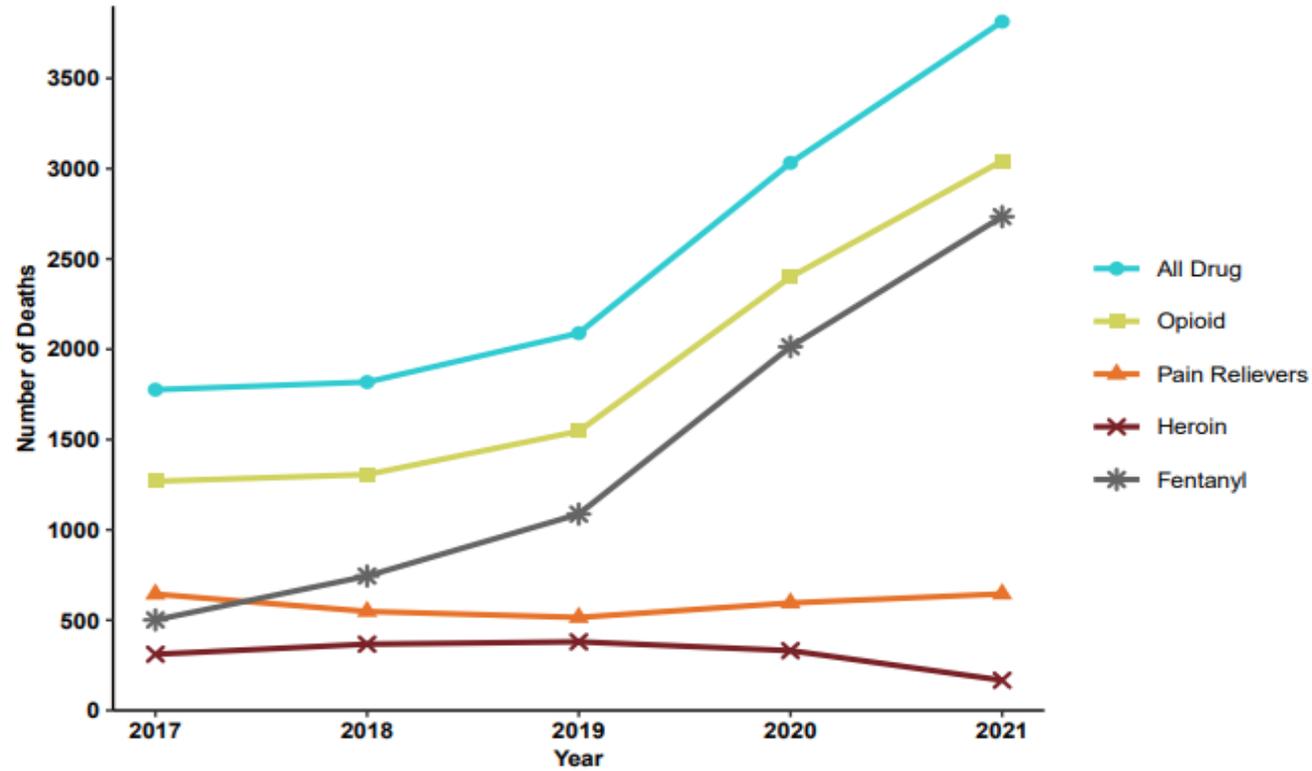


Drug Overdose Deaths in TN, 2017-2021





Number of Overdose Deaths by Drug Type in TN, 2017-2021

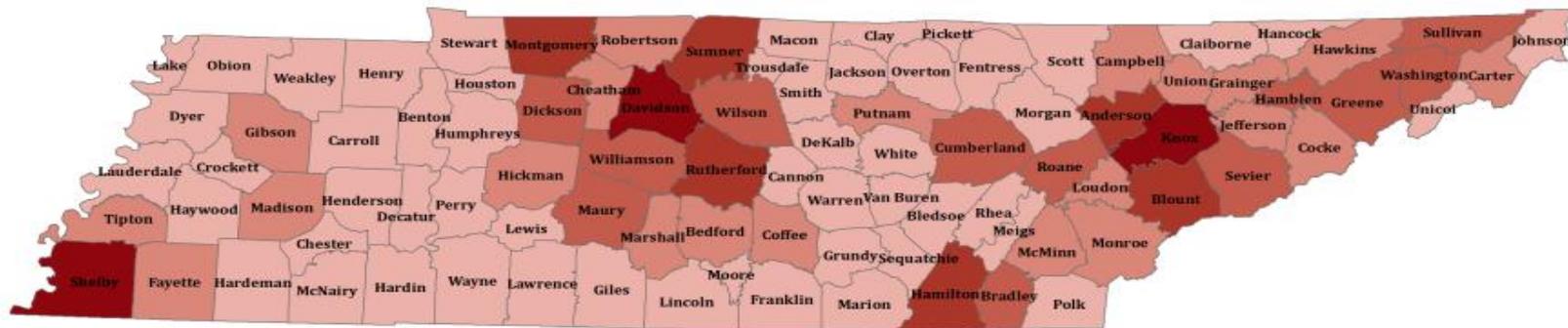


Analysis by the Office of Informatics and Analytics, TDH (last updated October 27, 2022). Limited to TN residents.
Data Source: TN Death Statistical File.

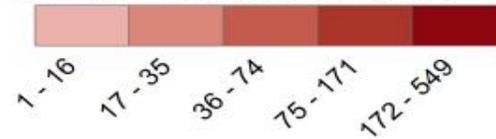
Number of Overdose Deaths in TN by Drug Type					
Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All Drug	1,776	1,818	2,089	3,032	3,814
Opioid	1,269	1,306	1,546	2,400	3,043
Pain Relievers	644	548	515	595	645
Heroin	311	367	380	331	167
Fentanyl	501	744	1,087	2,014	2,734



Map: 2021 All Drug Overdose Deaths in TN Counties



Number of overdose deaths

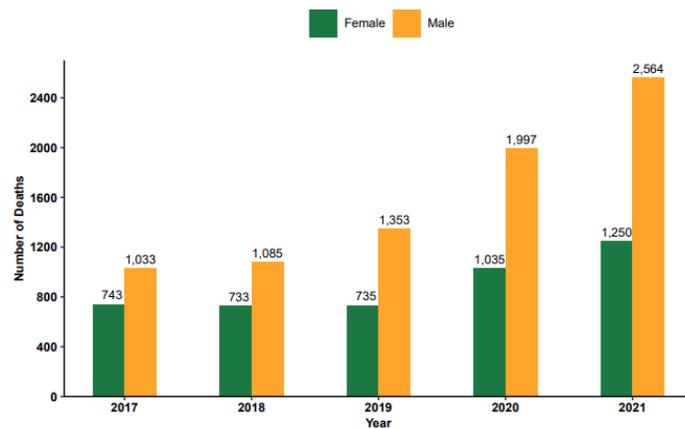




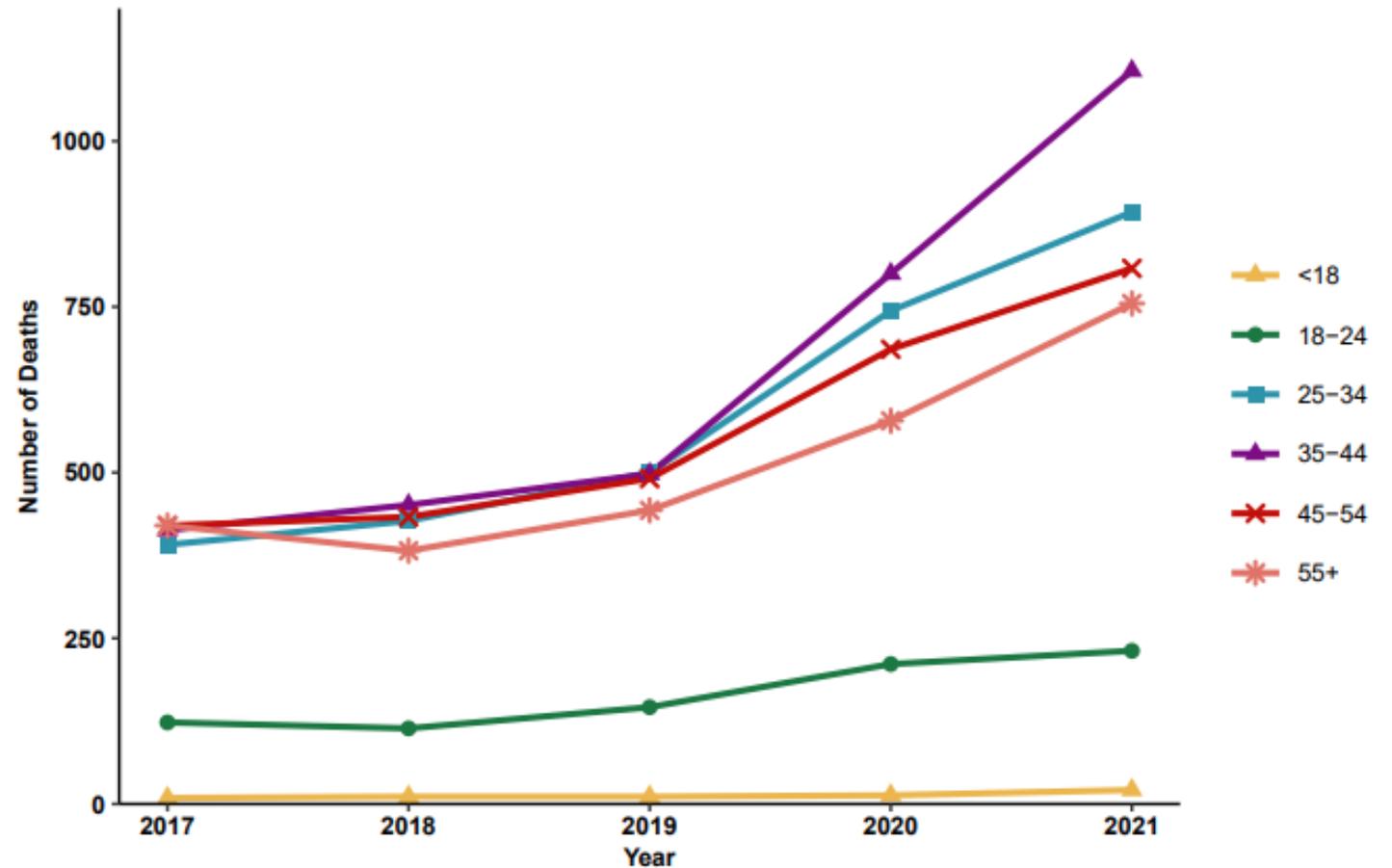
Overdose Demographics



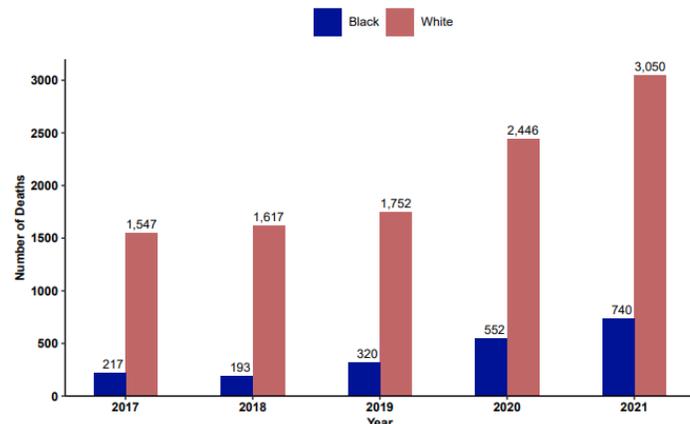
Number of All Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex in TN, 2017-2021



Number of All Drug Overdose Deaths by Age in TN, 2017-2021



Number of All Drug Overdose Deaths by Race in TN, 2017-2021





Opiate Withdrawal Times & What to Expect



Drug	Dose	Withdrawal Onset	Withdrawal Peak	Withdrawal Ends
Fentanyl	.01 mg	3-5 hours	5-12 hours	4-5 days
Oxycodone	1.5 mg	8-12 hours	36-72 hours	7-10 days
Heroin	1-2 mg	8-12 hours	36-72 hours	7-10 days
Morphine	3-4 mg	8-12 hours	36-72 hours	7-10 days
Hydrocodone	.5mg	8-12 hours	36-72 hours	7-10 days
Methodone	n/a	36-72 hours	96-144 hours	14-21 days



Lethal Dose Exercise Fentanyl - Cut 8 Times



- 1000 mg per gram
- $\frac{1}{2}$ - 500 mg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ - 250 mg
- $\frac{1}{8}$ - 125 mg
- $\frac{1}{16}$ - 62.5 mg
- 31.25 mg
- 15.6 mg
- 7.8 mg
- 3.9 mg
- 1.95 mg – Lethal Dose of Fentanyl











Synthetic Opioids





Synthetic Opioids





Xanax (Benzodiazepine)



Xanax (alprazolam) 2 mg



Xanax (alprazolam) 0.25 mg



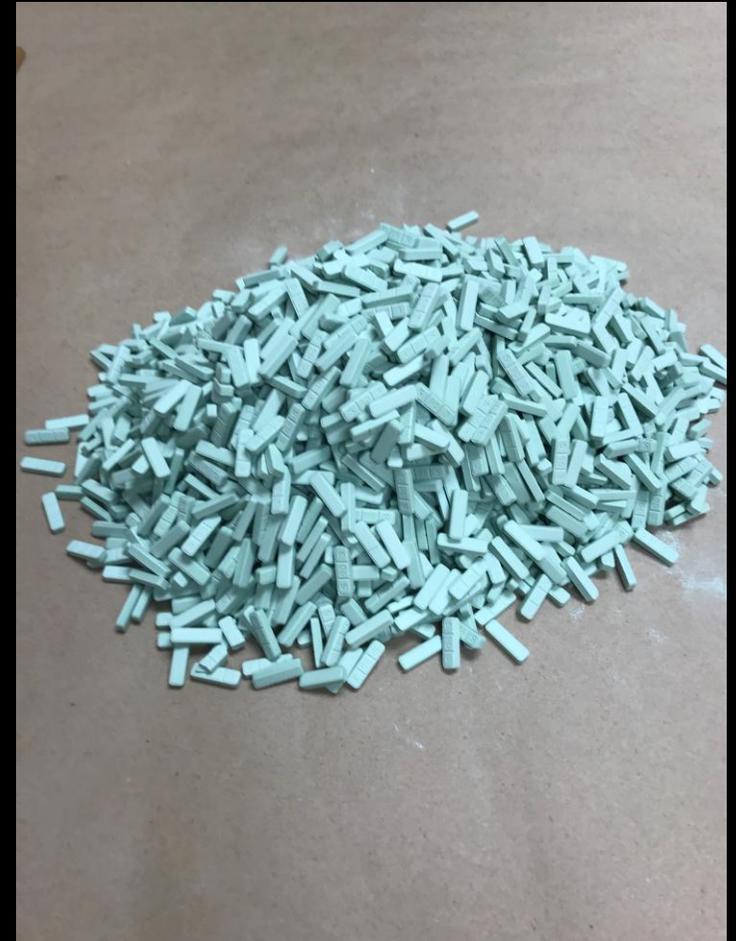
Xanax (alprazolam) 0.5 mg



Xanax (alprazolam) 1 mg



Xanax (Benzodiazapine)





Marijuana



The legalization movement continues throughout the United States, but Marijuana remains illegal in Tennessee.

Marijuana encountered in Rutherford County is typically one of three varieties;

- 1) High Quality Hydroponically grown Commonly called “Hydro” or
- 2) Compressed lower quality which is commonly called “Brick” or “Reg” (regular).
- 3) Homegrown – typically found growing outdoors

The high quality Marijuana typically comes from legal source areas such as California, Colorado or Canada.



Marijuana



- Some locally grown, but typically imported from source areas such as California, Colorado, Mexico and Canada.
- Shipped via Commercial Carriers – FedEx, UPS, etc.
- Driven in third party vendor carriers secreted in cover loads.
- Driven in POV's or moving trucks.
- Payment made via bank deposits, money shipments.







THC Edibles





THC Vapes





Hemp

HEMP vs MARIJUANA

HEMP AND MARIJUANA BOTH DERIVE FROM THE CANNABIS SATIVA FAMILY, THEY DO SHARE CERTAIN SIMILARITIES, HOWEVER, DUE TO EACH PLANT'S BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURE, THEY HAVE SEVERAL VERY DISTINCT AND CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES.



HEMP

Product

- CBD oil
- Hemp oil
- Cannabis oil (made from hemp)

Contains

- 0.3 % or less of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

Characteristic

- Hemp and industry hemp refer to the strain of cannabis plant that is grown for agricultural products such as textiles, seeds and oils.
- Can grow in most climates, bunched together with other plants, requires little care.
- Can grow as high as 20 feet with leaves bunched near the top of stem.
- No psychoactive properties



MARIJUANA

Product

- THC oil
- Marijuana oil
- Cannabis oil (made from marijuana)

Contains

- 15 - 20 % of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

Characteristic

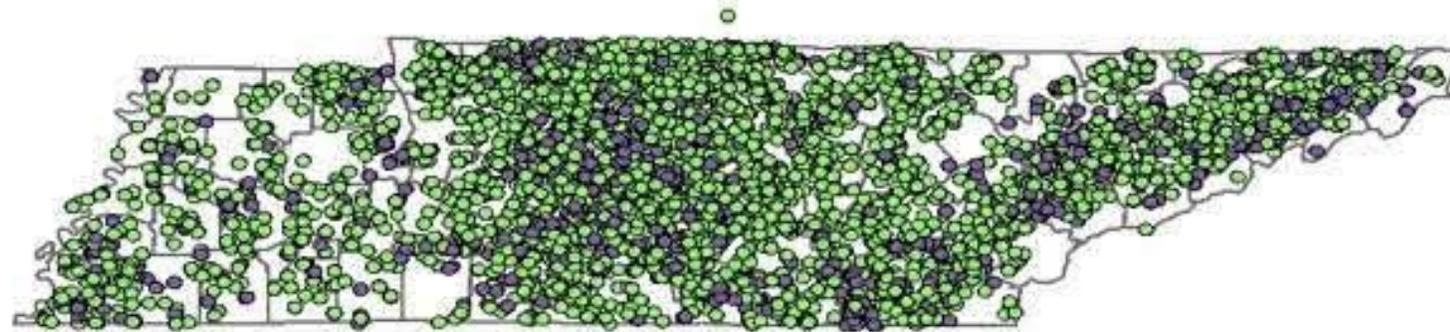
- Marijuana is known for its flowering tops of the plant. The flowers are typically bred to have a high THC.
- Growth is carefully monitored, controlled in an isolated, warm, humid area to maximize psychoactive uses. Cross-pollination can ruin THC content.
- Shorter, resembles a bush, with more leaves and buds surrounding the plant's body
- Psychoactive side effects.



Hemp



April 2020 Hemp Growing Areas



Growing Area Type

-
- Indoor
- Indoor/outdoor
- Outdoor
- Outdoor/indoor



Methamphetamine



- A highly addictive synthetic substance that produces euphoric effects that can last up to 24hrs.
- Generally appears to be a crystal like substance that will be clear or white depending on how it was processed. Sometimes lower quality meth can have tints of other colors.
- Can be crushed up into a powder and appear like salt, or in larger chunks of crystals.



Methamphetamine



- Methamphetamine can be snorted, ingested orally, smoked, or injected. Injection is typically the most immediate and intense rush and preferred by heavy users.
- Ingesting it causes an overload of dopamine in the brain.
- Short term effects can be increased wakefulness, rapid breathing, rapid heartbeat, increase blood pressure and body temperature, erratic behavior.



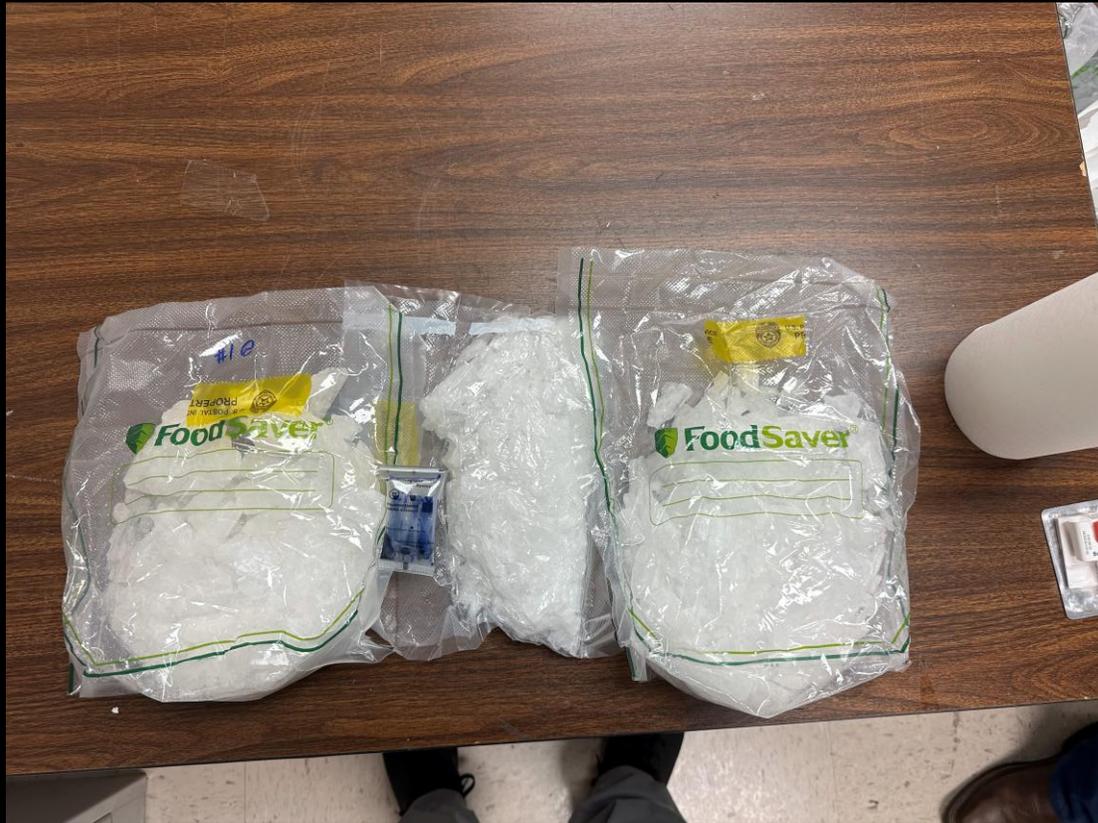
Methamphetamine



- Methamphetamine is typically trafficked into middle Tennessee from Mexico where it is produced in “mega labs”. These labs produce thousands of pounds of methamphetamine at a time.



Methamphetamine





Psilocybin



- Psilocybin aka Shrooms produce hallucinogenic effects.
- Can produce intense “trips” and seeing things that are not there.
- This can cause individuals to become unpredictable and dangerous due to their altered view of reality.
- Historically these were typically eaten raw or soaked in a tea. Recently psilocybin infused chocolate bars have become popular.



Psilocybin



- These chocolate bars typically cost between \$15-30 dollars per bar.
- These have become popular because it eliminates the unpleasant taste but produces a concentrated effect.
- These have been found in our schools in Rutherford County.



Psilocybin

