

***Everyone needs to know that:***



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# Objectives

- Review the class of drugs called opioids
- Discuss the opioid epidemic's impact on Shelby County
- Review what fentanyl is and why it is dangerous
- How one pill can kill
- The harmful effects of stigma





## Opioids:

- Are a class of drugs used to reduce pain by working on the nervous system to
- Some **opioids come from** the opium poppy plant. Others are made in laboratories
- **Prescription opioids** include morphine, codeine, Lortab, Vicodin, methadone, Percocet, OxyContin.
- **Illegal opioids** include heroin
- **Fentanyl** can be prescribed by doctors but is also often use illegally.



***Have you ever seen someone overdose  
from opioids?***



# What is Naloxone (Narcan)?

**Naloxone is an opioid antagonist- it binds to the same receptors in our brain as opioids, blocking the opioids from binding to the receptor sites!**

- ✓ Naloxone rapidly reverses opioid overdose effects, including respiratory depression
- ✓ It reverses an opioid overdose
- ✓ Instantly brings on withdrawal
- ✓ Only works for opioid related overdose
- ✓ Can be obtained from pharmacies
- ✓ Training can be provided locally to administer



The Tennessee Department of Health has labeled Shelby County as a **high-impact area, with opioid overdoses accounting for more deaths** than fatal car accidents in 2017, according to the Shelby County Health Department.

**In 2018, there were 854 opioid-related emergency visits in the county, and in 2020, there were 416 overdose-related deaths, an increase of 22% since 2019.**

## [Opioid Use](#)

# Opinion | The opioid epidemic in Shelby County is clearly a public health crisis | Otis Sanford

[Opinion | The opioid epidemic in Shelby County is clearly a public health crisis | Otis Sanford \(msn.com\)](#)





# SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Opioid Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Shelby County Residents– Weekly Report

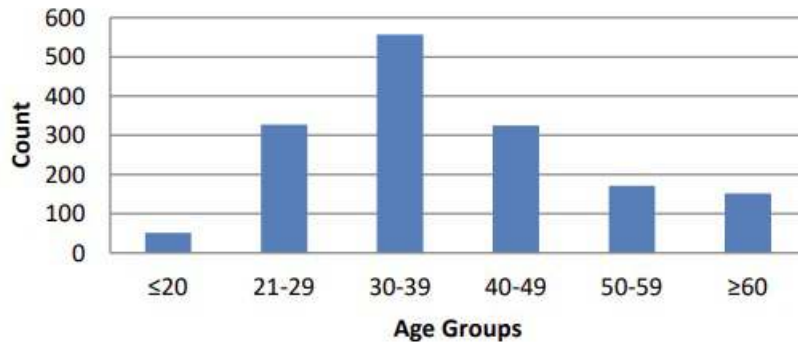
**MMWR Week 40 (Oct 2–8):** ED Visit Count: **34**

Reported Suspect Drug Overdoses: **37**

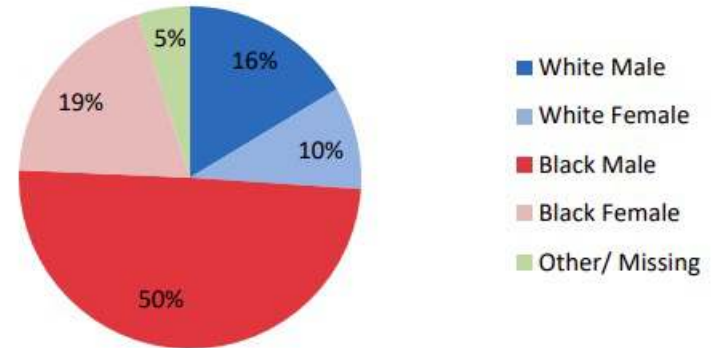
**2022 YTD :** ED Visit Count: **1,598**

Reported Suspect Drug Overdoses: **1,985**

**Opioid Related ED Visits by Age Group  
Year to Date 2022**



**Opioid Related ED Visits by Race & Sex  
Year to Date 2022**

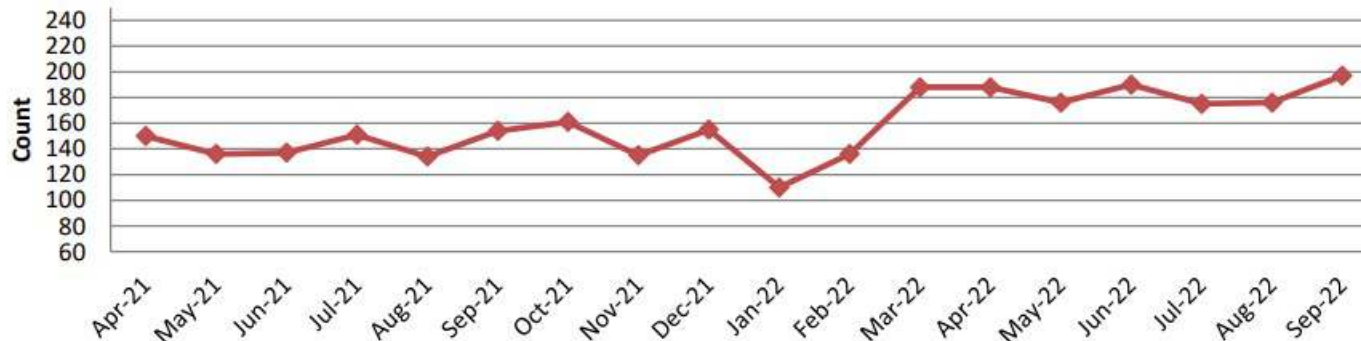


**Average Age:** 39.2

**Median Age:** 36

**Most Common Age (Mode):** 35

**Opioid Related ED Visits by Month  
18-Month Year to Date 2021-2022**



*Data Notes:* Data is retrieved from ESSENCE-TN. 11 of the 12 Shelby County hospitals with emergency departments submit data to ESSENCE-TN.

The data represents any emergency department encounter for Shelby County residents with the term "heroin, opioid, opiate, or fentanyl" listed as a chief complaint. The data also represents any encounter with an ICD-10 code designated for heroin and opioids.

Currently all reporting hospitals in Shelby County submit ICD-10 codes.

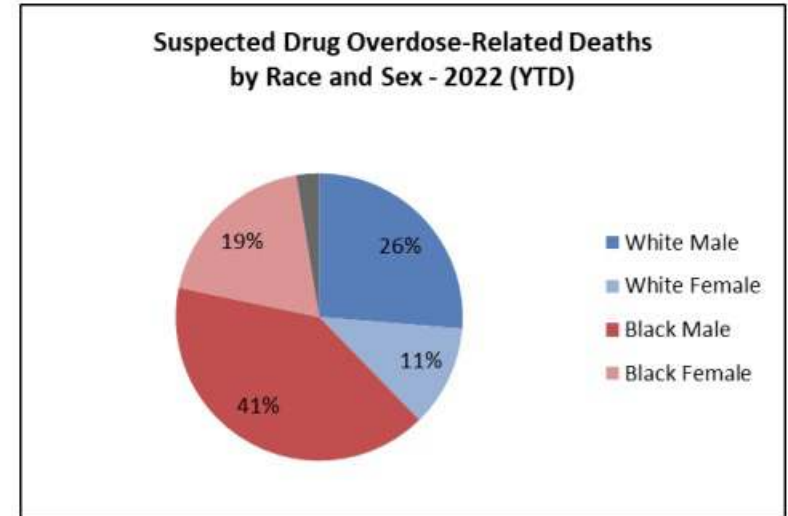
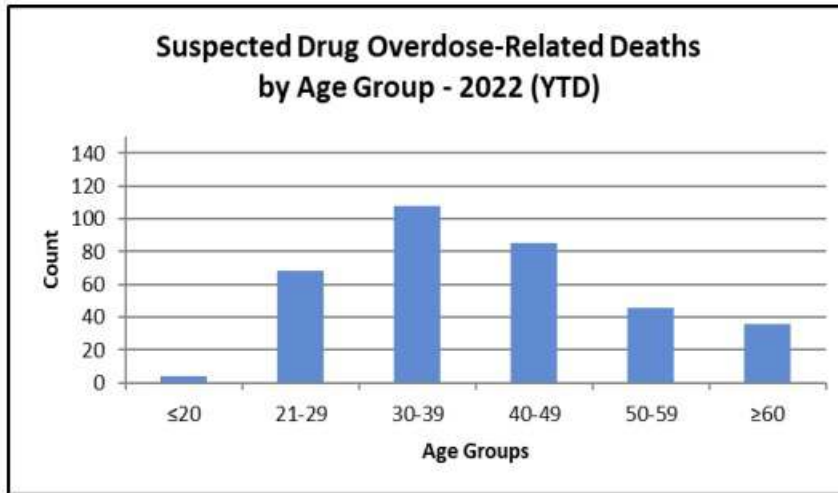
Emergency responses to suspect drug overdose data comes from HIDTA ODMAP for Shelby County 2021.





# SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

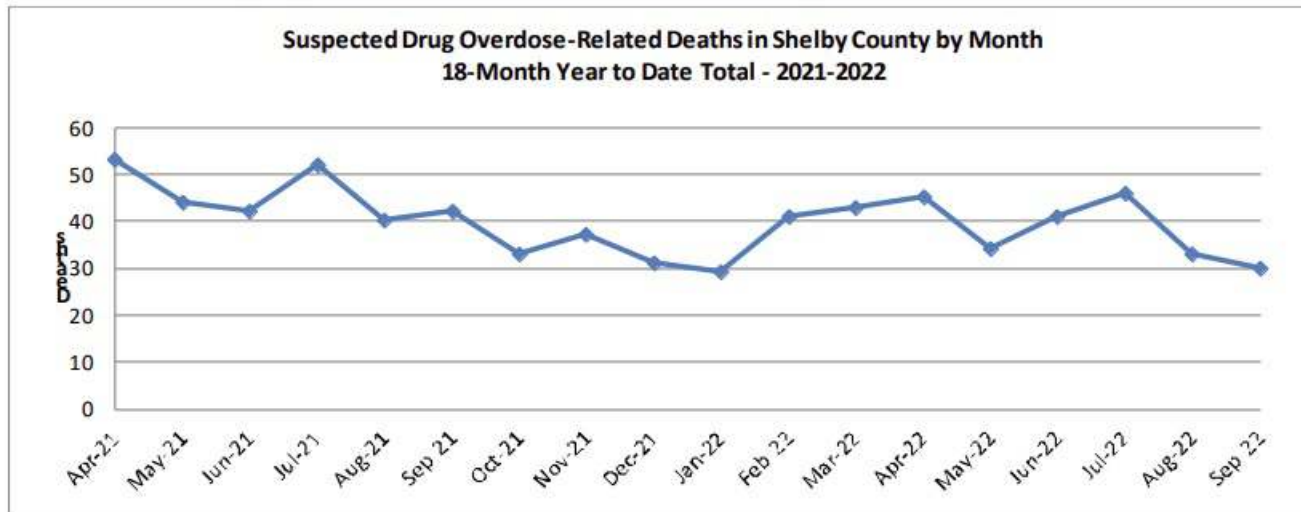
2022 Year-to-Date Suspected Drug Overdose-Related Death Count as of MMWR Week 40 (through Oct 8): **352**



**2022 Average Age:** 40.6 Years Old

**2022 Median Age:** 39 Years Old

**2022 Most Common Age (Mode):** 36 Years Old



*Data Notes:* Data received from the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center (WTRFC). This data is provisional and subject to change.

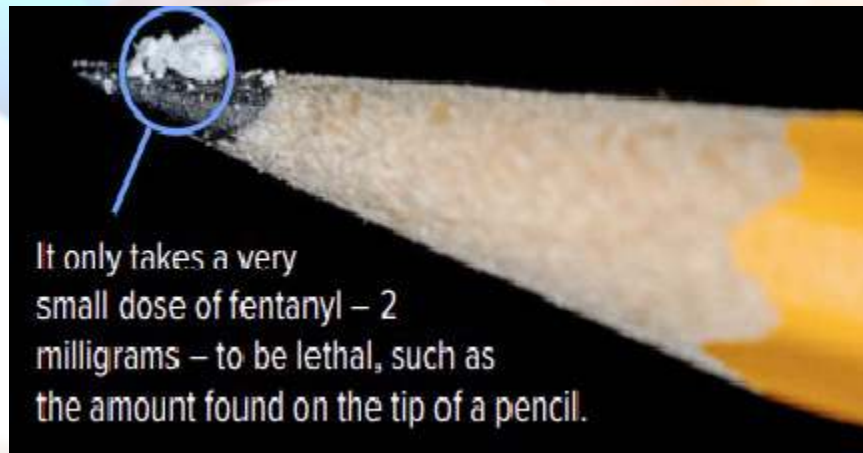
These data represent deaths received by the WTRFC that appear to be drug overdose-related. All of these deaths have occurred within Shelby County, and cases are included in this total whether they are residents of Shelby County or not.

# Protect yourself from the dangers of fentanyl

[https://youtu.be/zu\\_WtBrmScs](https://youtu.be/zu_WtBrmScs)

# What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs to drive addiction. Fentanyl is 50x more potent than heroin.



# The Relationship Between Prescription Opioids and Heroin Use



*3 of 4 heroin users said they abused prescription pain medicine before they used heroin. Impure heroin is usually dissolved, diluted, and injected into veins, muscles, or under the skin.*

*On the left, a lethal dose of heroin; on the right, a lethal dose of fentanyl. Highly pure heroin can be snorted or smoked and may be more appealing to new users because it eliminates the stigma associated with injection drug use*



# Why is fentanyl so dangerous?

- When fentanyl is abused or taken in an overdose, this opioid can quickly be fatal because **it is so potent** and people are not used to its effects.
- There is a significant risk that any illegal drug you buy on the streets, buy online, or that may be given to you is intentionally contaminated with fentanyl. Fentanyl is often **consumed unknowingly** by users of street drugs leading to death.
- When it's used in combination with other central nervous system depressants like opioids, alcohol or benzodiazepines, **the risk of overdose and death multiplies.**



# DEA Announces Results of Enforcement Surge to Reduce the Fentanyl Supply Across the United States

As part of the [One Pill Can Kill](#) initiative, the DEA and its law enforcement partners seized more than 10.2 million fentanyl pills and approximately 980 pounds of fentanyl powder during the period of May 23 through Sept. 8, 2022. The amount of fentanyl taken off the streets during this surge is equivalent to more than 36 million lethal doses removed from the illegal drug supply.

# Doctors explain why fentanyl pills are so dangerous for kids

[Fentanyl Dangerous for Kids](#)





# **‘One pill can kill’: Drug cartels use rainbow-colored fentanyl to attract children**

As little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal, and the potent opioid is highly trafficked nationwide. Now drug cartels are distributing it in rainbow colored pills intended to appeal to children and teenagers.



# The harmful effects of stigma and how it hurts...

## *Some of the effects of stigma include:*

- feelings of shame, hopelessness and isolation
- reluctance to ask for help or to get treatment
- lack of understanding by family, friends or others
- fewer opportunities for employment or social interaction
- bullying, physical violence or harassment
- Self-doubt – the belief that you will never overcome your illness or be able to achieve what you want in life.
- Harm reduction
- Self-esteem and mental health

# Steps to cope with stigma

- Get treatment
- Don't let stigma create self-doubt and shame
- Don't isolate yourself
- Don't equate yourself with your illness
- Join a support group
- Get help at school
- Speak out against stigma

Do **you** or **someone close** to you need  
help with a substance use disorder?



**For Help Call the Tennessee REDLINE**  
**1-800-889-9789**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
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For more information on opioids please visit  
**SHELBYTNHEALTH.COM**

## Acknowledgement:

Special thanks to:  
Mayor Lee Harris and Dr. Michelle Taylor  
for their continued efforts to fight the Opioid Epidemic.

*Thank You!*

## Contact Information

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