



**Drug Overdose Surveillance Report
2023
Hamilton County Health Department**

Important note about the provisional data of this report:

All suspected drug-related deaths and suspected overdose-related emergency department visit data in this report are provisional, meaning that it is the best current estimate available and is subject to change as data is confirmed over time.

This data does not represent official counts and is used as a way to conduct regular syndromic surveillance of suspected overdoses in Hamilton County. Final data will be available after it undergoes a rigorous verification process. Provisional data is useful to understand the impact of the overdose epidemic on our community and inform resource allocation.

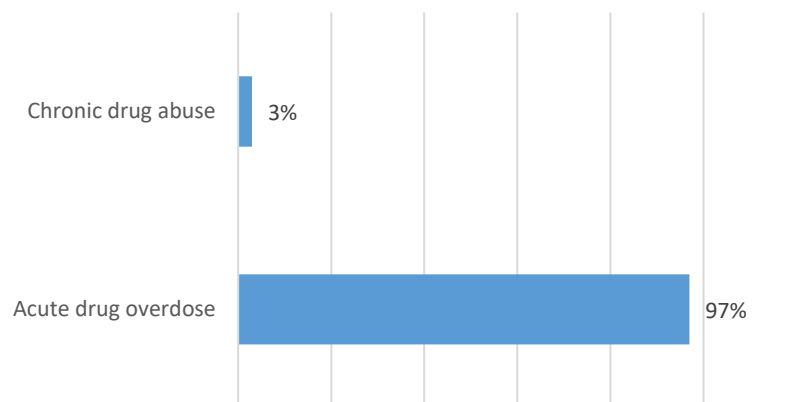
For more information about the data, please see the last page in this report.

Suspected Drug-Related Deaths | January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

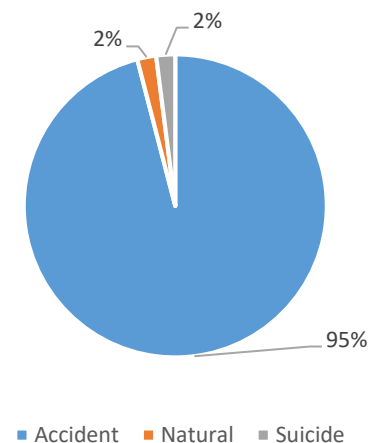
Total number of suspected drug-related deaths*: **205**

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

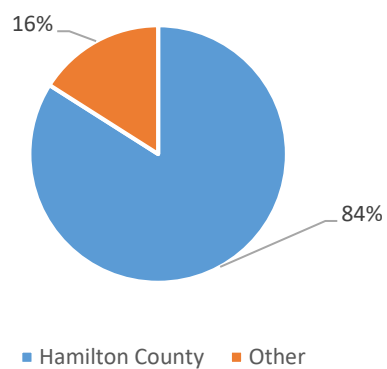
All Drug-Related Deaths by Type



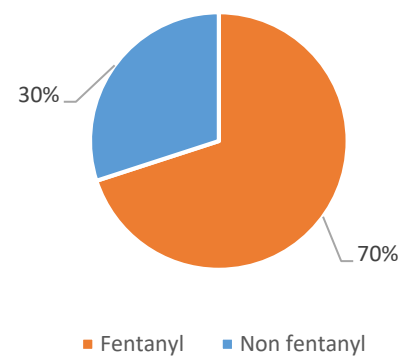
Manner of Death



County of Residence



Fentanyl Listed as a Cause of Death

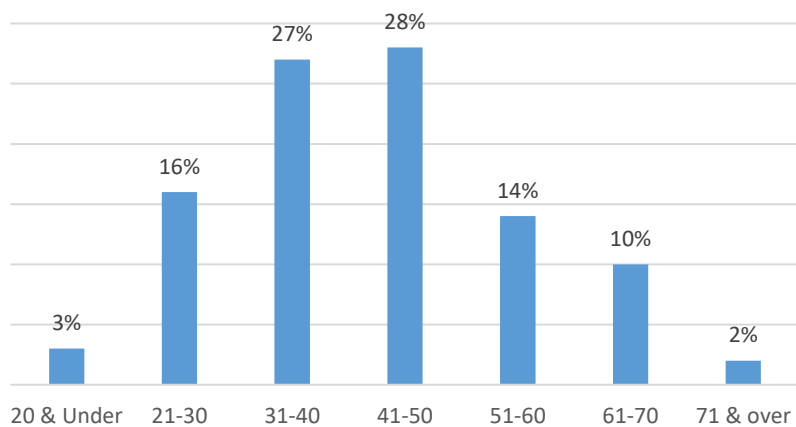


Suspected Drug-Related Deaths | January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 (cont.)

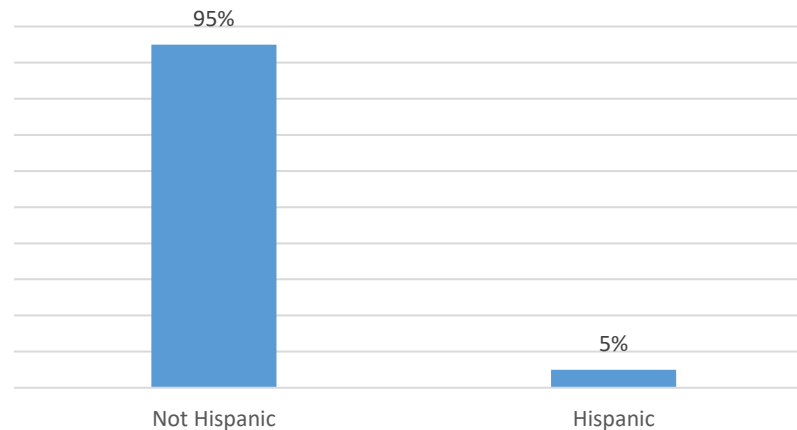
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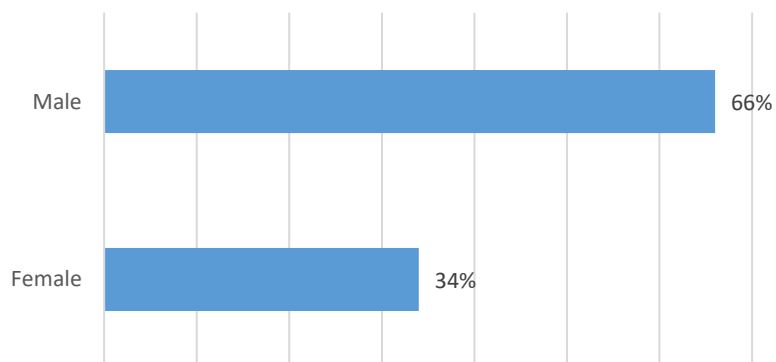
Age Group (years)



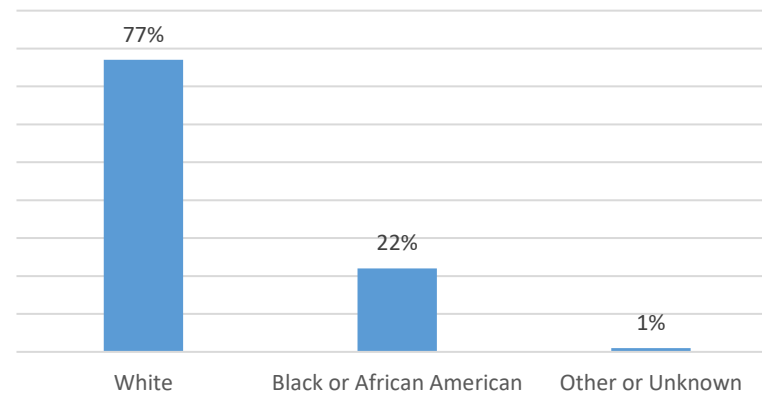
Ethnicity



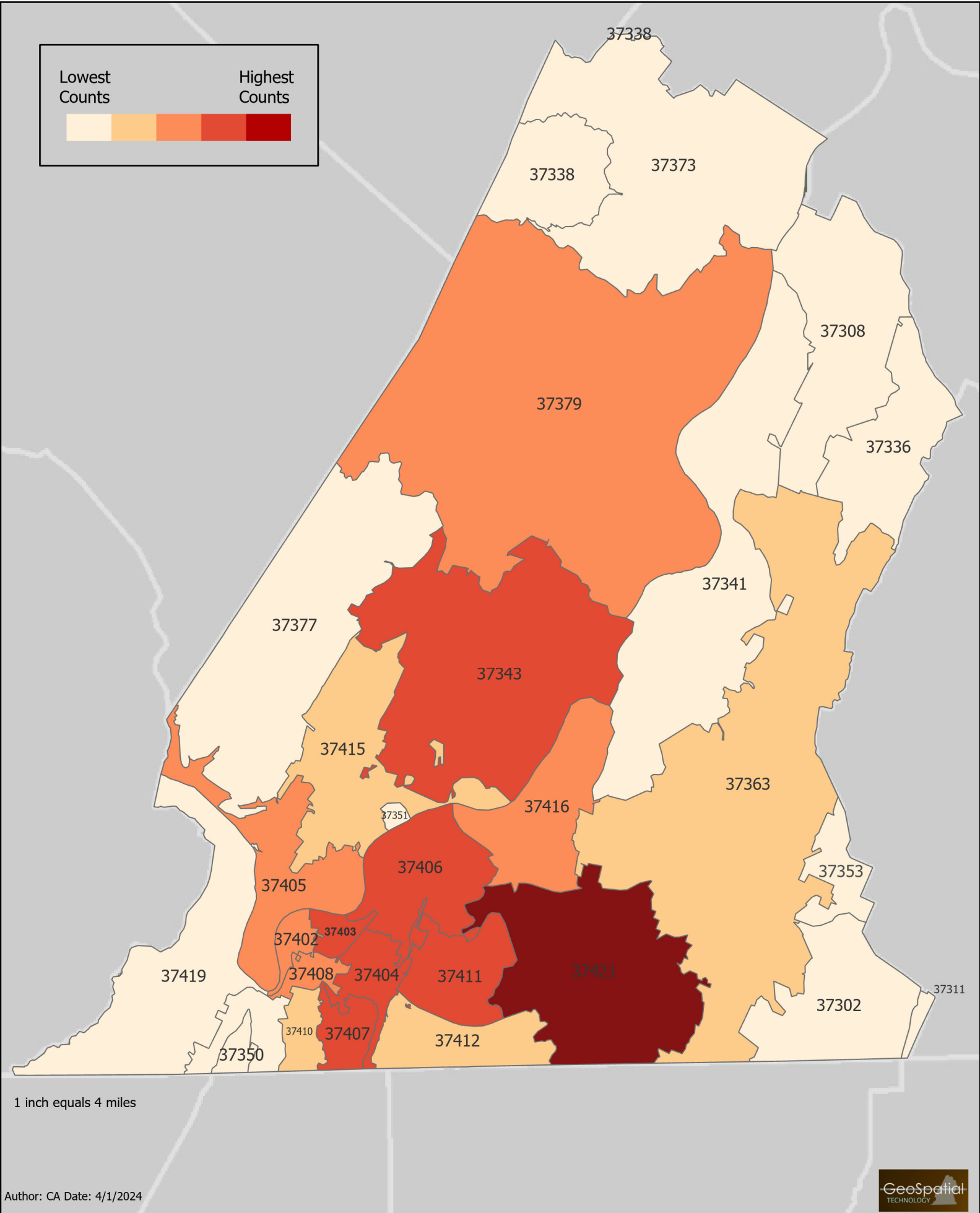
Sex



Race

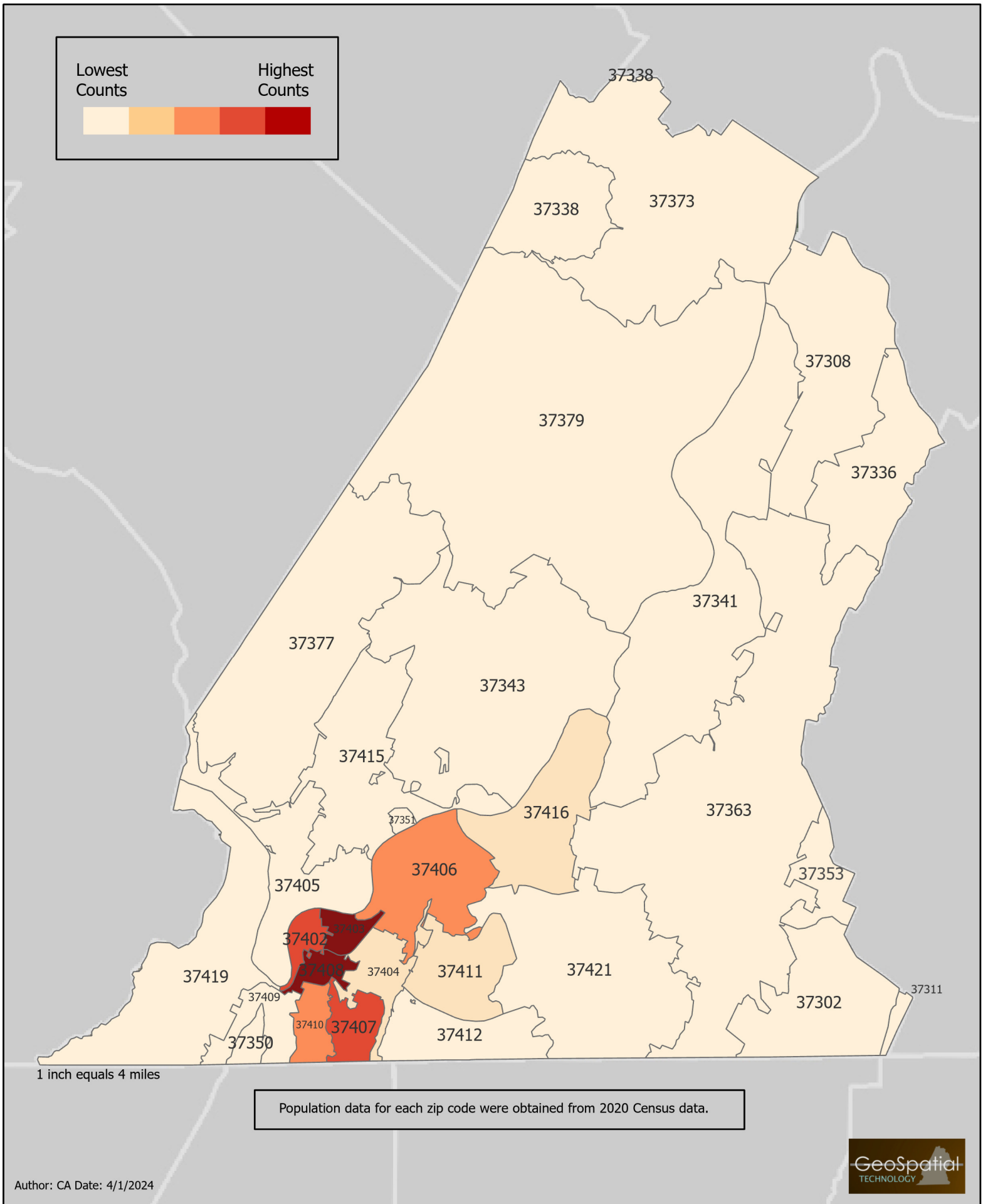


Suspected Drug-Related Deaths by Incident ZIP in 2023





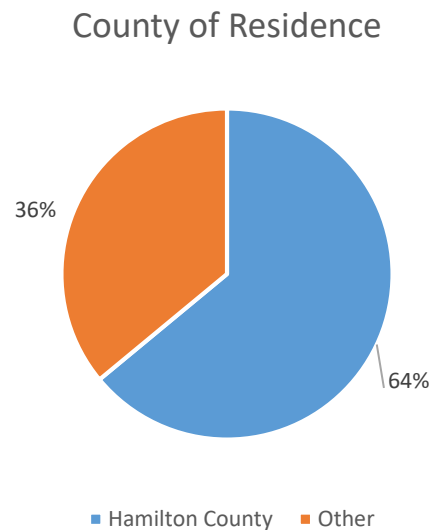
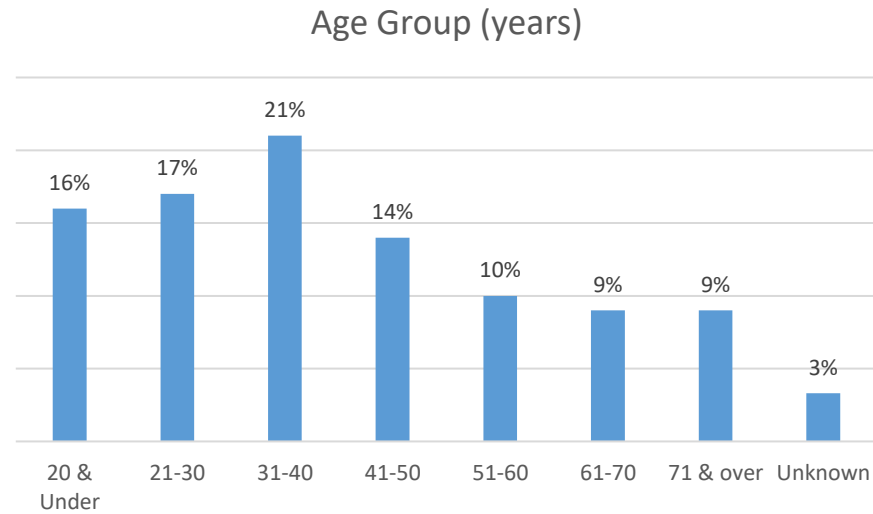
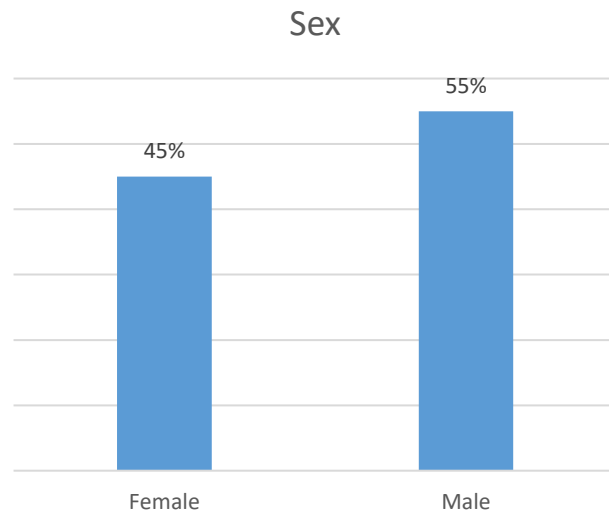
Suspected Drug-Related Deaths per 10,000 People by Incident ZIP in 2023



Suspected Overdose-Related Emergency Department Visits | January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Total number of suspected overdose-related emergency department visits*: **2069**

*Includes all emergency department visits for suspected overdoses of any drug; see footnotes for more information.

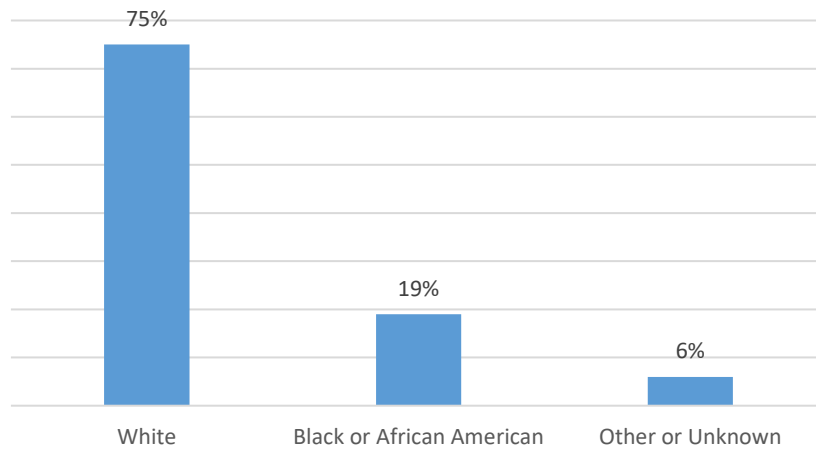


Suspected Overdose-Related Emergency Department Visits | January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 (cont.)

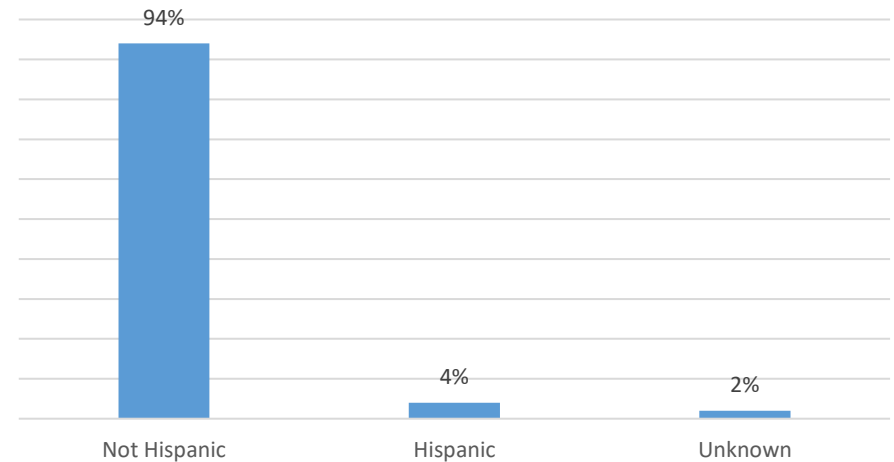
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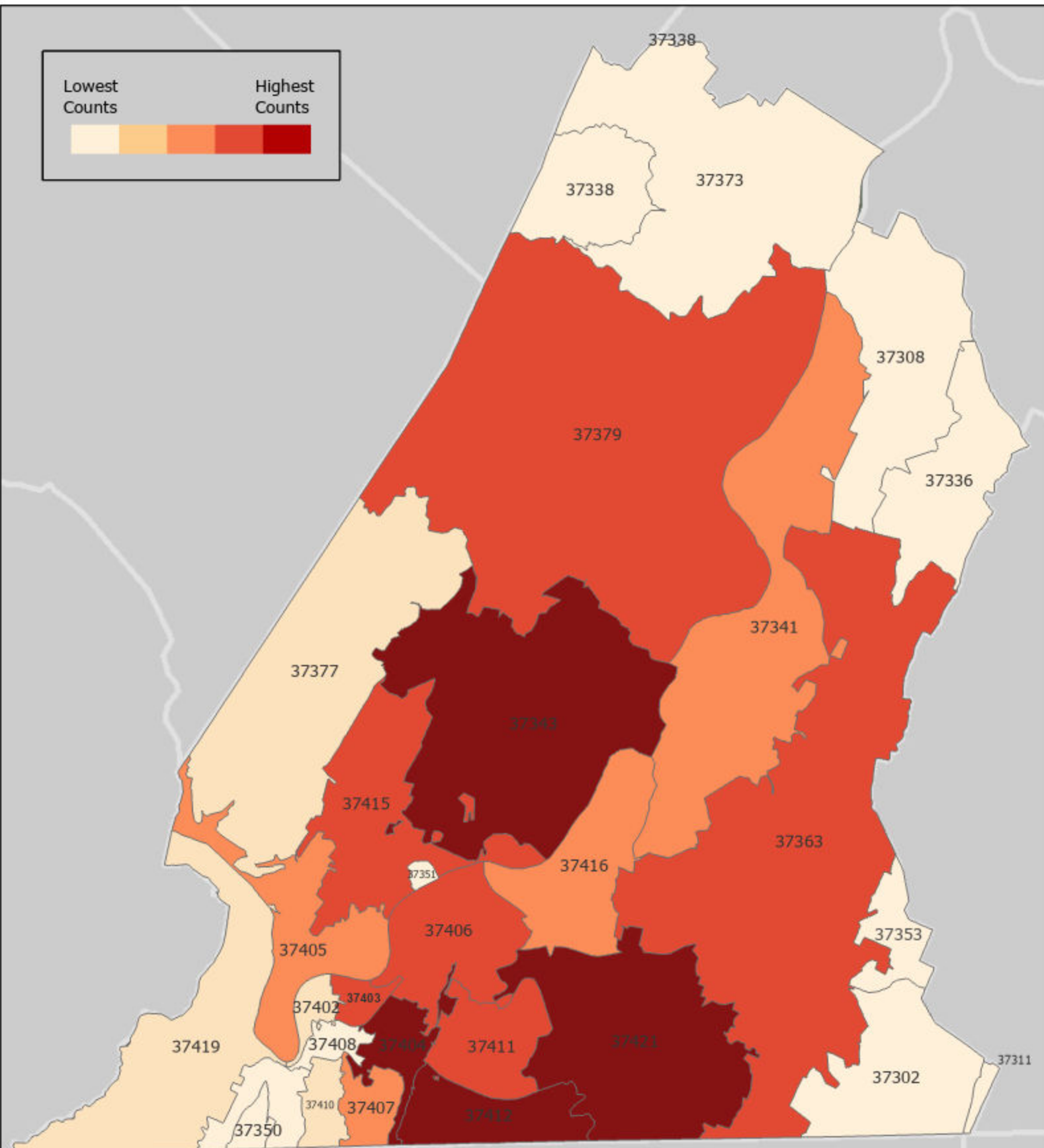
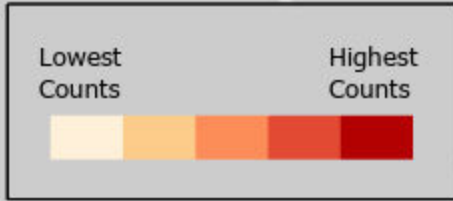
Race



Ethnicity



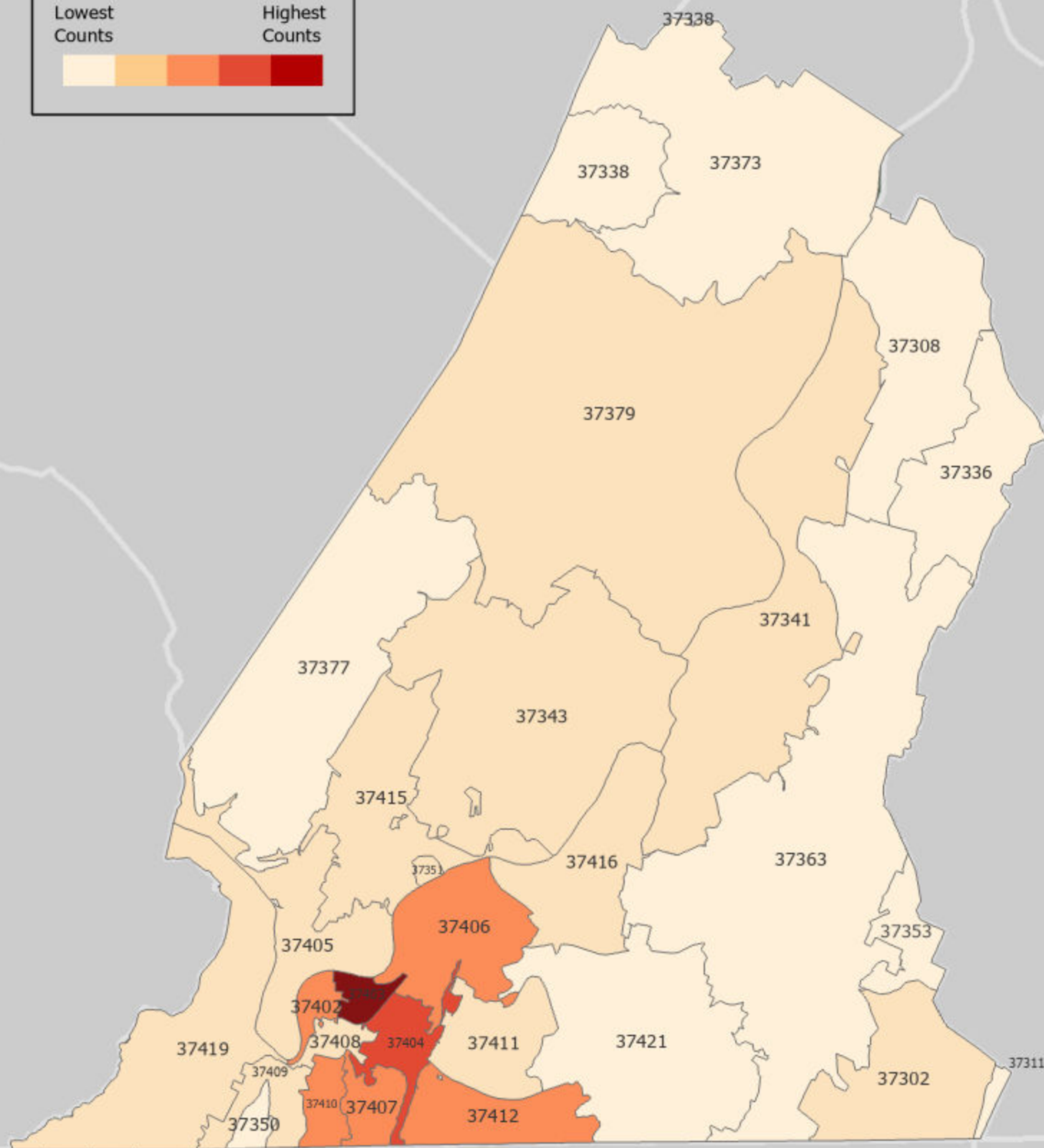
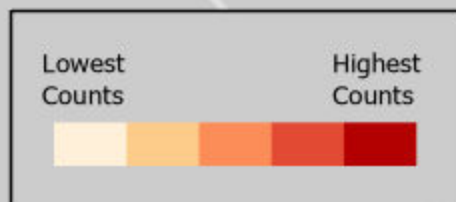
Suspected Overdose-Related Emergency Department Visits in Hamilton County by Resident ZIP in 2023



1 inch equals 4 miles



Suspected Overdose-Related Emergency Department Visits in Hamilton County per 10,000 People by Resident ZIP in 2023



1 inch equals 4 miles

Population data for each zip code were obtained from 2020 Census data.

Resources for the Public

Tennessee REDLINE A free, 24/7, confidential resource to receive accurate addiction information and treatment and resource referrals. Call or text: 1.800.889.9789 Website: <https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/prevention/tennessee-redline.html>

Find substance misuse treatment providers in near real time. Website: <https://findhelpnow.org/tn>

Naloxone Training

Sign up for an Overdose Prevention and Naloxone training through the Hamilton County Coalition: <https://www.hccoalition.org/overdose-awareness-trainings>

Signs of overdose:

Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

What to do if you think someone is overdosing:

It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you are not sure, treat it like an overdose – you could save a life.

- Call 911 immediately
- Administer naloxone, if available
- Try to keep the person awake and breathing
- Lay the person on their side to prevent choking
- Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives

Additional Resources Visit the Hamilton County Health Department’s Overdose Prevention webpage for additional resources

<https://health.hamiltontn.org/en-us/communityhealth/overdoseprevention.aspx>

Notes Regarding Fatality Data

There may be additional suspected drug-related death data reported over this time period in subsequent reports as data is finalized.

Suspected drug-related death data was obtained from the Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office and all cases had a date of death between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

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.

For more information about the data, please contact HealthEpi@HamiltonTN.gov.

Notes Regarding Emergency Department Visit Data

There may be additional suspected overdose-related emergency department visit data reported over this time period in subsequent reports as data is finalized.

Suspected overdose-related emergency department visit data was obtained from ESSENCE and ranged from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

All overdose-related emergency department visits from Hamilton County hospitals were included in this report, 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.

For more information about the data, please contact HealthEpi@HamiltonTN.gov.