

# Hamilton County, Tennessee

Sample preview. The full brief includes substance breakdown analysis, three funding recommendations, and methodology.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### The decline is real. The risk has not gone away.

Hamilton County recorded 136 overdose deaths in 2024, down from 174 in 2023. That is a 21.8 percent decrease and it tracks the statewide trend Tennessee saw last year. The drop is real, and the people and programs that produced it deserve credit. But three patterns underneath the headline number should shape the county's next funding cycle.

<b>136</b> Overdose deaths, 2024	<b>\$217.6M</b> Annual fiscal burden, 2024	<b>\$584</b> Per resident, per year
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### The numbers, year over year

Indicator	2023	2024	Change
Overdose deaths	174	136	<b>21.8% lower</b>
Annual fiscal burden	\$278.4M	\$217.6M	<b>\$60.8M lower</b>
Cost per resident	\$747	\$584	<b>\$163 lower</b>

Source: Tennessee Department of Health, 2023 and 2024 Fatal Drug Overdose Reports. Cost methodology adapted from Brewer & Freeman (2018).

#### WHAT THE FULL BRIEF INCLUDES

- Substance-specific breakdown analysis (opioids, fentanyl, stimulants) with implications for naloxone, MOUD, and stimulant programming
- Three funding recommendations sized to existing opioid settlement allocations, TennCare reimbursement, and SAMHSA pass-through funding
- Each recommendation includes: estimated investment range, eligible funding source, and outcome measure for accountability
- Full methodology section defensible against budget officer scrutiny

**Request the full Hamilton sample or a brief for your county: [melissa@melissakilpatrick.com](mailto:melissa@melissakilpatrick.com)**

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