



**20
25**

RUTHERFORD OPIOID ABATEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN



FY 25



Executive Summary



ROB Overview:

The Rutherford Opioid Board (ROB) is comprised of appointed members representing multiples sectors throughout Rutherford County including the County Commission, Recovery Court, Correctional Work Center, Probation, and more.

ROB Main Objective:

The ROB's main objective is to cultivate a community committed to combating the opioid crisis through awareness, education, and recovery. By strategically investing these funds, the ROB continues to make strides to achieve this objective.

Key Recommendations:

Through examination of local data and reviews of gaps in care within Rutherford County, the ROB has identified 5 funding priorities for a FY25 Strategic Plan.

These funding priorities include:

- 1. Youth Prevention**
- 2. Stigma Reduction**
- 3. Targeted Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution**
- 4. Community Supports for Individuals in Recovery**
- 5. Reentry Services for Incarcerated Individuals**



Fatal Overdoses in 2022



Year-End Total

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, **Rutherford County lost 130 people to fatal drug overdose in 2022.**



Fatal Substances

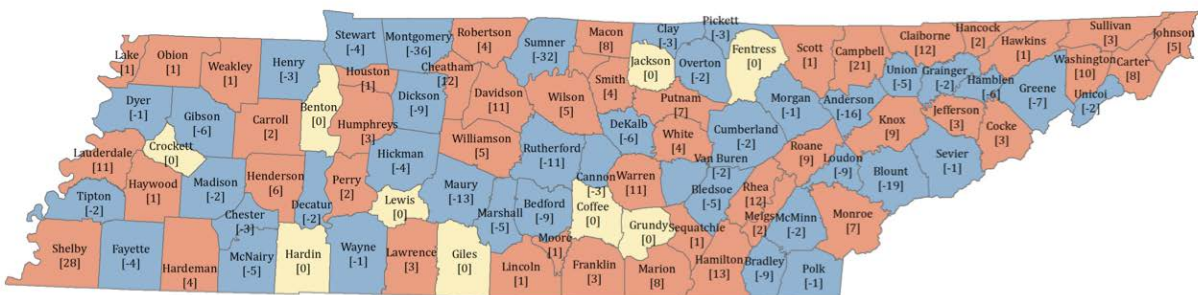
Among the county's 130 fatal overdoses in 2022:

- **89% involved opioids**
- 83% involved fentanyl
- 48% involved stimulants



Year to Year Trends

From 2021 to 2022, **Rutherford County fatal overdoses decreased by 7.8%**. Across the state, 40 out of 95 counties experienced a decrease in overdoses.



Red: Increase in Overdoses **Blue: Decrease in Overdoses**

Overdose Calls in 2023



Year-End Total

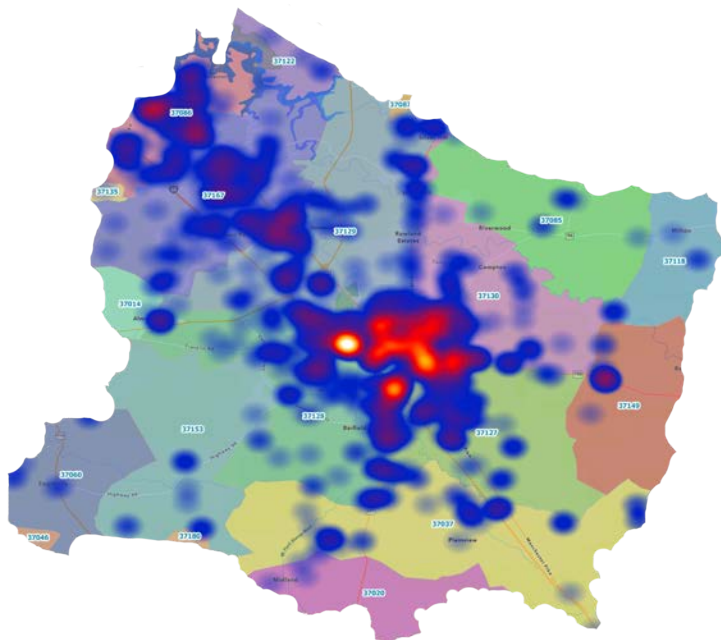
Over the course of 2023, Rutherford County Emergency Services responded to **946 calls** involving a suspected overdose.



High Impact Areas

Among the 946 calls involving a suspected overdose:

- **69%** of calls were in **Murfreesboro**
- **12%** of calls were in **Smyrna**
- **9%** of calls were in **La Vergne**
- **10%** of calls were in **other areas** of the County



Priority #1: Youth Prevention



22% of the 2025-2026 Tennessee High School Lifetime Wellness Standards are focused on substance use.

Implementation Strategies:

- Prevention is key for protecting our county's most valuable resource: the next generation of community leaders.
- **With new Lifetime Wellness state standards going into effect in 2025, there is a major opportunity to integrate evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum throughout Rutherford County High Schools.**

Strategy Examples:

- Implementing new evidence-based high school health education curriculum focused on substance use prevention.
- Providing assembly opportunities to educate middle school students on strategies for abstaining from substance use.
- Equip local organizations serving elementary students with evidence-based curriculum and programming on proper uses for medication.

Priority #2: Stigma Reduction



55% of individuals at the 2022 Tennessee State Fair agreed that it would bother them to live near someone who used opioids.

Implementation Strategies:

- Stigma can be one of the largest barriers to enacting positive change within our community and prevents individual access to treatment and recovery.
- **By having trusted community leaders from the ROB initiate community conversations regarding SUD, new community solutions can be identified through collaborating with various partners.**

Strategy Examples:

- Increasing PSAs addressing community stigma.
- Develop community Lunch and Learns to educate the community on SUD.
- Host "Town Halls" across the county to bring together stakeholders that address SUD.

Priority #3: Targeted Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution



From 2017-2023, over 60,000 lives in Tennessee have been saved through overdose education and naloxone distribution.

Implementation Strategies:

- Naloxone preserves life and family units across Rutherford County and gives individuals a future chance to enter treatment and recovery.
- **By utilizing local overdose data, trusted community partners can intervene in high-impact areas across Rutherford County to prevent fatal overdoses.**

Strategy Examples:

- Equipping Rutherford County Health Department staff with naloxone for targeted community education and distribution.
- Coordinating naloxone distribution alongside sharing existing ROB funded respite housing services information.
- Educate and train employers within high-impact areas on naloxone.

Priority #4: Community Supports for Individuals in Recovery



Research from SAMHSA indicates that sustained recovery is significantly tied to meaningful and purposeful work-life balance within one's community.

Implementation Strategies:

- As individuals transition to less intensive forms of treatment in their recovery journey, it is essential that support is provided to assist individuals in getting "back on their feet" in the community.
- **By strengthening local partnerships with organizations providing affordable housing, job training, childcare, and transportation services; we can build resilience and reduce the effects of relapses for individuals in recovery.**

Strategy Examples:

- Expanding partnerships with local organizations providing job training to individuals in recovery.
- Increasing access for individuals to participate in recovery groups across Rutherford County.

Priority #5: Reentry Services for Incarcerated Individuals



In 2024, 80% of active Rutherford County reentry clients have an identified substance use disorder.

Implementation Strategies:

- Individuals with a substance use disorder reentering the community from incarceration have a large risk of overdose throughout their first year post-release.
- **Expanding reentry services for individuals transitioning from incarceration will decrease fatal overdoses, increase employment, and decrease recidivism.**

Strategy Examples:

- Expanding the number of TDOC approved transitional residences in Rutherford County.
- Increasing collaboration with community partners for expanding employment opportunities post-release.
- Establishing affordable SUD treatment pre-release.

How You Can Partner with the Rutherford Opioid Board

The Rutherford Opioid Board provides
community grants to non-profit organizations
serving community members affected by
opioid use disorder.

Scan the QR code below to learn more!



Office of Prevention
Science and Recovery



realdrugstories.org

