



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

Members/Guests Present: Sarah Harrison (executive director), Ashley Freeberg (prevention coordinator), Ben Briley (volunteer coordinator), Sandy Leavell, Caitlin Moore, Danielle Pritchett, Phil Merrill, Mike Barber, Michael Doty, Jennifer Gates, Kathy Parks, Beth Sams, Anne Pirtle, Michael Yates, Laura Conner, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, LaDonna Booker, Kevin Chadwick, David Choate, Kasey Mynatt, McKayla Gallaher, Craig Shambaugh, Demerius Bunch, Olivia Allen, Valerie Wiseman, Barbara Phillips, Dann Buongiorno, Yvette Reeder, Jim Widboss, Judy Widboss, Angie Pfeifle

Our monthly coalition meeting was held in-person at the RCADC office at 151 E Race St, Kingston, Tennessee.

Ben Briley opened the meeting and a new year with a welcome. Ben asked if everyone in attendance could introduce themselves and who they represent.

Ben introduced the meeting's speaker: Dr. Thomas Boduch, Roane County & Morgan County Medical Examiner.

-Dr. Boduch began with a presentation of 2024 data relating to overdose deaths and suicides in Roane County (slides are included at the end of this document).

-Dr. Boduch began his presentation by noting he is very pleased at the numbers, some of the best in the past five years. He still made note that cocaine and designer drugs such as xylazine and kratom are still persistent issues.

-Overdose deaths fell sharply from 71 in 2023, to 37 in 2024.

-Fentanyl (#1) and methamphetamine (#2) continued to be the leading causes of overdose deaths. However, both figures declined with fatal fentanyl overdoses (60 in 2023, 26 in 2024) and fatal methamphetamine overdoses (51 in 2023, 20 in 2024).

-Fatal overdoses caused by opiates continue to fall consistently.

-Deaths caused by one solitary substance has continued to decline, which led Dr. Boduch to explain that most overdose deaths in Roane County are caused by two or more substances (75%).

-Suicides in 2024 averaged to about 1 per month. Dr. Boduch noted the myth of a higher suicide rate during the Holiday season; the month with the highest suicide rate in Roane County is April.

-Throughout the presentation, Dr. Boduch was asked several questions from attendees such as the differences between how cocaine and crack cocaine are ingested, the prevalence of alcohol in an overdose death, the lack of support system involved in most suicides, and the dangers of designer drugs such as xylazine and carfentanil.

-Dr. Boduch made a point to praise the Opioid Abatement Committee, specifically RCADC executive director Sarah Harrison and Roane & Morgan County Health Departments' Director



Laura Conner. After the presentation, both Sarah and Laura remarked on the recent work done by the Committee, the most significant being the three positions hired by Roane County with funds managed by this Committee.

Ben then opened the floor for Coalition announcements:

-Ben announced the Rotary Club of Harriman's annual Daddy-Daughter Dance hosted at Roane State Community College on February 22. RCADC was selected to be the non-profit beneficiary of funds. Ben asked for interested parties to sponsor as well as purchasing tickets for the event.

-Ashley announced the Prevention Alliance of Tennessee's (PAT) Day on the Hill at the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville on February 18. RCADC will be taking five students, one from each middle school, to meet with legislators and advocate for youth prevention.

-Ben mentioned this year's recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award have been notified and will attend the awards banquet in Franklin, Tennessee on February 16.

Ben then opened the floor for announcements by attendees:

-Sandy Leavell, Executive Director of the United Way of Roane County, updated the group with results from the Point In Time (PIT) Count conducted the week prior. The United Way were able to utilize 28 volunteers from various organizations to assist and inventory the unhoused population here in Roane County.

-Kevin Chadwick, Lifeline Coordinator for Metro Drug Coalition, announced his new role with MDC.

-Jill Murphy, Prevention Consultant with UT-Knoxville SWORPS, promoted the next East Community Agency Meeting (ECAM) on February 18.

-Sarah Harrison announced Roane County's Hazardous Waste Day on March 15 from 9:00am to 1:00pm, held every year at the Roane County Recycling Center. This year, the Roane County Sheriff's Office reached out to RCADC to help with facilitating and promotion of the disposal of expired or unneeded prescription medications.

-Ben also mentioned the upcoming National DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which will take place at the Kroger parking lot in Harriman on April 26 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

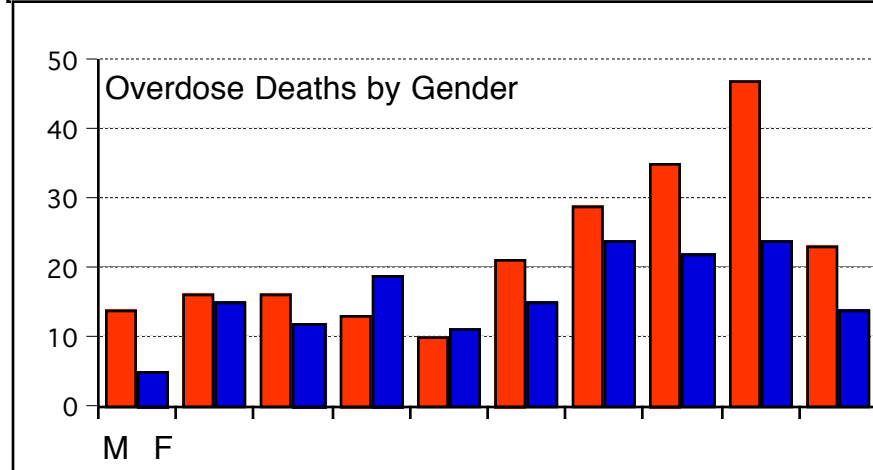
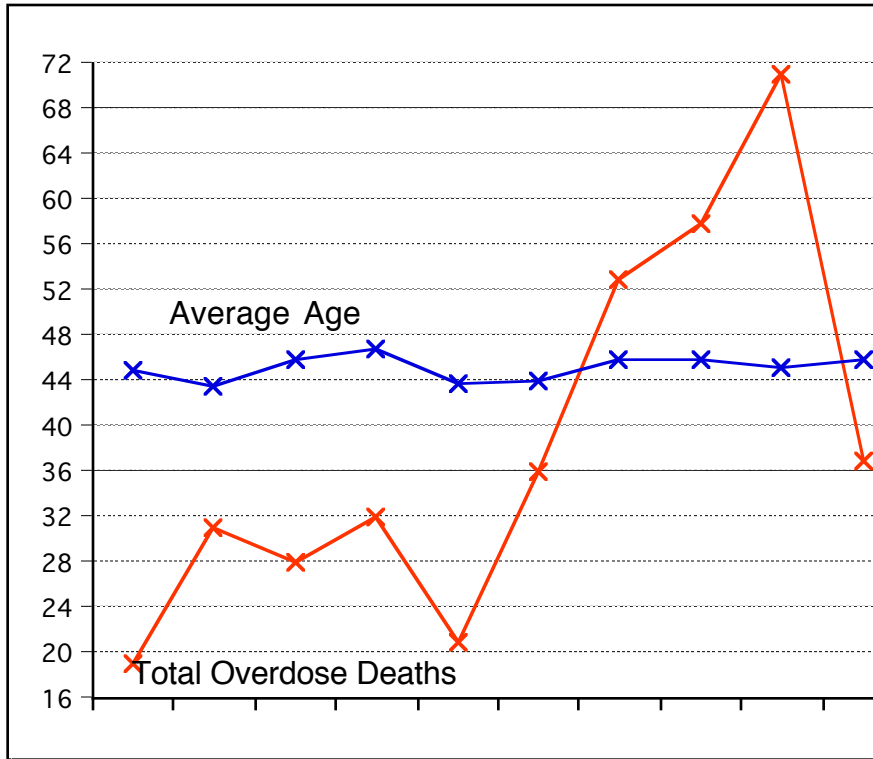
Meeting was adjourned.

Our next coalition meeting will be on March 5, 2025, at the RCADC office at 151 E Race St, Kingston, Tennessee. Our speakers will be Jeff Shaw, Director of Hope of East Tennessee, and Grady Massey, CPRS with Metro Drug Coalition and volunteer with RCADC.

ROANE COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS 2015-2024

ROANE COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS:

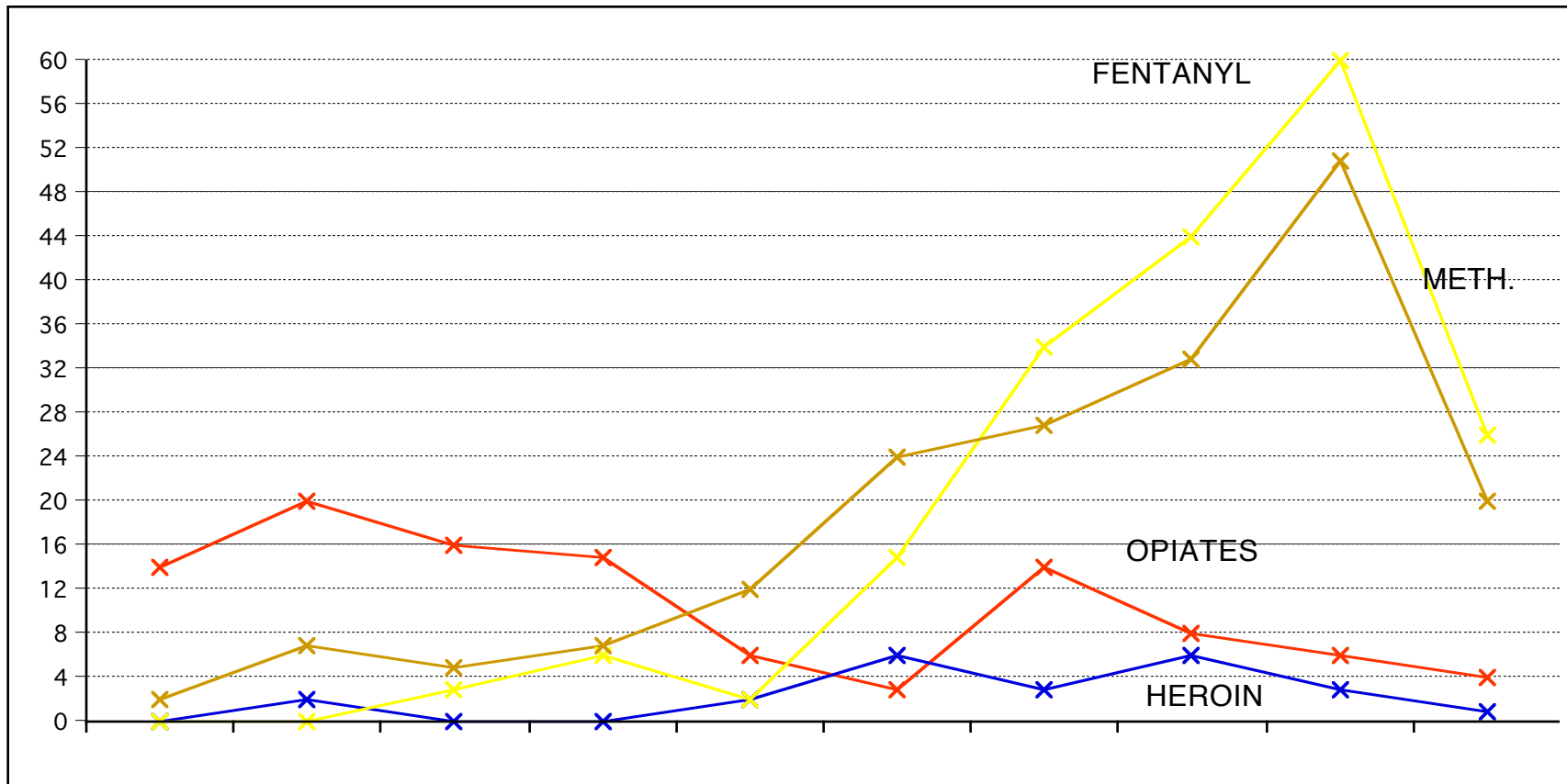
YEAR	TOTAL	Ave. Age	Male	Female
2015	19	44.9	14	5
2016	31	43.5	16	15
2017	28	46.0	16	12
2018	32	46.9	13	19
2019	21	43.8	10	11
2020	36	44.1	21	15
2021	53	45.8	29	24
2022	58	46.0	35	22
2023	71	45.1	47	24
2024	37	45.8	23	14
TOTAL	386			
AVERAGE	38.6	44.6		



ROANE COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS 2015-2024

Year	RX Opiates	Heroin	Fentanyl	Meth.
2015	14	0	0	2
2016	20	2	0	7
2017	16	0	3	5
2018	15	0	6	7
2019	6	2	2	12
2020	3	6	15	24
2021	14	3	34	27
2022	8	6	44	33
2023	6	3	60	51
2024	4	1	26	20

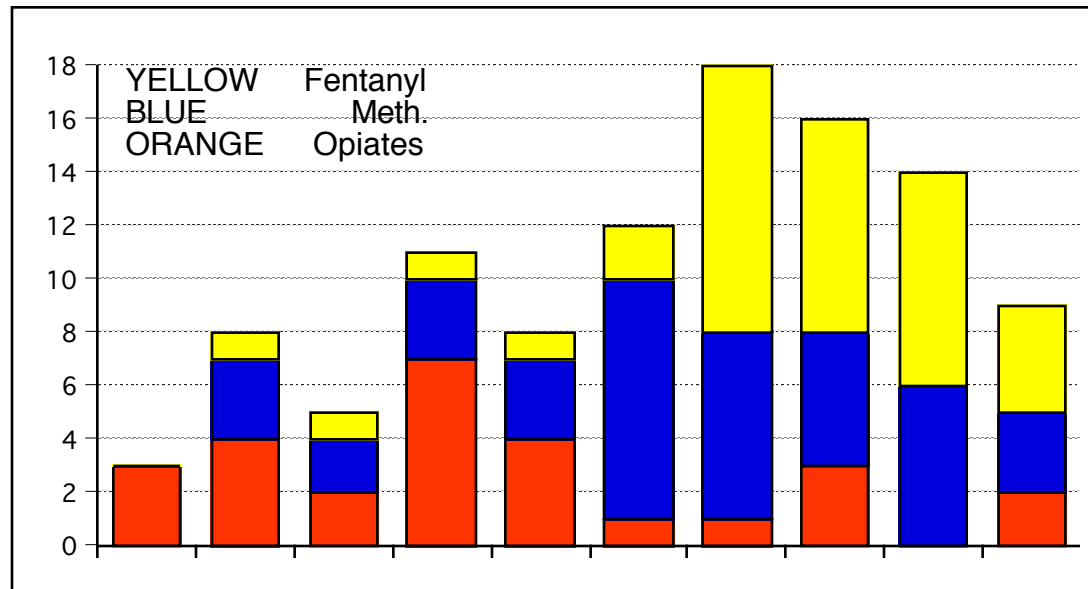
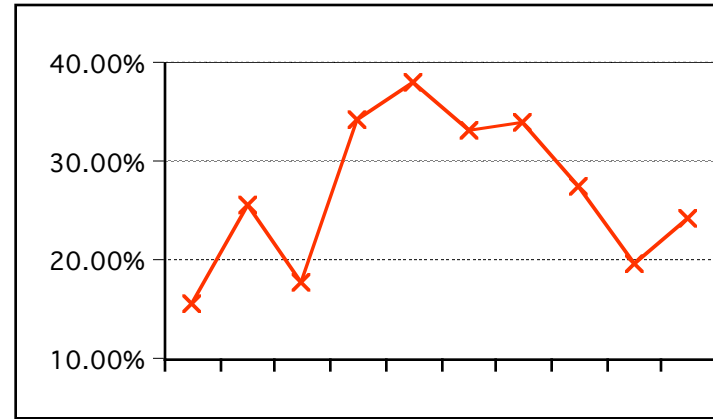
2024 CONCERNS:
Cocaine **6**
Xylazine **4**
Kratom **1**



ROANE COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS 2015-2024

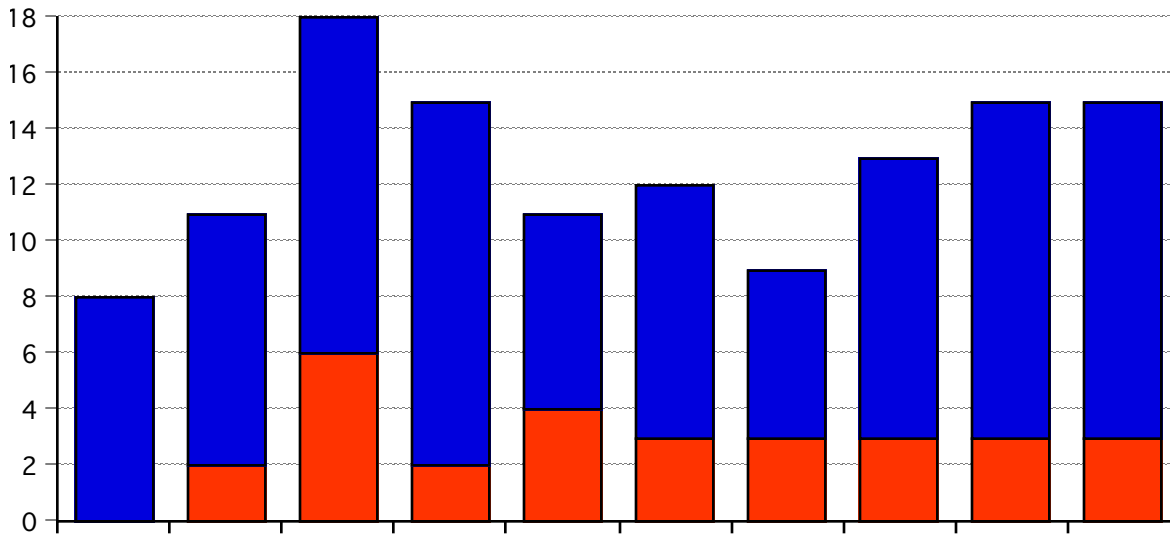
SINGLE SUBSTANCE OVERDOSES:

YEAR	OPIATES	METH.	FENTANYL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
2015	3	0	0	19	15.79%
2016	4	3	1	31	25.81%
2017	2	2	1	28	17.86%
2018	7	3	1	32	34.38%
2019	4	3	1	21	38.10%
2020	1	9	2	36	33.33%
2021	1	7	10	53	33.96%
2022	3	5	8	58	27.59%
2023	0	6	8	71	19.72%
2024	2	3	4	37	24.32%

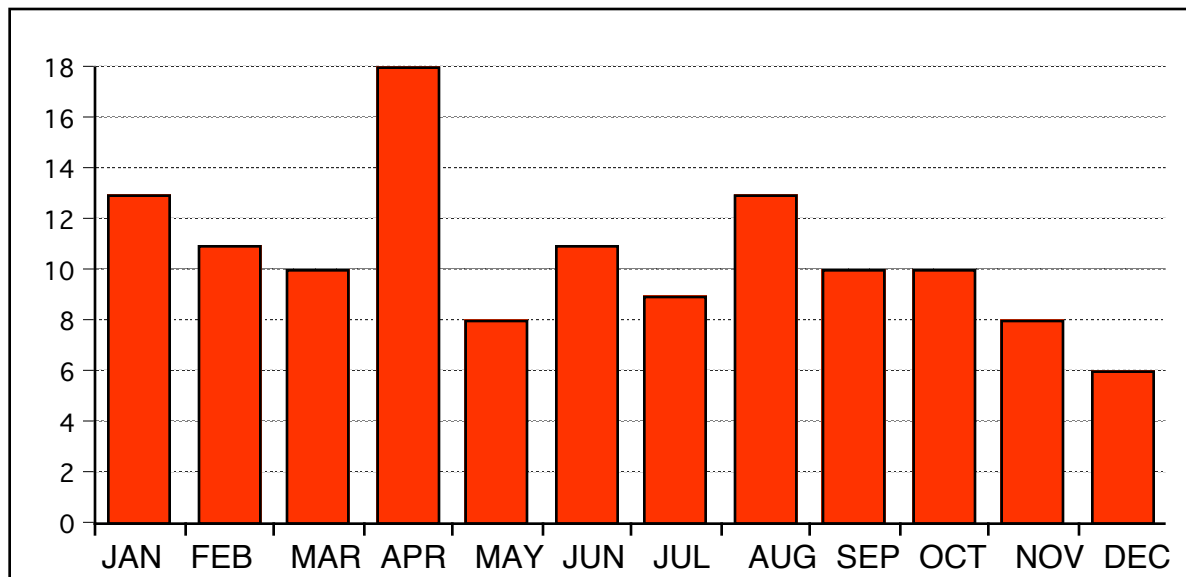


ROANE COUNTY SUICIDE DATA 2015-2024

	#SUICIDES	AVR. AGE	YOUNGEST	OLDEST
TOTAL	127	46.0		
MALE	98	45.7	18	88
FEMALE	29	47.2	26	70



SUICIDES BY MONTH:



METHOD OF SUICIDE:

