



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Grider Jennifer Linginfelter Aug. 15, 2016
215-4750 office 215-4579 office
363-8681 cell 803-5509 cell

Knox County Forensic Center releases 2010-2015 Drug-Related Death Report

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (Aug. 15, 2016) – This morning, the Knox County Regional Forensic Center released its 2010-2015 Drug-Related Death Report for Knox and Anderson Counties.

At the news conference, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan and Metro Drug Coalition Executive Director Karen Pershing were joined by representatives from the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Knox County District Attorney General's Office, City of Knoxville Police Department and several other area officials.

The full report is available online at: <http://www.knoxcounty.org/rfc/reports.php>

As outlined in the full text of the report, the data is drawn only from drug-related deaths in Knox and Anderson Counties between 2010 and 2015 that were investigated by the Medical Examiner. Some highlights from the report include:

- The number of drug-related deaths has doubled from 2010 to 2015.
- When comparing prescription versus illicit drug-related deaths, prescription drugs account for approximately 75 percent of all drug-related deaths between 2010 and 2015.
- Drug-related deaths occur more frequently in 45 to 54 year olds than any other age category.
- Oxycodone was the drug most frequently found in drug-related deaths each year between 2010 and 2015.
- Since 2010, there has been an increase in the number and types of drugs being used.
- The age-adjusted rate for drug related cases per 100,000 in Knox and Anderson Counties is higher than both the national and Tennessee rates for each of the years between 2010 and 2015.
- When comparing home residence zip codes of those who died from drug-related deaths, five zip codes (37918, 37920, 37917, 37912 and 37849) have made the top 10 list each year from 2010 to 2016.
- Tentative 2016 figures indicate a continued increase in the number of drug-related death cases. Prescription drugs continue to be the drugs most frequently found in drug-related deaths. However, there is an increased presence of non-prescription (or illicit) drugs in drug-related deaths.

###