

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 12pm

Virtual Meeting

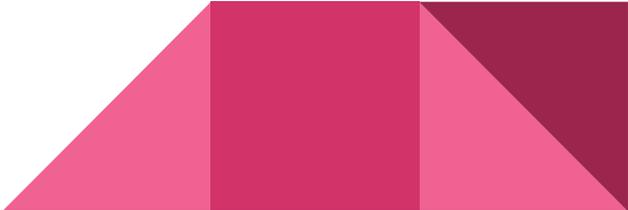
Co-Chairs:

Rev. Robyn Anderson, MS, LPC, LMFT, LADC
Executive Director, Ministerial Health Fellowship

Kevin Elak, RS/REHS, CP-FS, Director of Health, City of
Middletown Department of Health



Agenda

- Welcome New Members
 - Data Updates
 - Workgroup Updates
 - New Business
 - Member Spotlights:
 - Kevin Ferrarotti, Administrative Director, Hunter's Ambulance Service
 - Elizabeth Allard, Prevention Professional, Rushford - Prevention Department
 - Standing Items
 - Work in Progress / On the Horizon
 - Member Announcements
- 

Mission & Vision Statement

- **Mission:** To engage the Greater Middletown community in working together to promote opioid awareness, education, prevention, harm reduction and access to treatment thereby reducing opioid-related overdoses and deaths and building a healthy, safe and drug-free community.
- **Vision:** A community working together to prevent and to help people experiencing opioid use challenges.



Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal

February 12 – March 13, 2023

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal



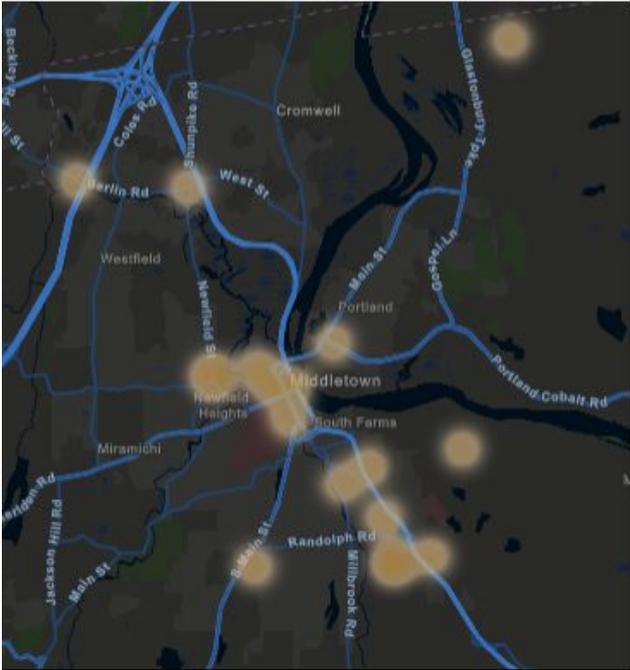
Total Suspected Overdoses	14
Fatal Overdoses	4
Naloxone Administered	14

February 12 – March 13, 2023

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland



Opioid Overdoses Heatmap (2.12.23 - 3.13.23)



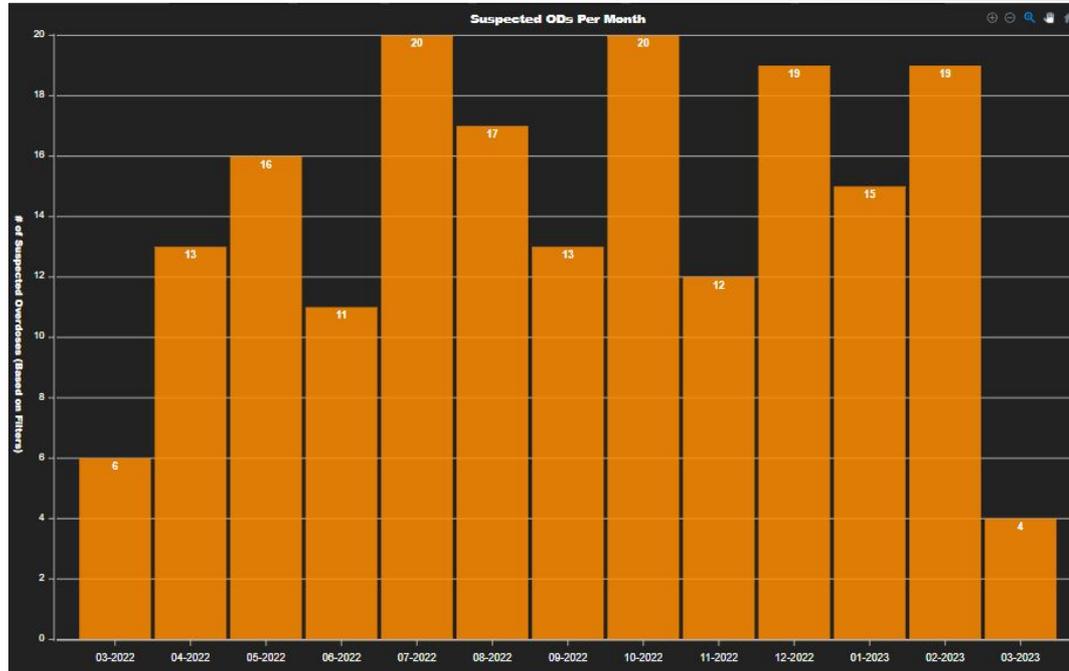
<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>





March 13, 2022 – March 13, 2023
Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Suspected Overdoses Per Month

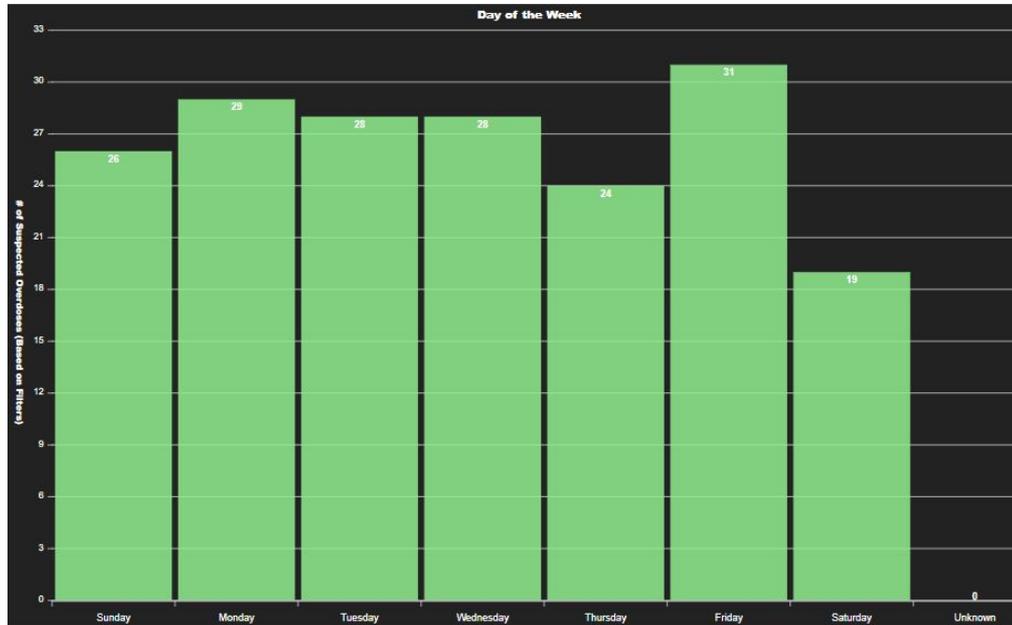


<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>



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Middletown Health Department

Overdoses by Days of the Week



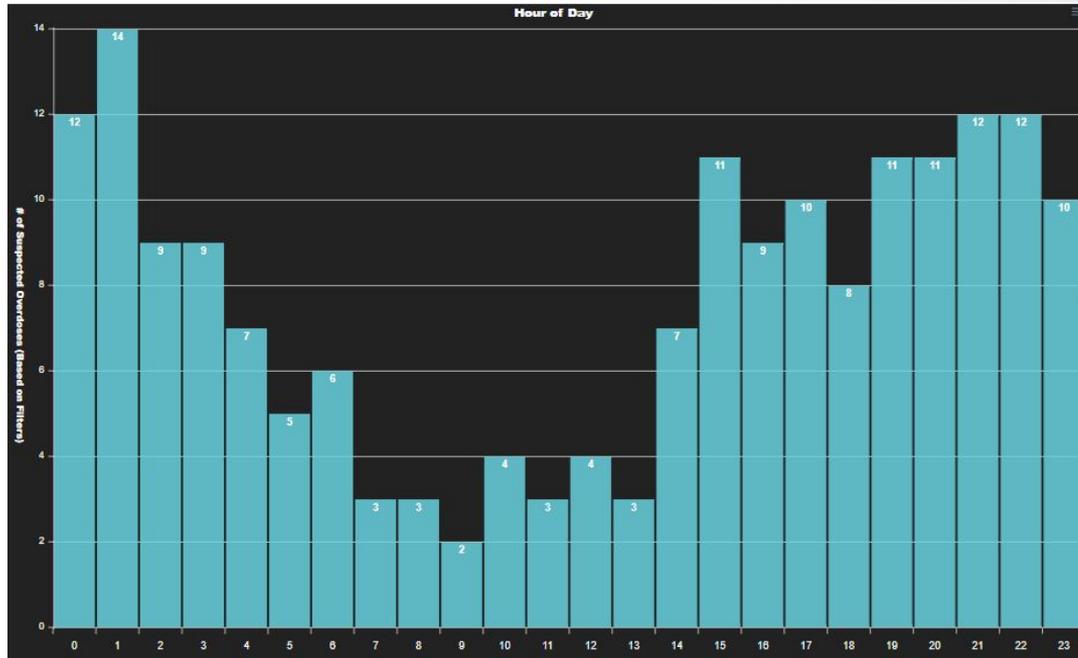
<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>



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Hour of the Day

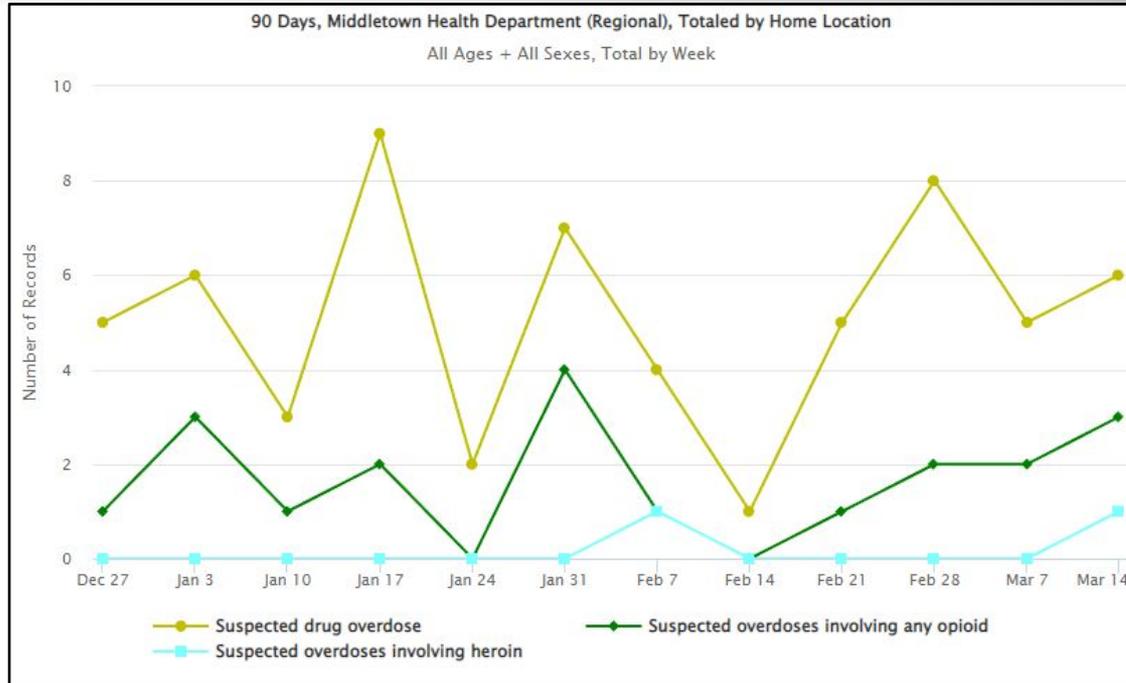


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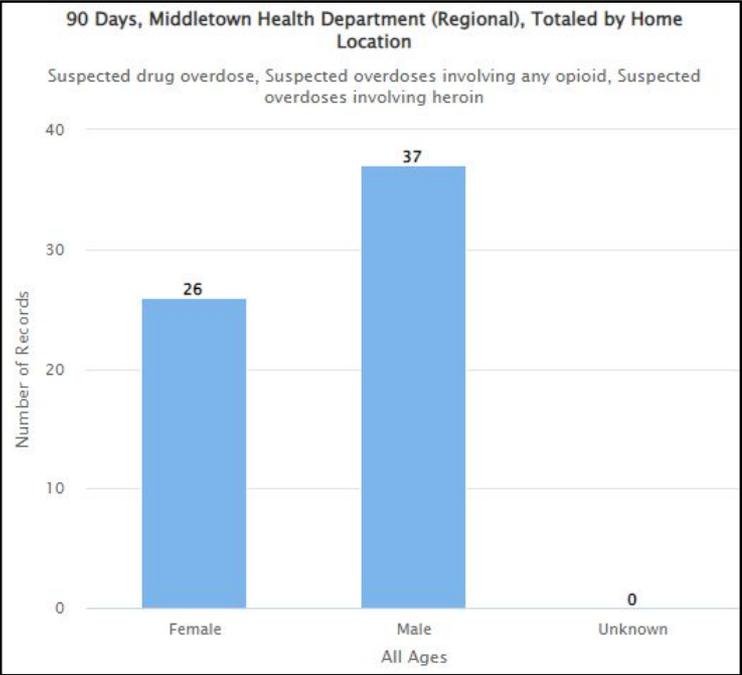
90 Days, Middletown Health Department



Source: EpiCenter 3.5.25.2



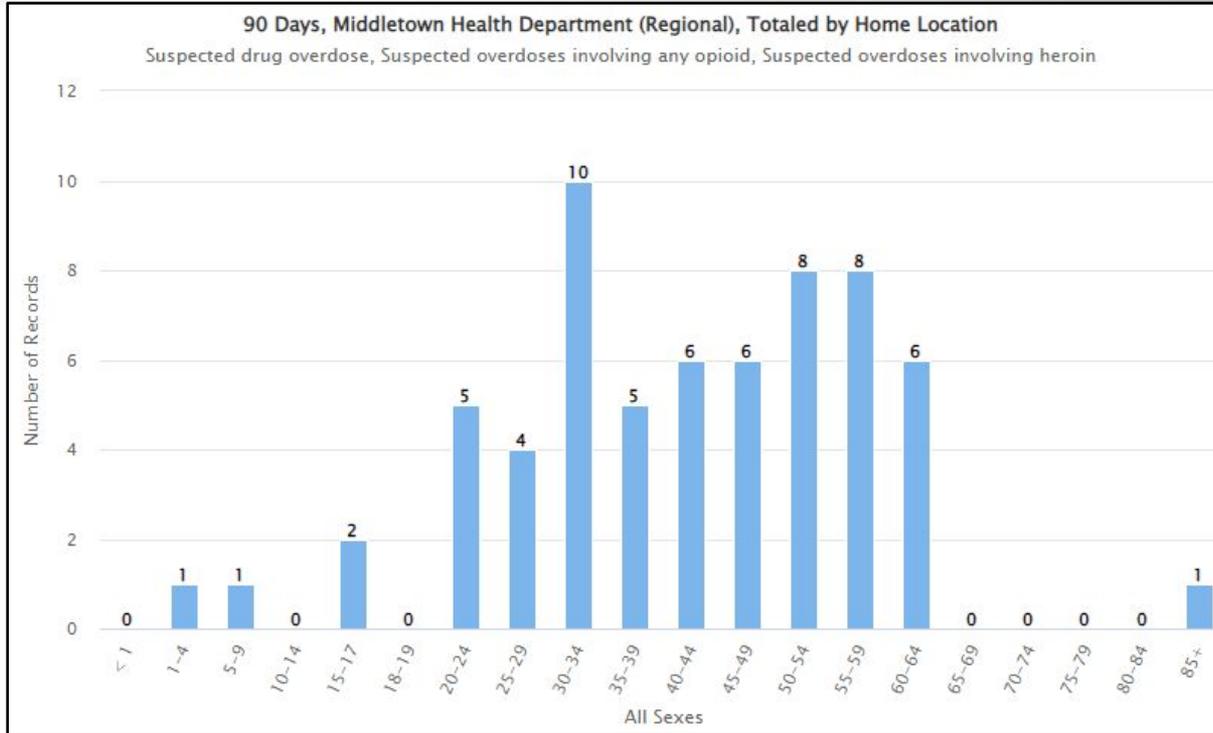
90 Days, Middletown Health Department



Source: EpiCenter 3.5.25.2



90 Days, Middletown Health Department



Source: EpiCenter 3.5.25.2





Workgroup Updates

Workgroup Updates - Access to Treatment

- **Purpose:** To increase access to Substance Use Disorder services through improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Co-Chairs:** Melissa Monroe, Rushford; Barry Richardson, CCAR
- **Meeting Schedule:** 3rd Friday of the month at 11am (Zoom)
- **Report out**



Workgroup Updates - Education & Prevention

- **Purpose:** To enhance community awareness and knowledge of the harmful impacts of opiate use in order to promote prevention, reduce stigma and offer hope by centering those with lived experience and by providing education and training in collaboration with community partners.
- **Chair:** Alie Bates, Rushford
- **Meeting Schedule:** 1st Monday of the month at 1pm (Zoom)
- **Report out**



Workgroup Updates - Intervention / Harm Reduction

- **Purpose:** under development
- **Chair:** TBD
- **Meeting Schedule:** 4th Tuesday of the month @ 10am (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - Next meeting Tuesday, March 28th at 10am (did not meet in February)



Workgroup Updates - Resource Awareness

- **Purpose:** To facilitate awareness of prevention and treatment resources for substance use in the Greater Middletown community in order to increase access to services.
- **Chair:** LeAnna Basque, intern, City of Middletown Department of Health
- **Meeting Schedule:** 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 2pm (Zoom)
- **Report out**





New Business

New Business - Prevention Centers

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elak, Kevin <Kevin.Elak@middletownct.gov>

Date: Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 5:07 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Greater Middletown Opioid Task Force: Action Requested- Support Harm Reduction for Connecticut

To: Elak, Kevin <Kevin.Elak@middletownct.gov>

GMOTF Members,

A bill will soon be introduced during the current legislative session to improve the availability of harm reduction strategies in Connecticut. One component of the bill will allow for a safe space for people to consume preobtained drugs in a monitored setting where staff can immediately intervene in the event of an overdose. New York opened the first safe space, or "Overdose Prevention Center" in 2021. Rhode Island passed legislation in 2021 to allow overdose prevention sites.

Two Yale School of Public Health graduate students (Winnie Ho and Noush Panahpour Eslami) drafted a petition that will be sent to members of the Connecticut General Assembly and the Public Health Committee in support of Overdose Prevention Centers in CT. To date, the petition has been signed by 25 organizations and 164 individuals!

I urge you to consider signing the petition as an individual and/or as part of an organization. Please let Reverend Anderson or I know if you think the Greater Middletown Opioid Task Force should sign the petition as well.

Please see the link below that include information on how to sign the petition and to sign up to submit written or oral testimony when the bill is introduced.

<https://linktr.ee/opcsforct>

Sincerely,

Reverend Robyn Anderson
Kevin Elak
Co-Chairs
Greater Middletown Opioid Task Force



Establish Overdose Prevention Centers in Connecticut ATTN: Connecticut General Assembly

Background Information:

This legislative session, there are proposed bills in the Public Health Committee that signal an opportunity to advocate for stronger action to prevent overdoses and for greater harm reduction measures to bolster the overdose prevention infrastructure. We lost more than 1,500 Connecticut residents in the past year to unintentional drug-related overdose, surpassing the number of lives lost due to motor vehicle accidents. Every single one of these deaths was preventable. Overdose Prevention Centers are evidence-based, life-saving programs that have the potential to connect the most vulnerable in our community to care and to prevent harm.

This petition letter, written by members of the Connecticut Statewide Harm Reduction Action Group, serves as a unified call for the Connecticut General Assembly to address the urgent need for Overdose Prevention Centers in Connecticut. **We are looking for both organization and individual signatures for this petition.**

 catherine.rees@midhosp.org (not shared) [Switch account](#) 

* Required

<https://linktr.ee/opcsforct>



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Member Spotlights

Member Spotlight

Kevin Ferrarotti

Administrative Director

Hunter's Ambulance Service

kevinf@huntersamb.com

**HUNTER'S
AMBULANCE**

Hartford HealthCare 
Emergency Medical Services



Member Spotlight

Elizabeth Allard

Prevention Professional

Rushford - Prevention Department

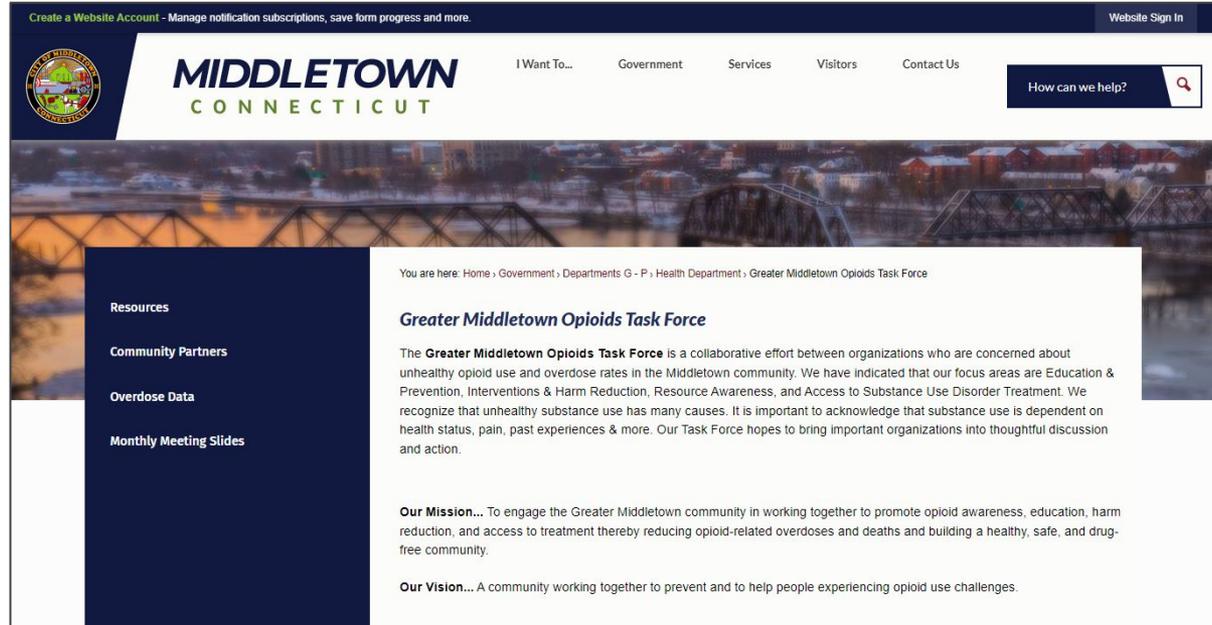
Elizabeth.Allard@hhchealth.org





Updates

Updates - Website is Live!



The screenshot shows the website for the Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force. The header includes a navigation menu with links for 'I Want To...', 'Government', 'Services', 'Visitors', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is located on the right with the text 'How can we help?'. The main content area features a dark blue sidebar with links for 'Resources', 'Community Partners', 'Overdose Data', and 'Monthly Meeting Slides'. The main text area contains the following information:

You are here: Home > Government > Departments G - P > Health Department > Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

The **Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force** is a collaborative effort between organizations who are concerned about unhealthy opioid use and overdose rates in the Middletown community. We have indicated that our focus areas are Education & Prevention, Interventions & Harm Reduction, Resource Awareness, and Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment. We recognize that unhealthy substance use has many causes. It is important to acknowledge that substance use is dependent on health status, pain, past experiences & more. Our Task Force hopes to bring important organizations into thoughtful discussion and action.

Our Mission... To engage the Greater Middletown community in working together to promote opioid awareness, education, harm reduction, and access to treatment thereby reducing opioid-related overdoses and deaths and building a healthy, safe, and drug-free community.

Our Vision... A community working together to prevent and to help people experiencing opioid use challenges.

<https://www.middletownct.gov/1336/Greater-Middletown-Opioids-Task-Force>



Updates

Any member updates since our last meeting? Please share!



Standing Items

Standing Items

- Opioids Settlement Funds
 - City
 - State
- 2023 Legislative Agenda: raised bills





Work in Progress / On the Horizon

Work in Progress / On the Horizon

- Xylazine Education
- Branding:
 - Develop a task force logo?
 - Add list of partners?
- Defining our geography





Announcements

Any Additional Announcements?



Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 19, 12pm, Zoom

