

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 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

Member Organizations

- Alliance for Living Program
- BHcare
- CCAR
- Chatham Health District
- City of Middletown
- City of Middletown Department of Health
- City of Middletown Fire Department
- City of Middletown Police Department
- Carelon Behavioral Health
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County
- Community Health Center (CHC)
- Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH)
- CT Harm Reduction Coalition
- DCF Region 3 (Norwich, Willimantic, Middletown)
- Department of Children and Families
- DMHAS (Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services)
- Durham Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition / DMYFS
- Gilead Community Services
- Hunter's Ambulance Service
- Middlesex Community College
- Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
- Middlesex Health
- Middlesex YMCA
- Middletown Harm Reduction Initiative (MHRI)
- Middletown Public School System
- Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Council
- Ministerial Health Fellowship
- Overdose Response Strategy | New England HIDTA
- River Valley Services, DMHAS
- Root Center for Advanced Recovery
- Rushford
- St. Vincent de Paul Middletown
- Street Fire Ministries
- The Connection
- The Village for Families & Children
- Town of Cromwell Department of Health
- Town of Cromwell Police Department

Agenda

- Welcome New Members
- Data Updates
- Presentations:
 - Kate Glendon, MPH, CHES, CPS, CPC, Rushford Prevention Manager, Hartford Healthcare - Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Council (MSAPC)
 - Ashley Hickey, LPC, LADC, Director of Operations, Root Center for Advanced Recovery - Methadone Clinic, Middletown
- New Business
- Workgroup / Committee Updates
- Standing Agenda Items
- 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 opioid use and to help people experiencing opioid use challenges.

For New Members

- Website:
<https://www.middletonct.gov/1336/Greater-Middletown-Opioids-Task-Force>
- Includes resources and educational material

The screenshot shows the website for the Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Create a Website Account - Manage notification subscriptions, save form progress and more." on the left and "Website Sign In" on the right. The main header features the "MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT" logo and a search bar with the text "How can we help?". Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Home > Government > Departments G - P > Health Department > Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force". The main content area is titled "Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force" and features a large graphic of a bridge with the text "Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force" overlaid. Below the graphic, a paragraph explains that the task force is a collaborative effort between organizations concerned about unhealthy opioid use and overdose rates in the Middletown community. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with the following items: Resources, Community Partners, Overdose Data, Monthly Meeting Slides, and Educational Materials.

Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal

January 1 – February 20, 2024

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal



Total Suspected Overdoses

18

Fatal Overdoses

3

Naloxone Administered

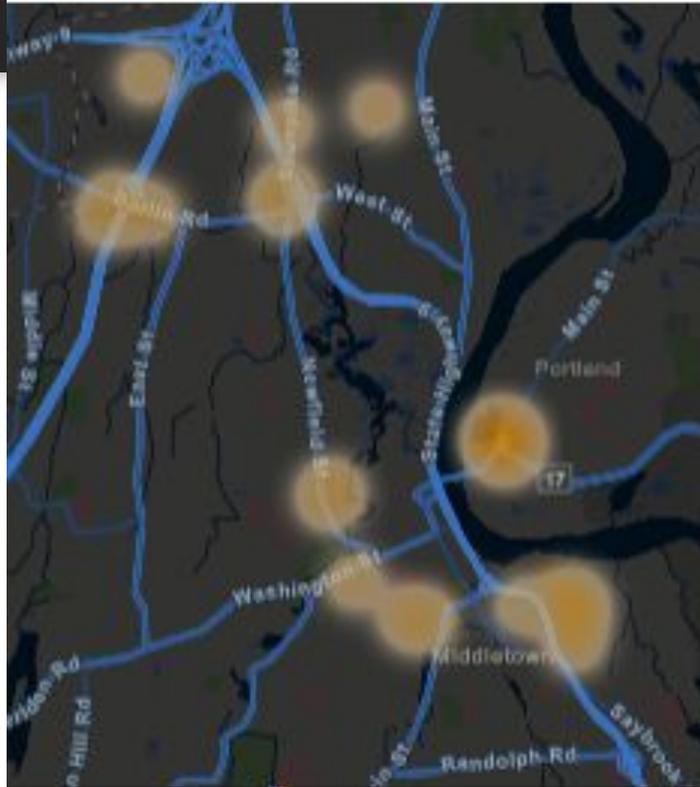
12

1.1.24 – 2.20.24

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Opioid Overdoses Heatmap Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

1.1.24 – 2.20.24



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

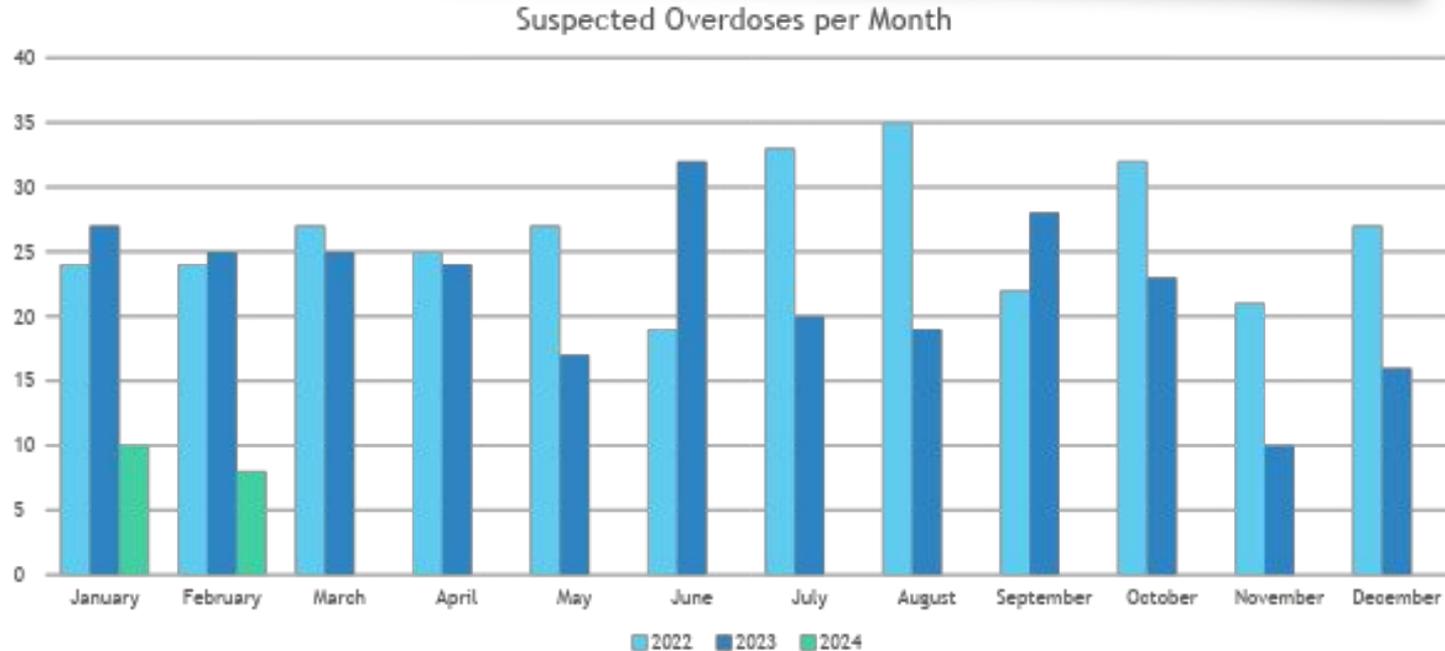
Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdoses by Suspected Drug



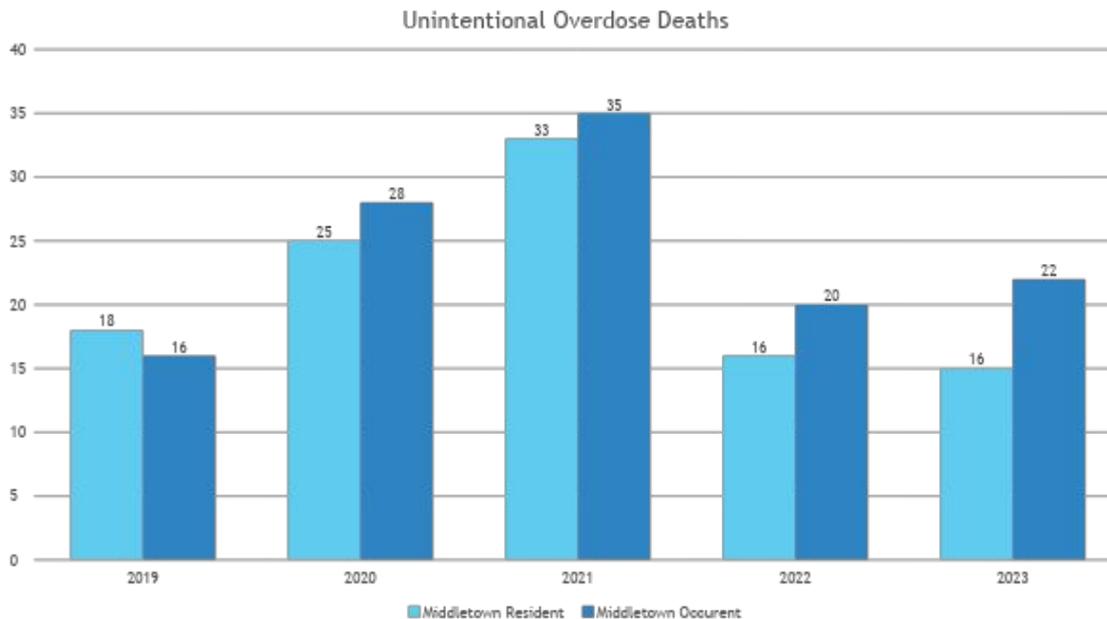
Suspected Drug	#
Fentanyl	5
Prescription Drugs	1
Cocaine	1
Heroin	1
Other / Unknown Opioid	6
Unknown Opioid / Alcohol	1

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

Suspected Overdoses per Month Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland January 1, 2022 – February 20, 2024



Data for Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths 2019 - 2023 (as of 2-8-24)



Source: Office of the CT Chief Medical Examiner

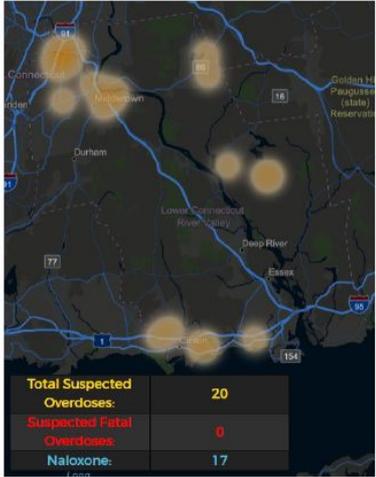


CT EMS SWORD

Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive Newsletter

January 2024, Issue LVI

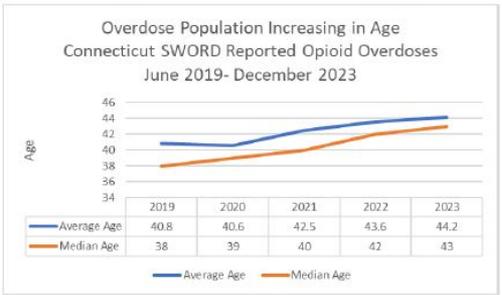
Middlesex & New London Counties



Increased activity was noted in Middlesex County (above), and New London County (below), as reflected in calls made to the Connecticut Poison Control Center as part of the SWORD program. Data depicted provides results for December of 2023.

Age of Suspected Opioid Overdoses Patients Increasing

The average and median age of suspected opioid overdose patients has been steadily increasing according to data from the Connecticut SWORD Directive from the years June 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023 covering 19,892 patient encounters where the patient's age was recorded. In 2019, the median overdose age was 38 and the average age was 40.8. By 2023, the median age has risen to 43 and the average age to 44.2.



Most overdoses during the period occurred in the 30-34 age group (11, 55.5%), followed by 35-39 (4, 20%), 40-44 (3, 15%), 45-49 (1, 5%), and 50-54 (1, 5%).

Middlesex & New London Counties

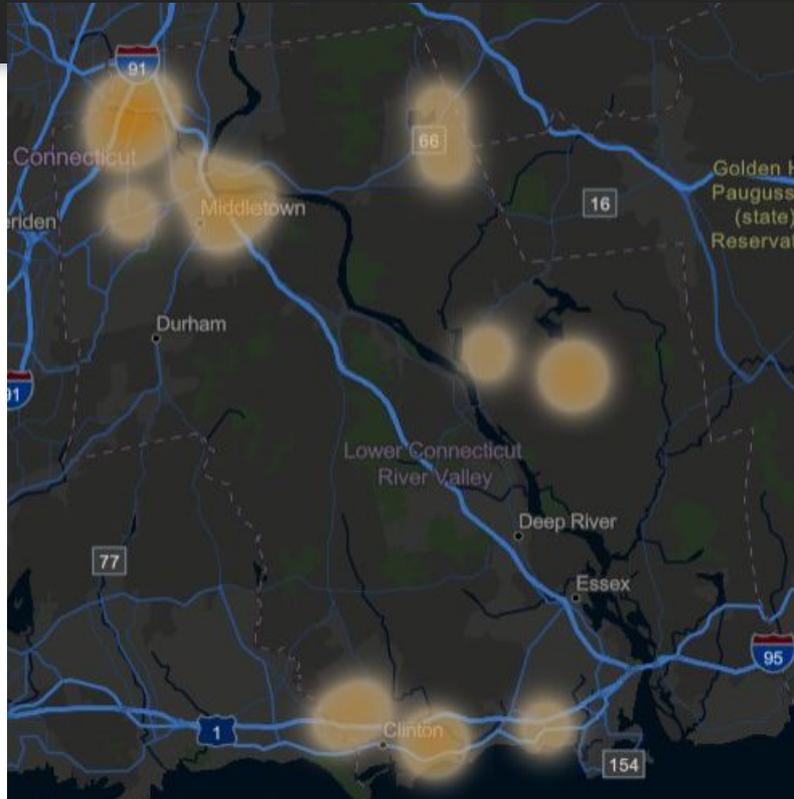
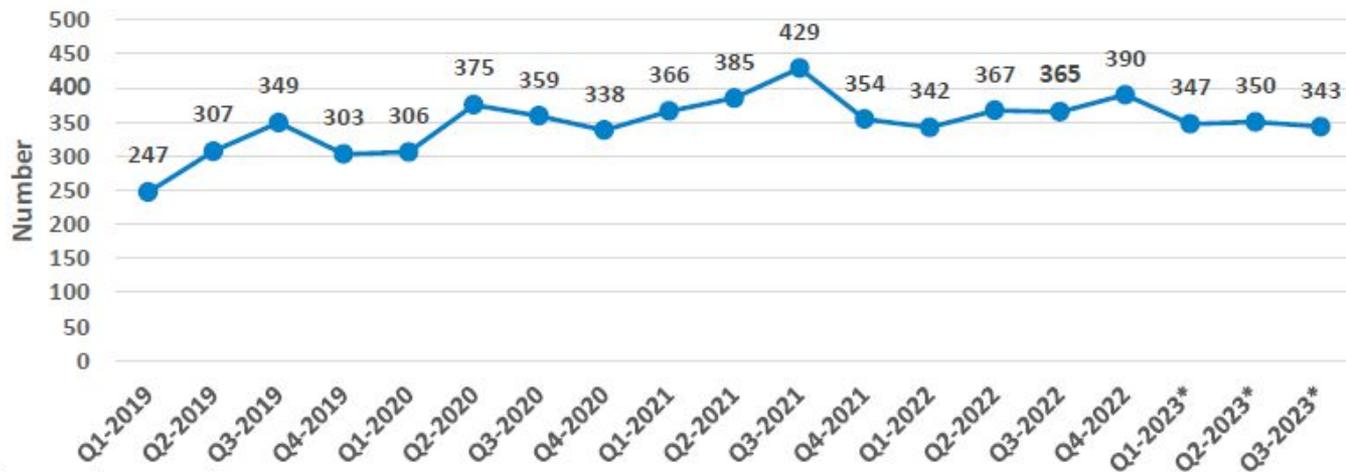
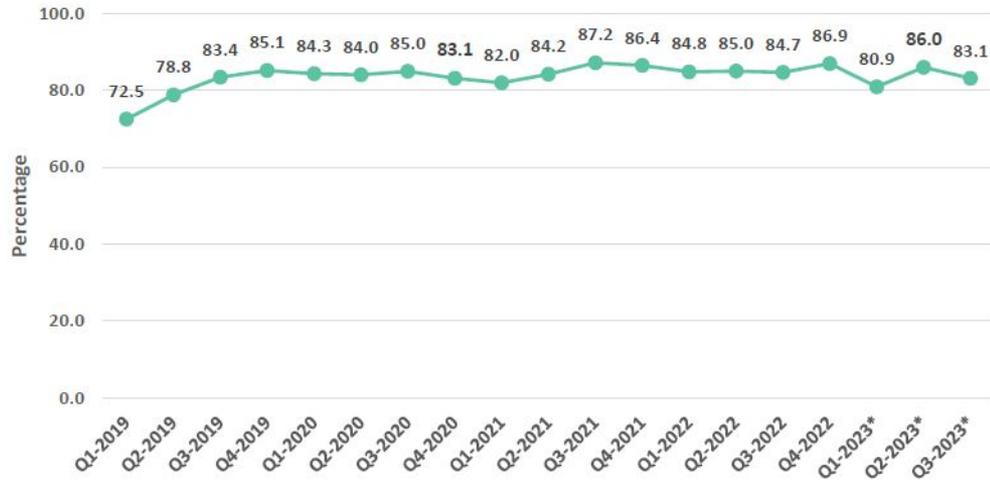


Figure 1a. Number of Unintentional and Undetermined Intent Drug Overdose Deaths, by Quarter, Connecticut, January 2019-September 2023*

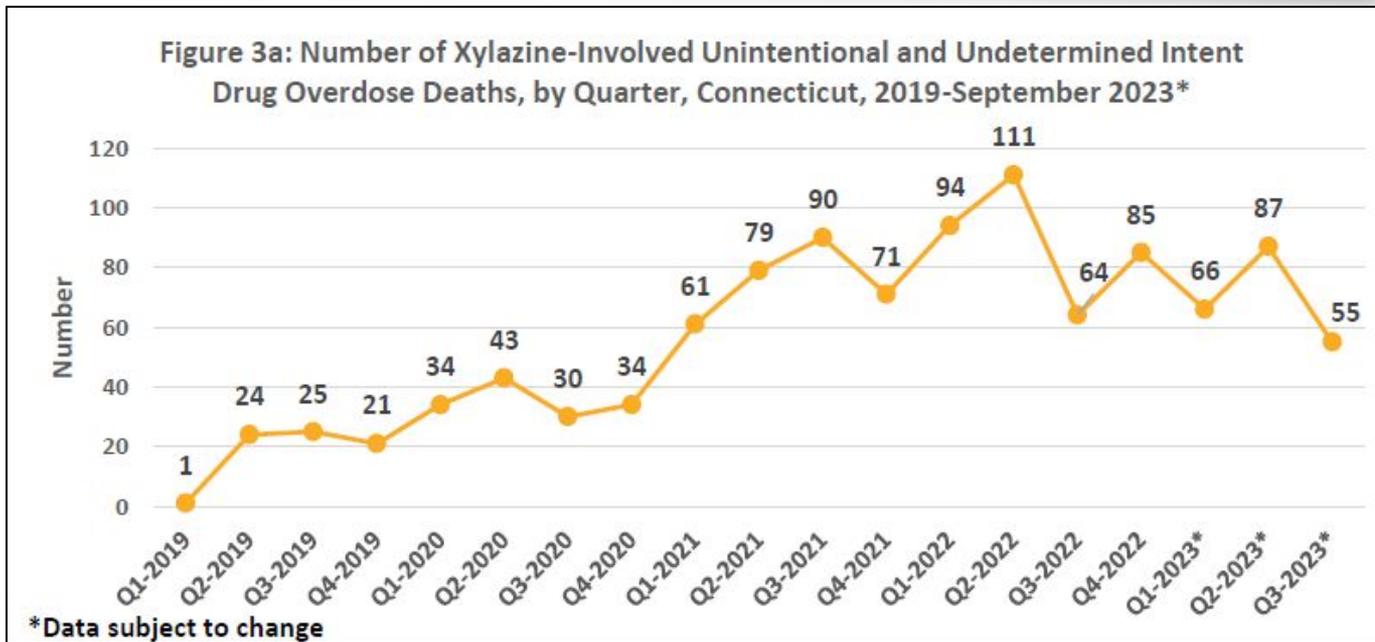


*Data subject to change

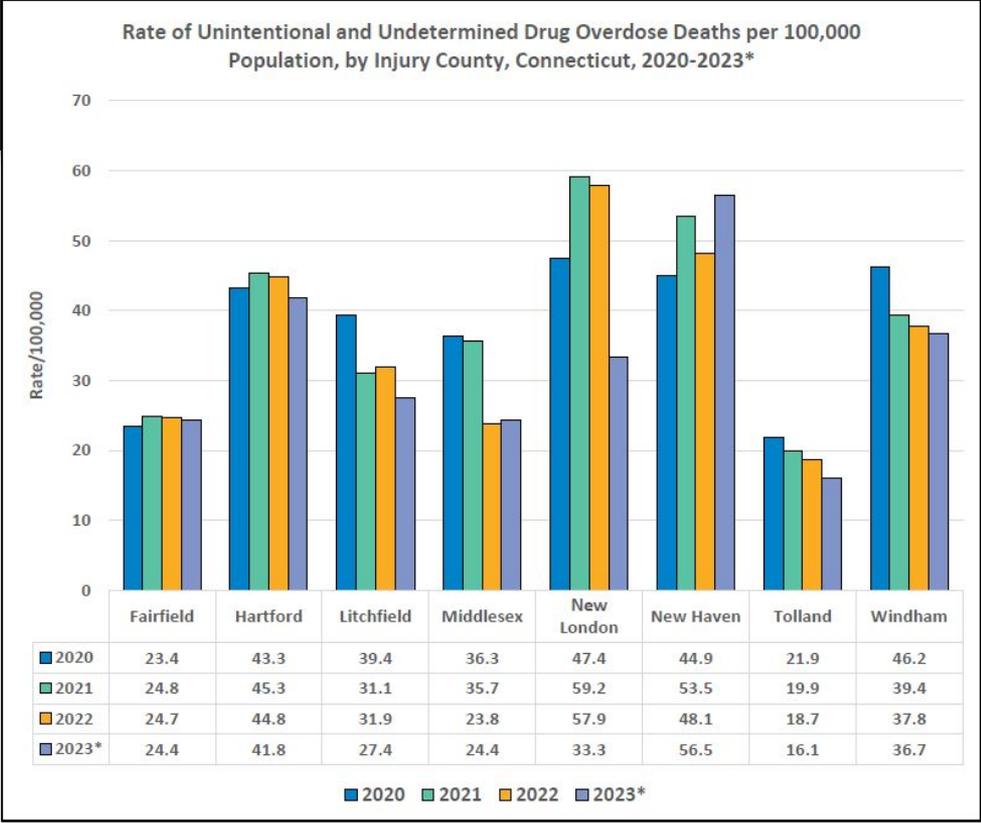
Figure 2. Percentage of Fentanyl-Involved Unintentional and Undetermined Intent Drug Overdose Deaths, by Quarter, Connecticut, 2019-September 2023*



*Data subject to change

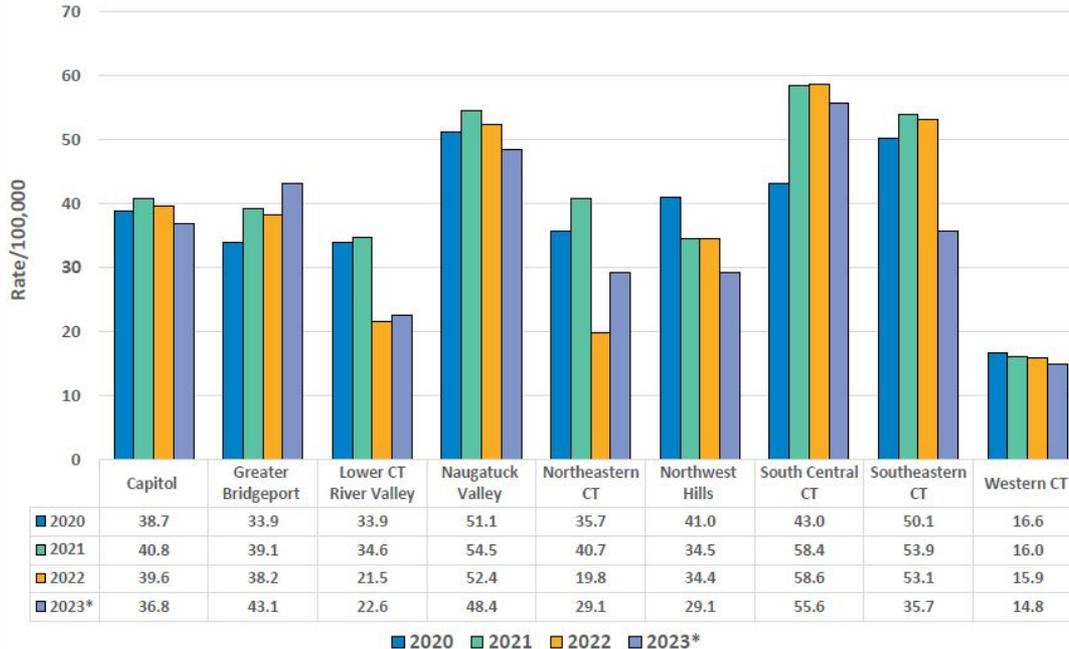


Source: CT Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, 2/13/24



Source: CT Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, 2/13/24

Rate of Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Population, by Injury County Equivalent Planning Regions (CEPRs), Connecticut, 2020-2023*



Source: CT Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, 2/13/24

Presentation

Presentation

Kate Glendon, MPH, CHES, CPS, CPC

Rushford Prevention Manager

Hartford Healthcare

883 Paddock Avenue, Meriden, CT

Kathryn.Glendon@hhchealth.org

Office: 203-238-6800_X86800

Work Cell: 959-261-7748



Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Council

Presentation

Ashley Hickey, LPC, LADC

Director of Operations

[Root Center for Advanced Recovery \(a trade name of The Hartford Dispensary\)](#)

520 Saybrook Road, Suite 105, Middletown, CT 06457

ashley.hickey@rootcenter.org

860-740-8132



ROOT

center for advanced recovery



New Business

New Business

- Discussion on Peer Recovery Coach / Specialist / Outreach Workers / First Responders, etc. collaboration and care coordination
 - System of referral and handoffs



Workgroup / Committee Updates

Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee

- **Purpose:** To develop a comprehensive plan for use of the City of Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds through a collaborative and transparent approach with input from those with lived experience.
- **Meeting Schedule:** bi-weekly on Thursday at 2pm
- **Report out**
 - Survey

Workgroup Updates - Intervention / Harm Reduction

- **Purpose:** To develop and implement opiate use harm reduction strategies and interventions through stakeholder collaboration with input from those with lived experience.
- **Meeting Schedule:** 4th Tuesday of the month @ 10am (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - Goal setting for 2024 (under discussion - Narcan training; Narcan distribution; Drop in Prevention Center)



Workgroup Updates - On Hiatus

- Discussion
 - Relaunch?
 - Combine?
 - Transition to Ad Hoc?
- **Access to Treatment Workgroup. Purpose:** To increase access to Substance Use Disorder services through improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Education & Prevention Workgroup. Purpose:** To enhance community awareness and knowledge of the harmful impacts of opiate use in order promote prevention, reduce stigma and offer hope by centering those with lived experience and by providing education and training in collaboration with community partners.
- **Resource Awareness Workgroup. Purpose:** To facilitate awareness of prevention and treatment resources for substance use in the Greater Middletown community in order to increase access to services.



Standing Agenda Items

Standing Agenda Items

- Legislative / Policy Updates
- Governor Prevention Council Grant - Deactivation Pouches - any updates?
- Other updates



Updates

Resource Guide

Please review and send any
edits / updates to
catherine.rees@midhosp.org



Survey Opportunity

Email sent to Task Force members 2.6.24:

- The Yale School of Public Health is conducting a study - as part of a NIH-funded study to evaluate Connecticut's overdose prevention/response infrastructure - to better understand aspects of overdose prevention. The team is looking to evaluate how professionals involved in overdose prevention / response in Connecticut learn of and respond to opioid-involved overdoses in their communities.
- Please take a moment to take this **brief 5-minute survey** that can be accessed @ https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TT2xyabKh2wPiK. Completion date may have been extended.
- Your input is extremely important and will help the evaluators understand how the state can make information about overdoses and overdose spikes more easily accessible.
- **Please feel free to forward the survey link to your colleagues.** If you have any questions you can reach out to A Ram, the survey coordinator, at a.ram@yale.edu.



Member Announcements

CTHRA Harm Reduction Mobile Van



HARM REDUCTION MOBILE VAN

For Questions Please Call: (860) 778-6325 or (860) 922-5166

Services offered: Syringe Exchange, Fentanyl Test
Kits, Narcan & More

Tuesday

Middletown: Across the Street from St. Vincent DePaul Soup
Kitchen (617 Main Street): 10:30am-11:45am

Durham: 30 Town House Rd: Parking Area in Front of Town
Hall: 12pm-2:00pm

Thursday

East Hampton: 254 W High St, Commuter Lot:
10am-12pm

Chester: 21 Hoopole Hill Rd: Commuter Lot:
12:30pm-1:45pm





Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV)

We're here to help.



The Village's Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV) offers a range of support to help you and family members who have been impacted by opiate use.



Services include:

- One-time Suboxone bridge prescriptions
- Peer support
- Case management
- Connection to treatment
- Support and resources to aid loved ones
- Harm reduction tools and information
- Narcan
- Syringe exchange



VERV services are free of charge and available here:



Please call to confirm our location

Mondays | 1-3pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

Tuesdays | 9-11am
450 Church St., Hartford, CT

Wednesdays | 11am-2pm
617 Main St., Middletown, CT

Thursdays | 10am-12pm
309 Wawarame Ave., Hartford, CT

Fridays | 9-11am
716 Windsor St., Hartford, CT

Fridays | 1-3pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

thevillage.org/VERV

Jennifer Foss, Recovery Support Specialist | (859) 333-0068

Charles Bolling, Recovery Support Specialist | (860) 482-3214

Joseph Rivera, Bilingual Case Manager | (860) 488-5922

Village Extendido Clínica Vehículo de Recuperación (VERV) por sus siglas en Inglés

Estamos aquí para ayudarle.



La Clínica Vehículo de Recuperación ampliada del Village (VERV) ofrece una serie de ayudas para usted y los miembros de su familia que se han visto afectados por el consumo de opiáceos. Los servicios incluyen:



- Recetas puente únicas de Suboxone
- Herramientas e información para la reducción de lesiones
- Conexión con tratamientos
- Apoyo entre iguales
- Apoyo y recursos para ayudar a sus seres queridos
- Narcan
- Gestión de casos
- Intercambio de jeringuillas



Los servicios de VERV son gratuitos y están disponibles aquí:



Por favor llame para confirmar nuestra ubicación:

Lunes | 1-3pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

Martes | 9-11am
450 Church St., Hartford, CT

Miércoles | 11am-2pm
617 Main St., Middletown, CT

Jueves | 10am-12pm
309 Wawarame Ave., Hartford, CT

Viernes | 9-11am
716 Windsor St., Hartford, CT

Viernes | 1-3pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

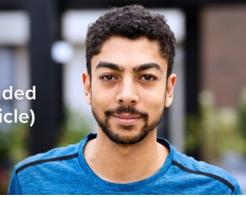
thevillage.org/VERV

Jennifer Foss, Especialista en Apoyo para la Recuperación | (859) 333-0068

Charles Bolling, Especialista en Apoyo para la Recuperación | (860) 482-3214

Joseph Rivera, Administrador de Casos Bilingüe | (860) 488-5922

VERV (Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle) in Middletown



Wednesdays, 11:00am-2:00pm

617 Main Street, Middletown, CT (driveway of St. Vincent de Paul Middletown)

VERV is in Middletown every Wednesday and is staffed by Village recovery coaches and case managers who work with people impacted by opiate and substance use. Services include:

- One-time Suboxone bridge prescriptions
- Harm reduction tools and information
- Connection to treatment
- Peer support
- Support and resources to aid loved ones
- Narcan
- Case management
- Syringe exchange

This service is provided in collaboration with Greater Middletown community partners to offer continuity of care.



Other dates & locations

Mondays | 1:00-3:00pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

Tuesdays | 9:00-11:00am
450 Church St., Hartford, CT

Thursdays | 10:00am-12:00pm
309 Wawarame Ave., Hartford, CT

Friday mornings | 9:00-11:00am
716 Windsor St., Hartford, CT

Friday afternoons | 1:00-3:00pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT



Call to confirm our location

Jennifer Foss, Recovery Support Specialist | (859) 333-0068

Charles Bolling, Recovery Support Specialist | (860) 482-3214

Joseph Rivera, Bilingual Case Manager | (860) 488-5922

thevillage.org/VERV

VERV (Village Extendido Vehículo de Recuperación) en Middletown



Miércoles de 11:00am a 2:00pm (entrada de coches de St. Vincent de Paul Middletown)

617 Main Street, Middletown, CT

VERV está presente en Middletown todos los miércoles y cuenta con coaches de recuperación y gestores de casos de Village que trabajan con personas afectadas por el uso de opiáceos y sustancias. Los servicios incluyen:

- Recetas puente únicas de Suboxone
- Herramientas e información para la reducción de lesiones
- Conexión con tratamientos
- Apoyo y recursos para ayudar a sus seres queridos
- Narcan
- Gestión de casos
- Intercambio de jeringuillas

Este servicio es ofrecido en colaboración con los socios de la comunidad de Greater Middletown para ofrecer continuidad en la atención.



Otras fechas y lugares

Lunes | 1:00-3:00pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT

Martes | 9:00-11:00am
450 Church St., Hartford, CT

Jueves | 10:00am-12:00pm
309 Wawarame Ave., Hartford, CT

Viernes por la mañana | 9:00-11:00am
716 Windsor St., Hartford, CT

Viernes por la tarde | 1:00-3:00pm
331 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT



Llame para confirmar nuestra ubicación:

Jennifer Foss, Especialista en Apoyo para la Recuperación | (859) 333-0068

Charles Bolling, Especialista en Apoyo para la Recuperación | (860) 482-3214

Joseph Rivera, Administrador de Casos Bilingüe | (860) 488-5922

thevillage.org/VERV

Trainings



YOU CAN
Save a Life

FREE NARCAN TRAINING SESSION

Thursday, February 29
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Ages 19 + Welcome

Russell Library, Middletown

Registrants will receive a **FREE** Narcan Kit!



Learn how to administer Narcan Nasal Spray



Hartford HealthCare
Rushford

MSAPC

Public Health
Middletown Health Department



ASK A QUESTION, SAVE A LIFE

FREE Suicide Prevention Training

Thursday, March 14, 2024

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Russell Library

123 Broad Street, Middletown

As a QPR-Trained Gatekeeper, You'll Learn to:

- Recognize the warnings signs of suicide
- Know how to offer hope
- Know how to get help and save a life

***All participants will receive a QPR Gatekeeper certificate.**

To register for this training, click the link below or scan the QR code:

<https://russelllibrary.libcal.com/event/11978722>



Symposium

**Moving Forward:
Community Dialogues
on the Opioid
Epidemic**



**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 29
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
STUDENT CENTER**

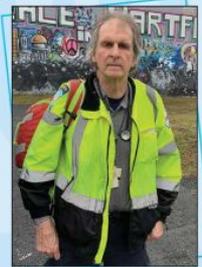
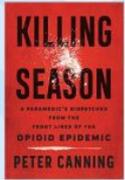
Scan here to register and
to see the full schedule



All are welcome!

This one-day symposium will bring community partners together with our campus and the general public, in order to better understand the opioid epidemic and work toward community-driven solutions.

Opening Keynote Speaker: Peter Canning, author of *Killing Season: A Paramedic's Dispatches from the Front Lines of the Opioid Epidemic*



Panels throughout the day will include speakers who work in state politics, treatment, law enforcement, social work, and the court system, including those with lived experiences.

CONNECTICUT
HEALTHY
CAMPUS
INITIATIVE



EASTERN
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information, contact Dean Emily Todd at
todde@easternct.edu

Any Member Announcements?



Work Status / Tracking

Completed Work

Completed 2022	Completed 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Formation of Task Force (January 2022)● Member Prioritization Survey (April)● Formation of 4 Workgroups (Access to Treatment; Education & Prevention; Intervention / Harm Reduction; Resource Awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flier for Narcan Leave Behind Kits (April 2023)● Narcan Leave Behind Kits partnership with South Fire District, Middletown (April 2023)● Xylazine Informational piece (May 2023)● Harm Reduction Training by Mark Jenkins, Executive Director, CT Harm Reduction Coalition at Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church (8.16.23)● Harm Reduction RV - Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV) (Launched 9.6.23; Ribbon Cutting 10.25.23)● Resource Guide (9.30.23)

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 12pm, Zoom

