



# CONNECTICUT

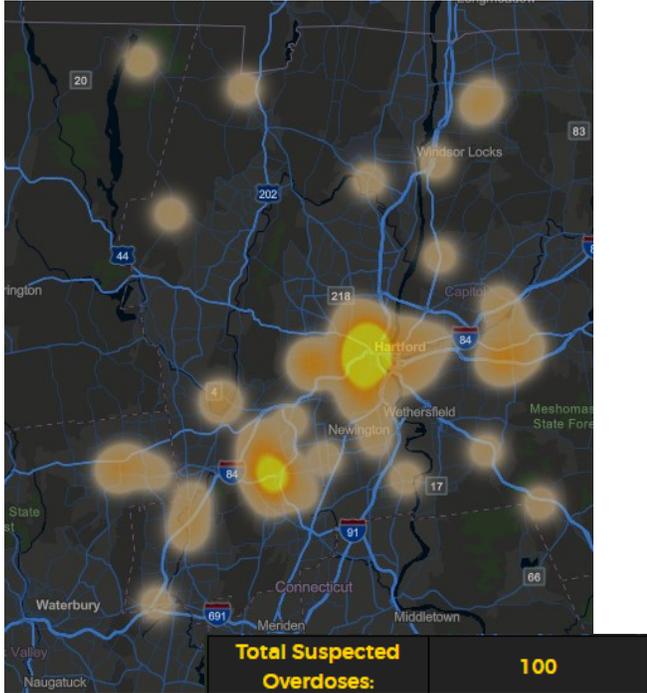
Public Health

# EMS SWORD

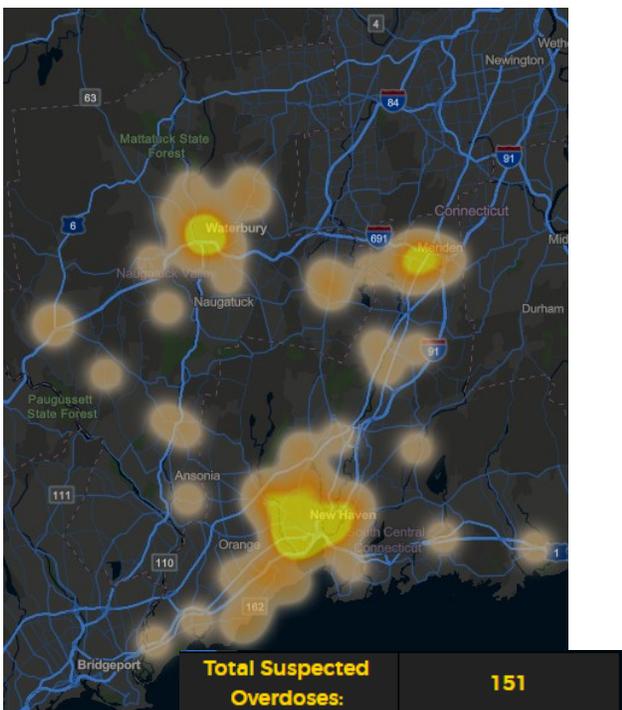
Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive Newsletter

June 2024, Issue LXI

## Hartford & New Haven Counties



Increased activity was noted in Hartford County (above), and New Haven (below), as reflected in ODMAP when agency filter reflects: Connecticut Dept. of Public Health, Office of EMS. Data depicted provides results for May of 2024.



## Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD) 2023 Annual Report June 2023-May 2024

### Introduction

Between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2024, Connecticut Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders reported suspected opioid overdoses to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) as part of the Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD). Following each suspected overdose, EMS responders called the CPCC's 1-800-222-1222 line to report the event and answer a series of questions. CPCC specialists recorded the information and entered a portion of the data into the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a federal mapping application. In its five years of state-wide operation, the SWORD program has collected 21,279 overdose cases, including 3,179 cases from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024. The collected data and mapping enabled local, state, and federal public health and public safety agencies to respond in a timely manner to overdoses in their respective communities.

When SWORD/ODMAP triggers a spike alert, based on a preset number of overdoses in a county in any 24-hour period, Department of Public Health (DPH) epidemiologists review the following: SWORD Toxicall narratives (EMS), DPH Syndromic Surveillance System (Emergency Department visits), and Medical Examiner (OCME) data. Based on this review, if a threat is determined, DPH issues a public health advisory.

On June 1, 2024, the SWORD program transitioned to an automatic overdose reporting system through an API (Automatic Programming Interface). This new iteration of SWORD will continue to produce data reports and spike alerts. It should resolve the issue of EMS incomplete reporting compliance.

### Year 5 SWORD Highlights

- There were 3,179 suspected overdoses reported by EMS to the SWORD program between June 1, 2023,

and May 31, 2024, a 23.2% decrease over the previous year.

- Males accounted for 73% of the overdoses; and females accounted for 27%
- The age group that experienced the most opioid overdoses among men was 30-39 and 35-44 among women.
- More overdoses occurred on Saturdays than any other day of the week. Most overdoses occurred between 5:00 PM and 6:00 P.M than any other hour block.
- Bystanders and other non-emergency providers administered naloxone prior to 911(EMS, Fire, Police) arrival in 24% of the overdose cases where 911 was called.
- 89% of nonfatal opioid overdose patients were transported to a hospital emergency department. 11% of nonfatal overdose patients who received naloxone refused transport.
- 65% of those who overdosed snorted or smoked as

their route of exposure versus 23% who ingested their opioids and 11% who injected.

- 58% of nonfatal overdoses occurred in residences. 86% of fatal overdoses occurred in residences. 10.6% of all overdoses occurred in a motor vehicle.

### Limitations

The SWORD database is not a complete database of all opioid overdoses in Connecticut. It includes only those overdoses where 911 is called and EMS responders report the overdose to CPCC. The database is dependent on EMS compliance with reporting the event. EMS compliance may vary significantly by municipality. It is estimated that SWORD contains only 12% of opioid overdose fatalities. EMS responders are often unable to determine cause of death because of the lack of paraphernalia (i.e., needle in arm, heroin bags, etc.) at the scene. In addition, patients who die after EMS transports to the hospital are reported as nonfatal in this data base and overdose deaths where EMS was not called to respond are not reported.

## SWORD Automation & Evolution

As you may be aware the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has worked diligently with the Department of Public Health Information Technology Department to implement an automated data export to the ODMAP platform. The Application Programming Interface, (API), as the program is referred to, was collaboratively accomplished and is ready for utilization. The program has been active since January of 2024.

This automated data feed facilitates improvement in the OEMS's ability to assess the overdose landscape and to identify trends more easily. Additionally, it will eliminate the reporting requirement of EMS clinicians to call the CPCC.

As of July 1, 2024, EMS clinicians will **not** be required to call to the CPCC for the reporting of suspected fatal or non-fatal opioid overdoses. Completing an Electronic Patient Care Report will suffice as meeting the reporting requirement going forward.

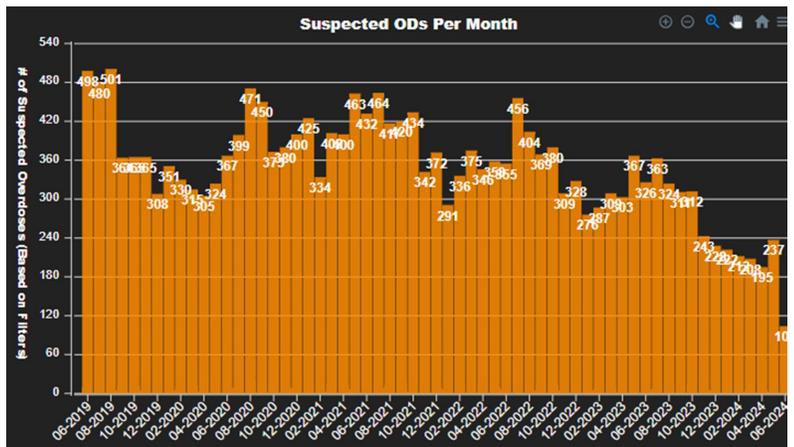
The new agency filter ID is called Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of EMS. This new agency filter should be used instead of the old filter titled Connecticut Poison Control Center.

EMS clinicians will be encouraged to enter a rich nar-

ative with descriptions of scene observations, patient presentation, and any other unique details that are important. We are working to develop a brief video segment, which provides training in Naloxone leave-behind and it also announces the new SWORD reporting model.

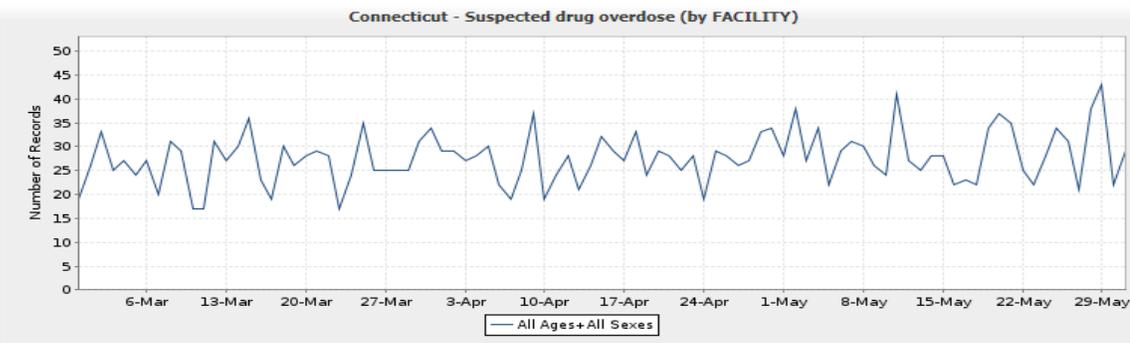
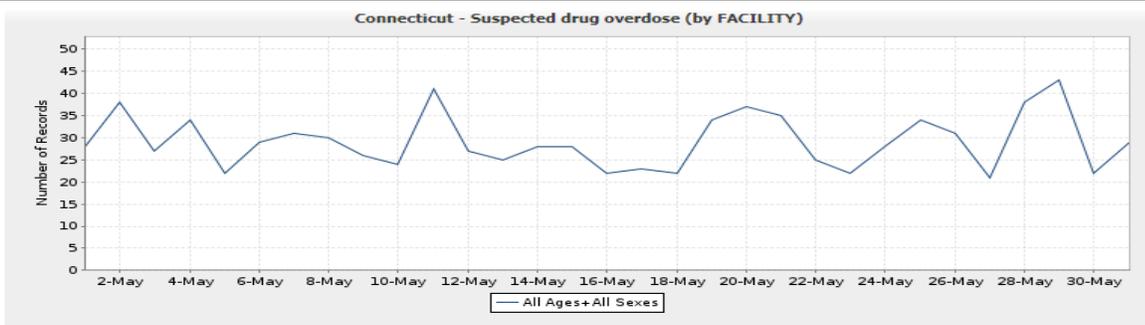
The department does not want to discourage services from contacting CPCC with interesting cases, which may involve a cluster of overdoses, multi-patients, or pediatric incidents. Please feel free to call them, just know that it is no longer a requirement.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we continue to leverage data for better patient outcomes!



Overdoses by month as reported to CPCC since June of 2019.

**Right >:** Suspected all overdoses by Day, May of 2024  
 Information sourced from EpiCenter system, June 2024.

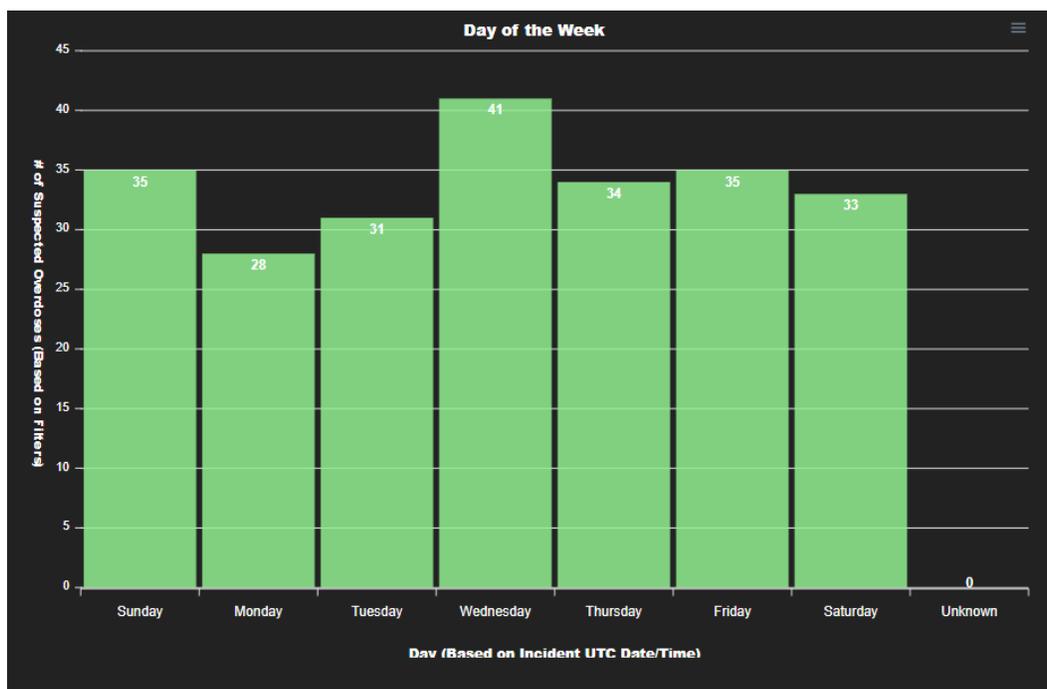


**< Left:** All overdoses by Day, March-May 2024.

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, June of 2024.

**Right >:** This graph represents EMS reported opioid overdoses by frequency of incident day during May 2024.

This graph was sourced from OD-MAP in June 3 2024.



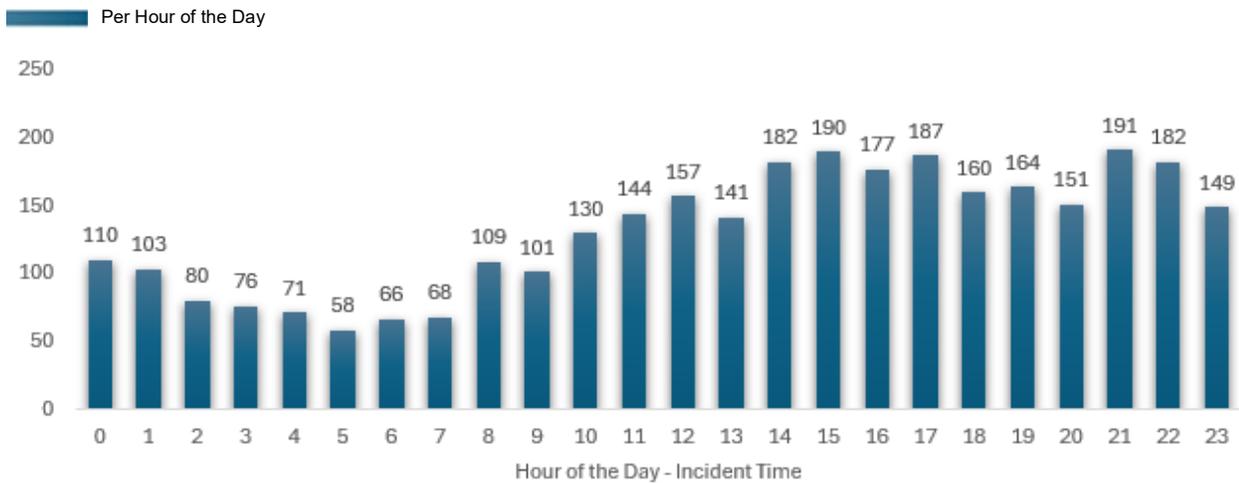
## SWORD Statewide Reporting April 2024

In the month of May 2024, there were 237 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 230 were non-fatal and 7 were reported as fatalities. There were 193 total naloxone administrations: 116 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 74 non-fatal single dose naloxone, 39 non-fatal with no naloxone administered and zero non-fatal naloxone administration unknown. Out of the 7 reported fatal overdoses there were a total of four fatal with multiple doses of naloxone administered, three fatal with a single dose of Naloxone administered, and four with no naloxone administered.

The numbers by county are as follows: Fairfield County 40, Hartford County 101, Litchfield County <11, Middlesex County <11, New Haven County 37, New London County 29, Tolland County <11, Windham County <11.

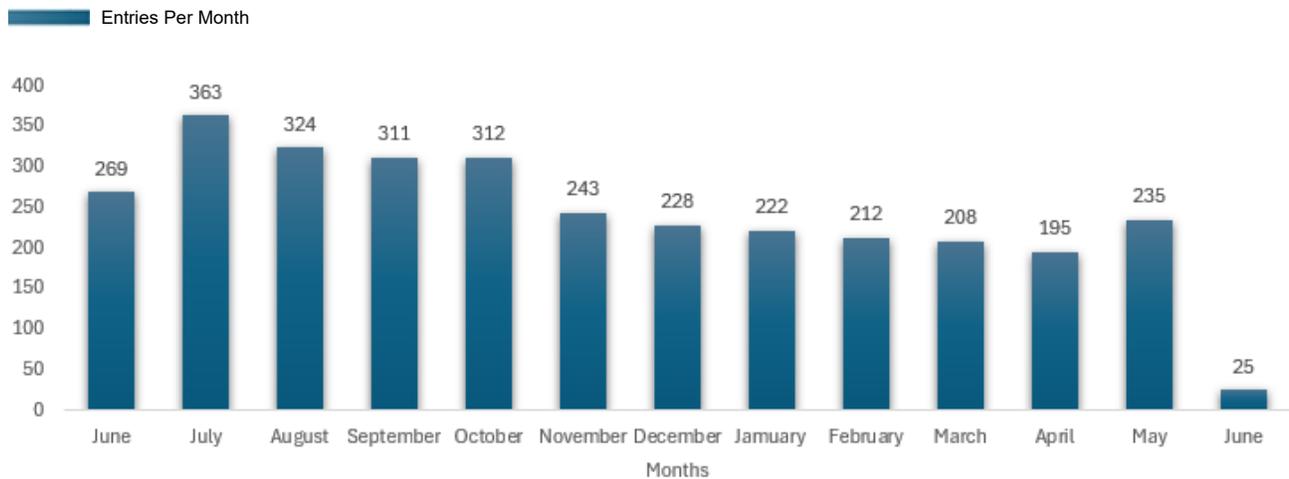
\* Numbers are subject to change

### ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - All Data Submitted



**Cumulative (June 2019—May 2024) Overdoses by the Hour of the Day**  
This graph shows the hour of the day suspected overdose incidents have occurred statewide since the SWORD program began on June 1, 2019.

### ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - In the Last Year



**ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions—In the Last Year by Month.**  
This graph was generated by Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, May 2, 2024.

Do you need help accessing ODMAP [Click here](#) to contact the ODMAP Helpdesk, or call (301) 489-1744



## Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services

[Click here](#) to contact OEMS regarding the SWORD program, ODMAP, or feedback, [Click here](#) to check out the SWORD page on our website

*Thank you for timely EPCR completion!*