

# Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, September 18, 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, Women's REACH Program
- The Village for Families & Children
- Town of Cromwell Department of Health
- Town of Cromwell Police Department
- Wesleyan University

# Agenda

- Welcome New Members
- Data Review
- Updates
- Workgroup / Committee Updates
- Standing Agenda Items
- Member Announcements



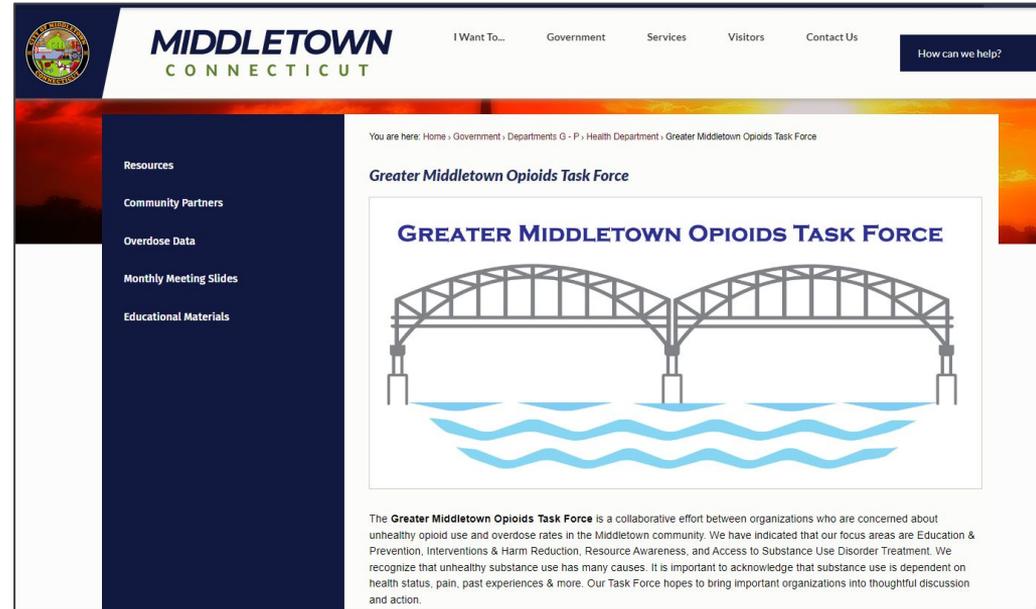
# Mission & Vision Statement

- **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.middletownct.gov/1336/Greater-Middletown-Opioids-Task-Force>
- Includes resources and educational material



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**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.



# Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal

January 1 – September 17, 2024

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

# Changes to ODMAP Reporting

- ▶ As of July 1, 2024:
  - ▶ Overdoses are no longer reported to Connecticut Poison Control Center.
  - ▶ The CT Department of Public Health developed a new program called API to capture overdose information in Connecticut.
  - ▶ API used ImageTrend using data from Electronic Patient Care Records

Overdoses from January 1 - September 17, 2024

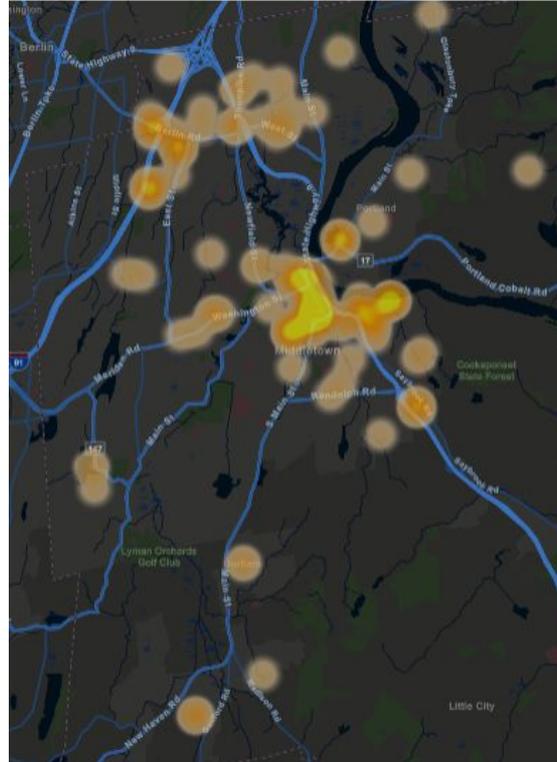
Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and  
Portland

<b>Total Suspected Overdoses</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Fatal Overdoses</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Naloxone Administered</b>	<b>47*</b>

\*Naloxone Administered data not available after 6/30/24

# Overdose Heatmap from 1/1/24 - 8/20/24

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Portland



# Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdoses by Suspected Drug

Suspected Drug	
Fentanyl	22
Prescription Drugs	2
Heroin	7
Other / Unknown Opioid	72*
Other / Alcohol	2
PCP	1
Crack/Cocaine	17

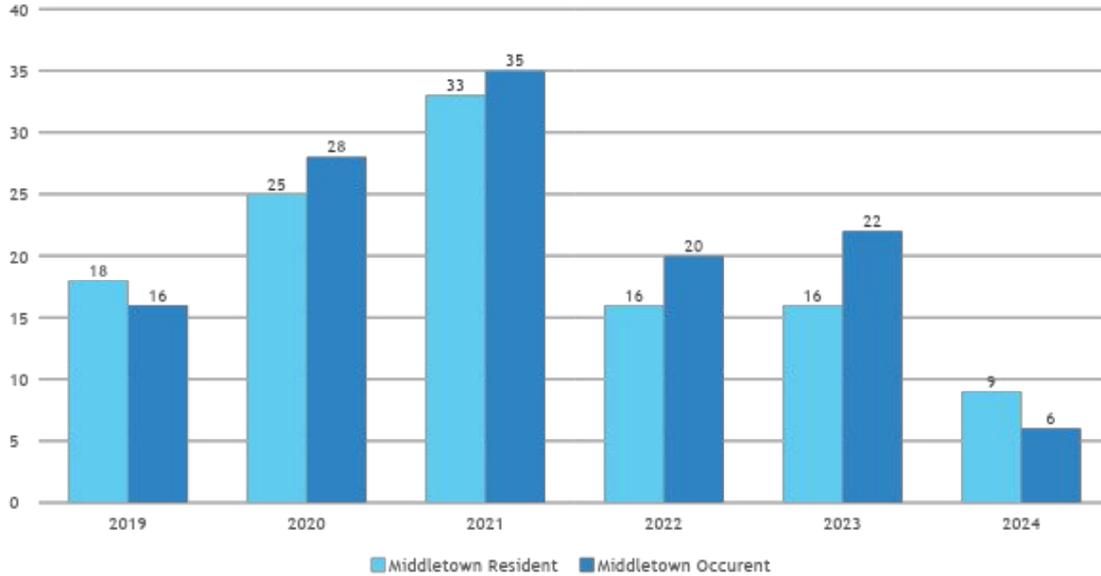
\* Most overdoses listed as “other” after 6/30/24

# Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths

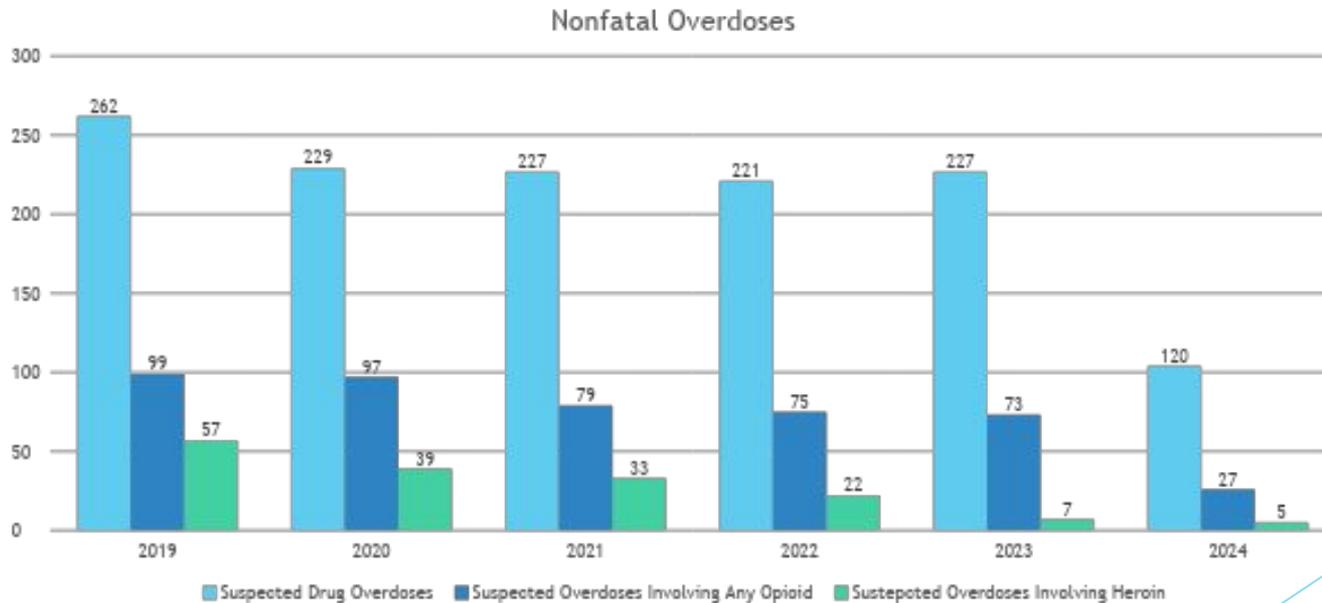
2019 - 2024  
(as of 8-7-24)

Source: Office of the CT Chief Medical  
Examiner

## Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths 2019 - 2024



# Middletown Non-fatal drug overdoses 2019-2024



Source: EpiCenter 4.0.1



Updates

# The Governor's Prevention Partnership - Overdose Awareness Day Press Conference (8.28.24)



 The Governor's Prevention Partnership  
September 10 at 2:16 PM · 🌐

On August 29th, we collaborated with the [City of Middletown](#), [Connecticut Government](#), [CADCA](#) and [DEA New England Division](#) to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day.

We handed out 5,000 drug disposal pouches, resulting in the removal of 200,000 pills from circulation. This action was crucial considering that over 50% of youth who misuse drugs obtain them from familiar homes. In 2023, Connecticut lost 1,329 lives to overdose, with many cases involving fentanyl. Together, we stood to prevent future tragedies.

We would like to express our gratitude to CADCA President Gen. Barrye Price, The DEA and the City of Middletown.

To learn more about what happened, visit the [Middletown CT Patch](#) article: [heyor.ca/94mOvY](https://heyor.ca/94mOvY)  
[#IOAD24](#) [#PreventionStartsWithYOU](#) [#OverTheDose](#)

[Patch Article Link](#)



# DPH OEMS Monthly Report (Thank You, Jim Santacroce!)

## CT OPIOID RESPONSE (CORE) INITIATIVE:

- As of 8/31/2024 the CT Poison Control Center (CPCC) will stop entering data into ODMAP, providing for a much cleaner data feed going forward. The API will be the only central data feed for Connecticut ODMAP reporting.
- In August the County level data will be reported by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) into ODMAP. This change was approved by OCME and data credit will be provided in a footnote. This partnership is necessary as EMS run forms are an excellent source for identifying non-fatal overdoses. This new arrangement will allow us to provide more timely and accurate estimates associated with fatal overdoses in the State.
- Collaboration is happening with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) on their Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) grant and providing guidance related to training videos. The series of videos, available in early 2025, will focus on Opioid overdose response and stigma. The roughly 30 minutes of total content will be divided into small 4–5- minute segments/modules. The total 39-minute block will provide EMS professionals with CME credit.
- DMHAS is working on the distribution plan for the 2024-2025 Bulk Purchase Opioid Antagonist Naloxone. The plan should be announced in early September, and this year's plan is designed to distribute the resource to more EMS services across the State.

# Subcommittee Updates

- **Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee**
  - Grant application process - under development
  - Survey - to be launched soon



# Subcommittee Updates

- **Intervention / Harm Reduction & Access to Treatment Workgroup**
  - Leave Behind Kits
    - Addition - Narcan How To in Spanish (thank you, Daisy Hernandez, for the translation!)
    - Addition - Treatment card
    - Roll out status



**Get Connected to Treatment**

CT Department of Mental Health and  
Addiction Services (DMHAS) Access Line:  
1-800-563-4086

Scan QR Code to access the Resource  
Guide created by the Greater  
Middletown Opioids Task Force





**911 & Narcan® / Naloxone Nasal Spray**  
*Every Second Counts!*

Narcan® / Naloxone should be given immediately for a known or suspected  
opioid overdose in adults and children  
*Anyone can administer Narcan® - you don't need to be a medical professional!*

**How To Use**

- 1 Identify Opioid Overdose and Check for Response.**
  - Unconscious; person doesn't wake up when you shake them / call their name / rub center of chest.
  - Breathing is very slow, irregular or has stopped.
  - Center part of eyes are very small.
  - Cold and clammy skin; lips / fingernails are blue.
- 2 Call 911. Get Emergency Medical Help Right Away!**  
**Lay. Spray. Roll. Stay. Repeat, if Necessary.**
- 3 Lay the Person on Their Back.**

- 4 Give Narcan® / Naloxone Nasal Spray.**
  - Do not test nasal spray first.
  - Peel tab back to access Narcan® / Naloxone.
  - Hold nasal spray with thumb on bottom of plunger. Put first and middle fingers on either side of nozzle.
  - Tilt person's head back and support neck with your hand.
  - Gently put tip of nozzle into either nostril until your fingers are against the bottom of the person's nose.
  - Press the plunger firmly and all the way to give the entire dose (one spray = the entire dose).
- 5 Roll the person on their side.**

- 6 Stay Until Emergency Medical Help Arrives. Watch. Repeat if Needed.**
  - Watch the person closely.
  - Repeat if necessary. If after 2-3 minutes the person does not respond by waking up, give another dose of a new nasal spray using the same steps.

Cambio de Español 09/23



**911 & Narcan® / Naloxona Spray Nasal**  
**¡Cada segundo cuenta!**

Use Narcan® / Naloxona Spray Nasal para tratar sobredosis conocidas o presuntas  
de opioides en adultos y niños.  
*Cualquier persona puede administrar Narcan® / Naloxona; no necesitas ser un  
profesional médico!*

**Como Administrar Narcan® / Naloxona Spray Nasal**

- 1 Identifique la sobredosis de opioides y verifique la respuesta.**
  - La persona no se despierta o responde a su voz o cuando frota los nudillos en el hueso central del pecho.
  - La respiración es muy lenta, irregular, o se ha detenido.
  - Las pupilas de los ojos están muy pequeñas.
  - La piel está pálida, azulada o fría; labios / uñas moradas.
- 2 Llame al 911. Busque ayuda médica de emergencia inmediatamente!**  
**Acueste. Administre. Coloque. Quédesse. Repetir, Si Es Necesario.**
- 3 Acueste a la persona sobre su espalda.**

- 4 Administre Narcan® / Naloxona Spray Nasal.**
  - No pruebe el spray nasal hasta que esté listo para su uso.
  - Despegue la pestaña marcada con un círculo para abrir el Narcan®/Naloxona spray nasal.
  - Sientenga el spray nasal con el pulgar sobre la parte inferior del émbolo y los dedos índice y medio a cada lado del aplicador.
  - Incline la cabeza de la persona hacia atrás y sujete la parte posterior del cuello con su mano.
  - Inserte suavemente la punta del pulverizador en una de las fosas nasales hasta que sus dedos, en cada lado del aplicador, estén en contacto con la base de la nariz de la persona.
  - Presione firmemente el émbolo para administrar la dosis del spray nasal.
- 5 Coloque a la persona de lado.**

- 6 Quédesse con la persona hasta que la ayuda médica de emergencia llegue.**
  - Observe atentamente a la persona. Si la persona no responde al despertarse, a la voz, al contacto o no respira normalmente, se puede administrar otra dosis.
  - Repita estos pasos usando un nuevo spray nasal para administrar otra dosis cada 2 o 3 minutos hasta que la persona responda o se reciba asistencia médica de emergencia.





# Underway & Standing Agenda Items

# Underway, Considerations & Standing Agenda Items

Underway	Considerations	Standing Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Respite Care at SVDM</li><li>● Task Force Peer Support Subcommittee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Recovery Friendly Community</li><li>● CLEAR-type concept</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Updates <a href="#">OSAC Website</a> <a href="#">September 9, 2024 Agenda</a> <a href="#">OSAC Bylaws</a></li><li>● Legislative / Policy Updates</li></ul>





# Member Announcements

# Announcements

## Narcan Training



**Details:** This training will prepare you to identify possible opioid overdose, what steps to take if you suspect an overdose, and how to administer Narcan. The class is presented and instructed by a Project Coordinator from Wheeler Clinic. Narcan will be available upon completion of this training and is free.

**Ages:** Adult 18+.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 19, 2024, **OR** Tuesday, December 3, 2024, from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

**Location:** Cromwell Town Arch Room, 41 West Street.

**Price:** Free for Cromwell residents. Registration is Required.  
\*Please make sure you are confirmed by email when signing up online\*

**Register:** Cromwellrec.com or by calling 860-632-3448.

**CHANGE the SCRIPT drugfreeCT.org**

**Wheeler**

**CONNECTICUT Clearinghouse**  
a program of the Connecticut Center for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

**OPOR**



Cromwell Youth Services  
(860) 632 - 3448  
Cromwell Town Hall - 41 West Street, Cromwell CT 06416  
www.cromwellct.com/youth-services



## Any Member Announcements?



# Work Status / Tracking

# Completed Work

## Completed 2024

- Formation of Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee (February 2024)
- Development of Narcan How To educational piece in English and Spanish (August 2024)
- The Governor's Prevention Partnership - Overdose Awareness Day Press Conference (8.28.24)
- Leave Behind Kits Launch (September 2024)
- Pending Completion:
  - Grants for Middletown opioids settlement funds
  - Community survey centering voices with lived experience to identify needs (to guide distribution of Middletown opioids settlement funds)
  - Formation of Recovery Support / Peer Support Workgroup



# Completed Work

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



## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 12pm, Zoom

