

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, August 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, 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
- Member Spotlight:
 - Sandra Addo and Greg Winborne, Ministerial Health Fellowship, How Can We Help? Program
- New Business
- Workgroup / Committee Updates
- Standing Agenda Items
- Member Announcements



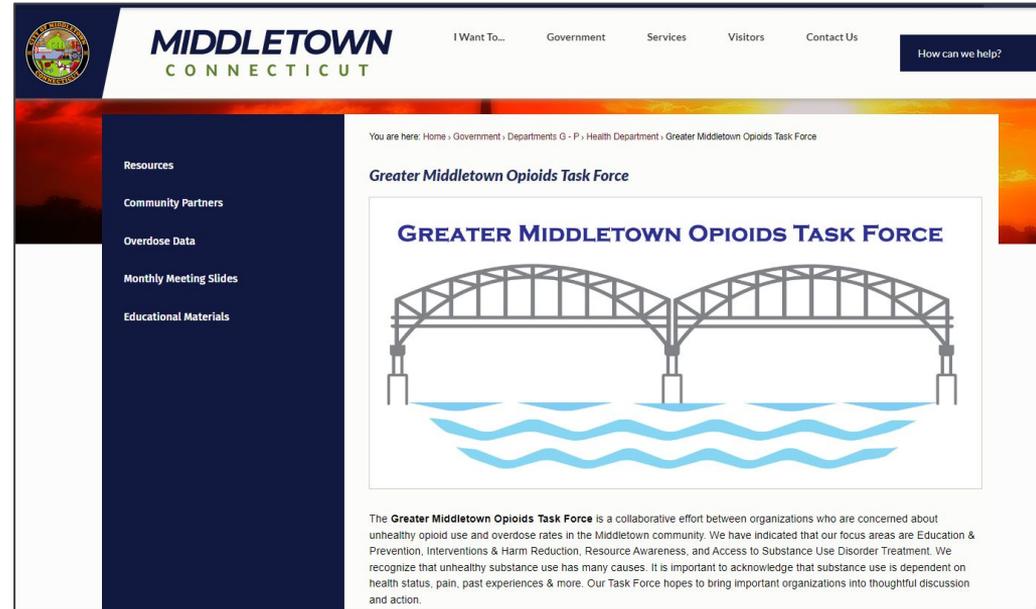
Mission & Vision Statement

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



MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT

I Want To... Government Services Visitors Contact Us

How can we help?

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

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 – April 16, 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 - August 20, 2024

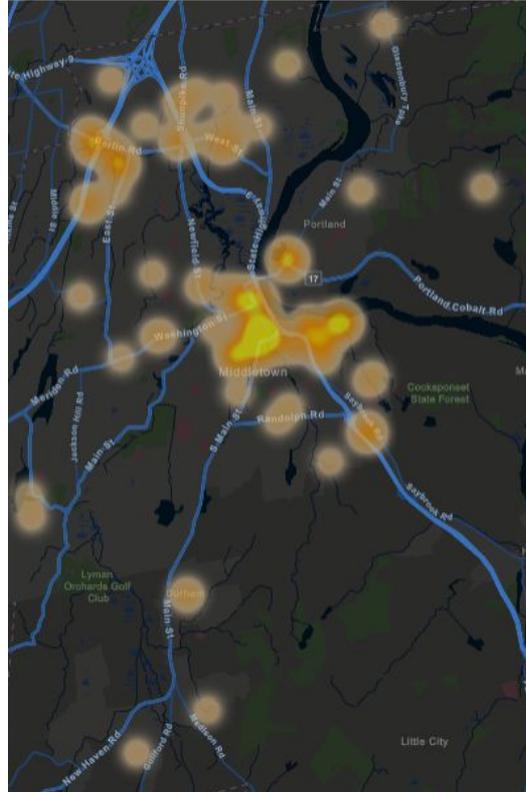
Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and
Portland

Total Suspected Overdoses	102
Fatal Overdoses	21
Naloxone Administered	44*

*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	20
Prescription Drugs	2
Heroin	7
Other / Unknown Opioid	55*
Other / Alcohol	2
PCP	1
Crack/Cocaine	15

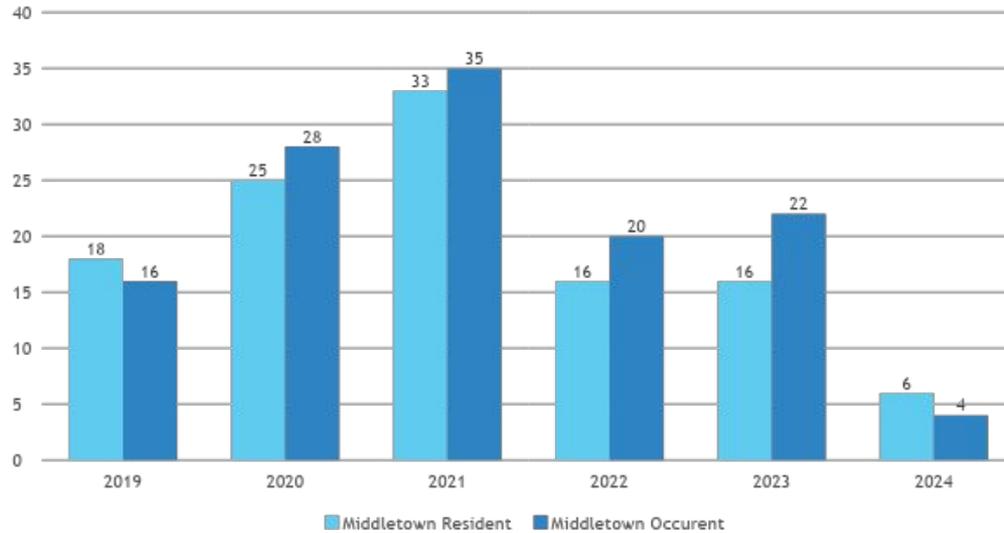
* Most overdoses listed as “other” after 6/30/24

Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths

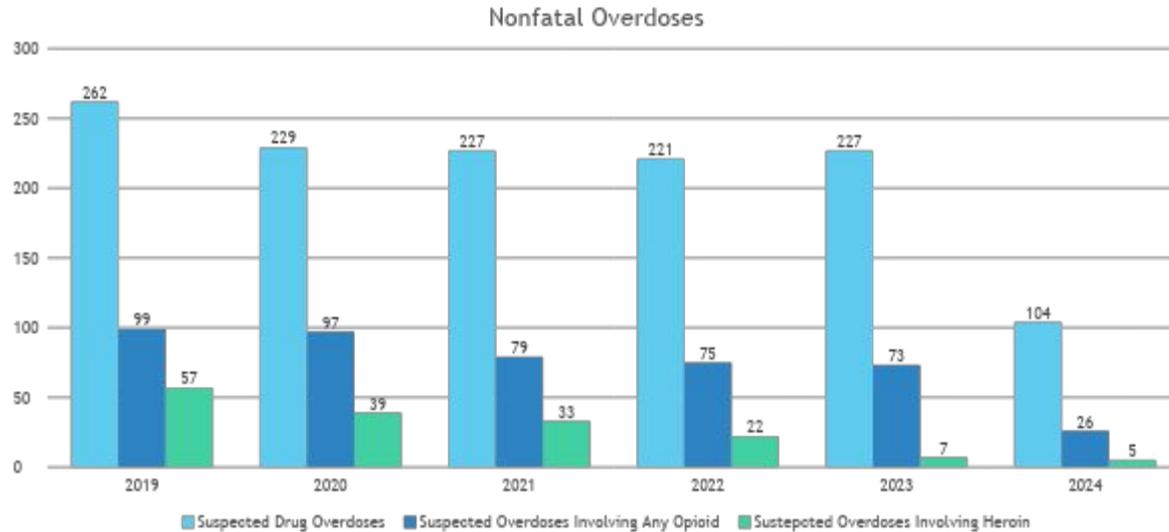
2019 - 2024
(as of 7-5-24)

Source: Office of the CT Chief Medical
Examiner

Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths



Middletown Non-fatal drug overdoses 2019-2024



Source: EpiCenter 4.0.1



Member Spotlight

Member Spotlight

Sandra Addo, Recovery Coach
Greg Winborne, Recovery Coach
How Can We Help? Program
Ministerial Health Fellowship
Middletown, CT

<http://www.mhfct.org/>





Updates

Subcommittee Updates

- **Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee**
 - Grant application process - under development
- **Intervention / Harm Reduction & Access to Treatment Workgroup**
 - Leave Behind Kits



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.

Combinio de Español



Fatal Opioid-Detected Overdoses in Connecticut (2018-2022)

- Overdose data analysis by A Ram, Yale School of Public Health
- A has created a website where the data can be viewed ctoverdosededeath.github.io
- **Region 3:** Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Mansfield, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Willington, Windham, Woodstock, Storrs, **East Haddam, East Hampton, Portland, Cromwell, Durham, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown**, Higganum, Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, New London, **Chester**, Clinton, **Deep River, Essex**, Guilford, **Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook**, Madison, North Stonington, Norwich, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown, Waterford
- August update from A:
 - A is planning to conduct another round of survey administration - as part of a NIH-funded study to evaluate Connecticut's overdose prevention/response infrastructure and 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.
 - This survey was distributed to the Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force on 2.6.24. A shared *"I got a great response rate from Middlesex County thanks to you all...it actually had the best response rate out of all counties in the state and I am grateful for that!"*
- A will share their survey results with the GMOTF after Round 2 is completed.

Continued thanks to Daniela Giordano, Carelon for the connection to A Ram!





Underway & Standing Agenda Items

Underway, Considerations & Standing Agenda Items

Underway	Considerations	Standing Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respite Care at SVDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force Peer Support Subcommittee• Recovery Friendly Community• CLEAR-type concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Updates• Legislative / Policy Updates





Member Announcements

Carfentanil Alert

U/FOUO

OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



Public Health and Safety Alert: Carfentanil in Connecticut

Connecticut Overdose Response Team (CT-ORS team) August 2, 2024

Carfentanil is an extremely potent synthetic opioid, primarily used as a tranquilizer for large animals. It is estimated to be approximately 100 times more powerful than fentanyl and about 10,000 times stronger than morphine. Due to its high potency, even in trace amounts it can be lethal to humans, making it a significant concern in the illicit drug market and posing severe risks to public health and safety.^{1,2}

Since July of 2023, the CT-ORS team has been monitoring the presence of carfentanil in the illicit drug environment across Connecticut, New York and the New England region. The ORS teams and our public health and safety partners are reporting an increase in the prevalence of carfentanil.

Connecticut:

July – December 2023:

- 3 fatal overdoses in New Haven county
- 2 fatal overdoses in Fairfield county
- 1 fatal overdose in Windham county
- 1 fatal overdose in Litchfield county
- 2 law enforcement seizures

January – July 2024¹:

- 1 fatal overdose in Middlesex county
- 1 fatal overdose in Fairfield county

New York City (NYC):

Between March 2024 and June 2024, the New York City (NYC) Department of Health's drug-checking program identified carfentanil in eight samples. NYC Department of Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics and NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner report seven fatal overdoses from carfentanil between January - June 2024, as well as three fatal overdoses in 2023.

New York State:

New York State Department of Health reported that central New York has detected carfentanil in two samples through their community drug checking program. Both samples were collected in May 2024.

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP

U/FOUO

OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



Massachusetts:

Massachusetts State Police, Forensic Services Division reported that they have detected carfentanil in six law enforcement seizures since September 2023. Law enforcement in Essex County is also reporting that there have been two confirmed fatal overdoses in 2024 in which carfentanil was detected.

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island State Fusion Center reported that the Rhode Island Forensic Drug Chemistry Laboratory has detected carfentanil in at least two law enforcement seizures in 2024.

New Hampshire:

New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center (NHAC) reported that the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory detected carfentanil in two law enforcement seizures in November 2023 and May 2024. NHAC also reported that the New Hampshire Office of Chief Medical Examiner detected carfentanil in two fatal overdoses in 2024.

This uptick in carfentanil incidents and fatal overdoses is occurring across the United States. On July 22, 2024, Microsoft News (MSN) reported that Sedgwick County, Kansas identified carfentanil in four fatal overdoses in the past three months. Preliminary data for 2023 from the CDC State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), which contains fatal overdose data from 50 U.S. states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, show 150 documented fatal overdoses involving carfentanil compared to 20 in the prior year.



*As noted, 2nd half 2023 data are incomplete; there might be additional states with carfentanil detected among overdose deaths that are not yet available in our data.

The CT-ORS team is advising public health, law enforcement and first responders about the alarming situation highlighted by ORS teams reporting from surrounding states, CT-specific data and the 2023 CDC SUDORS data. The data reveals carfentanil-related fatal overdoses not only within CT but in neighboring states and key areas that significantly influence CT's illicit drug environment, including NYC, New Jersey and Philadelphia, PA. This widespread presence stresses the urgent need for heightened awareness and coordinated response efforts to address the growing threat of carfentanil in our region. The CT-ORS team continues to work with our federal, state and local public safety and public health partners in monitoring CT's illicit drug environment and will update accordingly.

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP

U/FOUO

OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



If you or your agency suspect that you have encountered carfentanil or a carfentanil-related overdose, please contact the CT-ORS team immediately.

The CT-ORS team strongly advises all public health, harm reduction and others working with individuals who use opioids to educate them about the dangers of fentanyl. In addition, they should assist their clients with obtaining the proper precautions if they will be using opioids. We strongly advise anyone that is using substances obtained illicitly to be aware of the signs of an opioid overdose, avoid using alone and have naloxone on hand. If you or someone you are with is experiencing an overdose, call 911 immediately.

Resources

Harm Reduction services are community-based programs that traditionally support persons using substances and are available to assist first responders after an overdose occurs. They can provide and link individuals who experienced an overdose to other important services, programs and outreach. Please use the following link to find harm reduction services available in your area: [syringeservicesprogram.pdf \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/syringeservicesprogram.pdf)

CT-ORS Team

Robert Lawlor, Drug Intelligence Officer Phone: 203-379-6517 Email: rlawlor@nehda.org	Anna Gasinski, Public Health Analyst Phone: 203-623-4716 Email: agasinski@nehda.org
--	--

For more information about the ORS program, visit the website: www.ORSprogram.org

This presentation is supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$11,600,000 for Capacity Building for Public Health Analysts in the Overdose Response Strategy with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Source:
¹ These are numbers as of 07/09/2024 but are subject to change due to fatal cases pending confirmatory toxicology results.
² Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Aston (Dorset) Police Online
³ National Institute on Drug Abuse
 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health
 State of Connecticut Office of Chief Medical Examiner
 New York City Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services
 New England Harm Reduction Partnership Area
 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Health Advisory 2024 # 20
 New York State Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Bureau for Confidential Services to Drug Services From Central New York (nyc.gov)
 New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center report # 2024 - 06360
 CDC Opioid Abuse Public e-Response State Fusion Center
 CDC SUDORS
 Figure 1: Update on drug overdose deaths with carfentanil detected, CDC, May 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



Announcements

A Connecticut Clearinghouse Educational Forum

UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE IN CONNECTICUT

DATA TRENDS AND MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024, FROM 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ON ZOOM



Shobha Thangada, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist, Injury and Violence Prevention Unit, CT DPH



Kevin Shuler, RCP
Recovery Coach, Emergency Department Program Manager, CCAR



Heather Clinton
Epidemiologist, Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, CT DPH

PART A: PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- Fatal drug overdose trends, including substances involved, and emerging substances in the illicit market.
- Circumstances surrounding fatal overdoses and potential prevention opportunities.
- The impact of "Public Health Act 24-120" on nonfatal drug overdose surveillance.

PART B: PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY:

- The Role of Recovery Coaches within hospital and community health settings.
- The impact of connection through shared experiences.
- What it means to "meet someone where they are".

PART C: PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN:

- What drug checking programs are.
- How testing street drugs may help reduce the risk of overdose.

Scan QR Code or register online at www.ctclearinghouse.org/registration



APPROVED FOR 1.5 CE'S THROUGH THE CT CERTIFICATION BOARD



Any Member Announcements?



Work Status / Tracking

Completed Work

Completed 2024

- Formation of Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee



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, September 18 2024, 12pm, Zoom

