

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, November 20, 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
- Guest Speaker: Justin Mehl, LCSW, Opioid Services Coordinator, Connecticut Mental Health and Addiction Services; Recovery Friendly Community
- Updates
- Workgroup / Committee Updates
- Standing Agenda Items
- Member Announcements



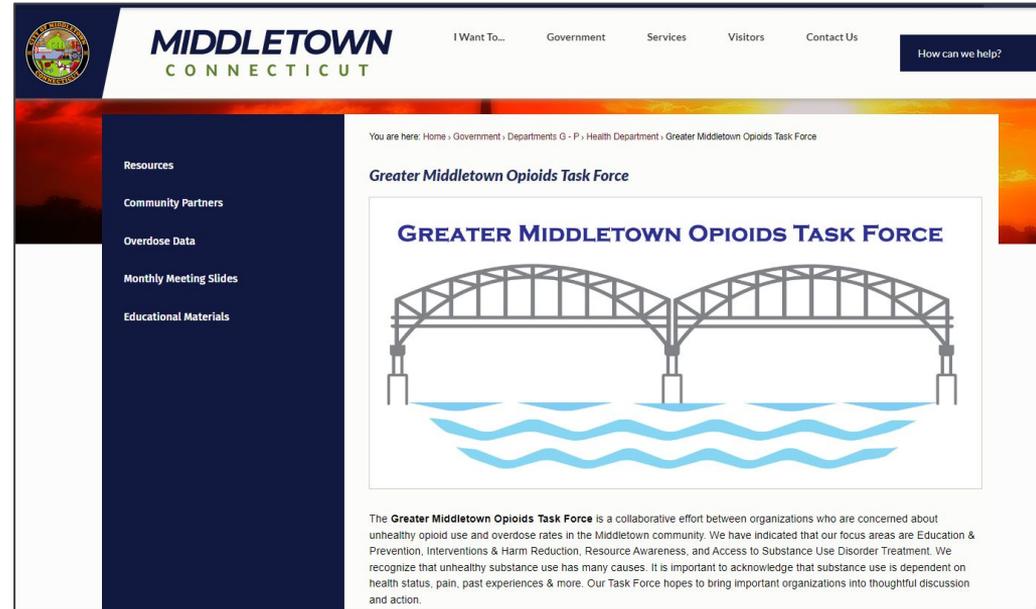
Mission & Vision Statement

- **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



MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT

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How can we help?

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

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

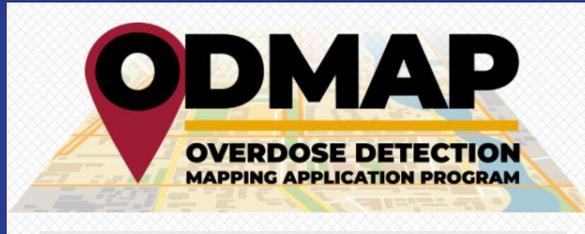
GREATER MIDDLETOWN OPIOIDS TASK FORCE

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

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland



Changes to ODMAP Reporting

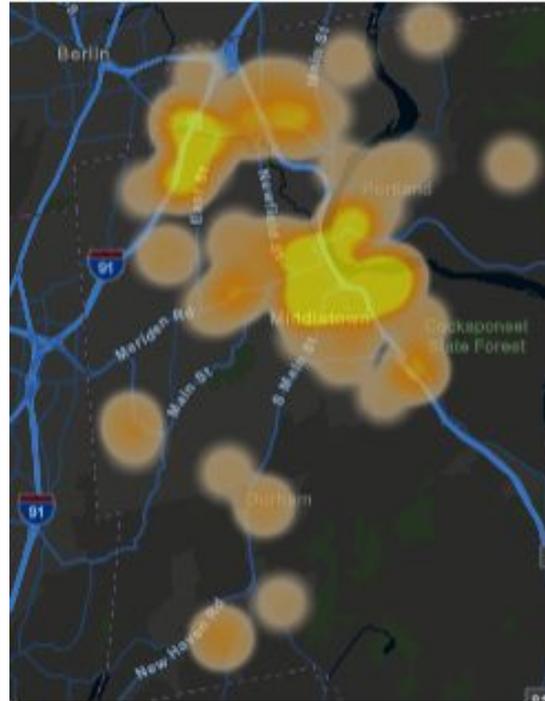
- ▶ As of July 1, 2024:
 - ▶ Overdoses are no longer reported to Connecticut Poison Control Center.
 - ▶ The CT Department of Public Health developed a new program called API to capture overdose information in Connecticut.
 - ▶ API used ImageTrend using data from Electronic Patient Care Records

Overdoses from January 1 – November 18, 2024 Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Total Suspected Overdoses	165
Fatal Overdoses	27
Naloxone Administered	52*

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

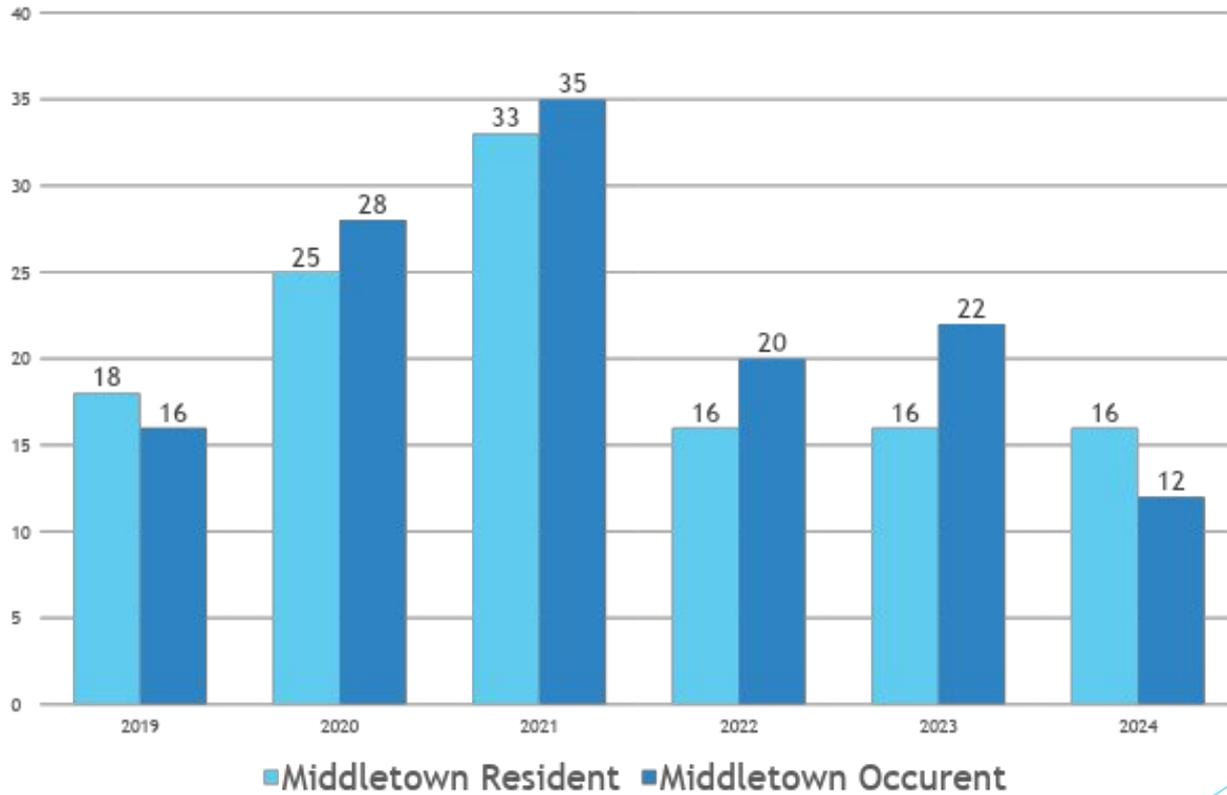
Overdose Heatmap from 1/1/24 – 11/18/24 Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Portland



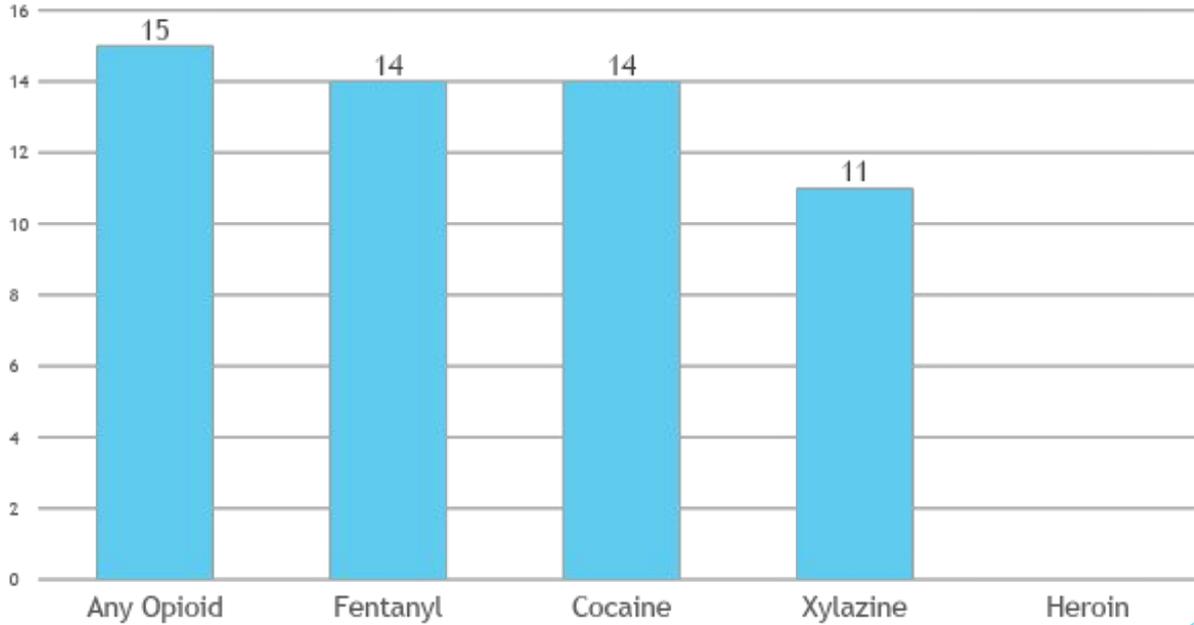
Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths

**2019 - 2024
(as of 10-3-24)**

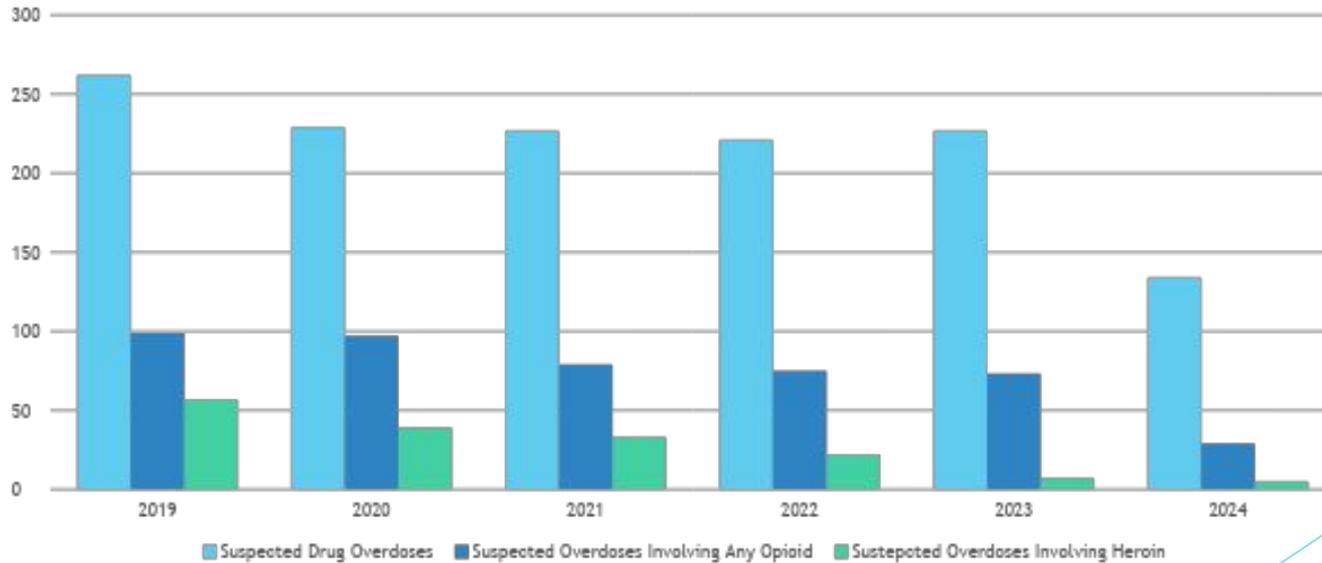
Source: Office of the CT Chief Medical Examiner



2024 Unintentional Fatal Overdoses 16 Middletown Residents Cause of Death (by substance)



Middletown Non-fatal drug overdoses 2019-2024



Source: EpiCenter 4.0.1



Spotlight

Guest Speaker - Recovery Friendly Community

Justin Mehl, LCSW

Opioid Services Coordinator

Connecticut Mental Health and Addiction Services

Office of the Commissioner

Phone: (860) 462-2725

Justin.Mehl@ct.gov



CONNECTICUT
Mental Health & Addiction Services



Updates

Subcommittee Updates

Harm Reduction / Intervention Workgroup:

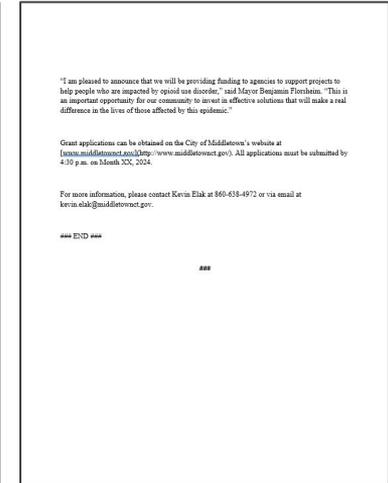
- Recovery Friendly Community



Subcommittee Updates

Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee:

- Press release for grant application process
 - Link to application: <https://www.middletownct.gov/167/Health-Department>
- Survey:
 - Total completed: 41
 - Many thanks to the Task Force members for distributing the survey!
 - Special thanks to Sandra Addo and Greg Winborne, Recovery Coaches for the Ministerial Health Fellowship How Can We Help? program for collecting 31 surveys! (and, Pam Kelly, MHF for entering them!)
 - Results will be analyzed and shared at the next Task Force meeting





Underway & Standing Agenda Items

Underway, Considerations & Standing Agenda Items

Planned / Underway	Future Considerations	Standing Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Respite Care at SVDM● Task Force Peer Support Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Definition of Task Force geographic area● CLEAR-type concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Updates OSAC Website September 9, 2024 Agenda OSAC Bylaws● Legislative / Policy Updates





Member Announcements

Any Member Announcements?



Task Force Member Spotlight



Please contact Catherine Rees at catherine.rees@midhosp.org
if you would like to give a member spotlight

Annual Dates

Annual Dates

- Overdose Awareness Day - August 31, 2024
- Substance Use Prevention Month - October
- National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day - October 26, 2024
- SAMSHA's Prevention Day - February 3, 2025
- National Prevention Week - May 11-17, 2025

Work Status / Tracking

Completed Work

Completed 2024

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



Completed Work

Completed 2022	Completed 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Formation of Task Force (January 2022)● Member Prioritization Survey (April 2022)● 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, December 18, 2024, 12pm, Zoom

