

# Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, December 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
- Guest Speakers
  - Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N., EMS, Coordinator, UConn Health - Results of Survey of Naloxone Availability at CT Pharmacies
  - A. Ram, PhD, Yale School of Public Health - Evaluation of CTs Overdose Prevention / Response Infrastructure
- Updates
- Workgroup / Committee Updates
- Standing Agenda Items
- Member Announcements



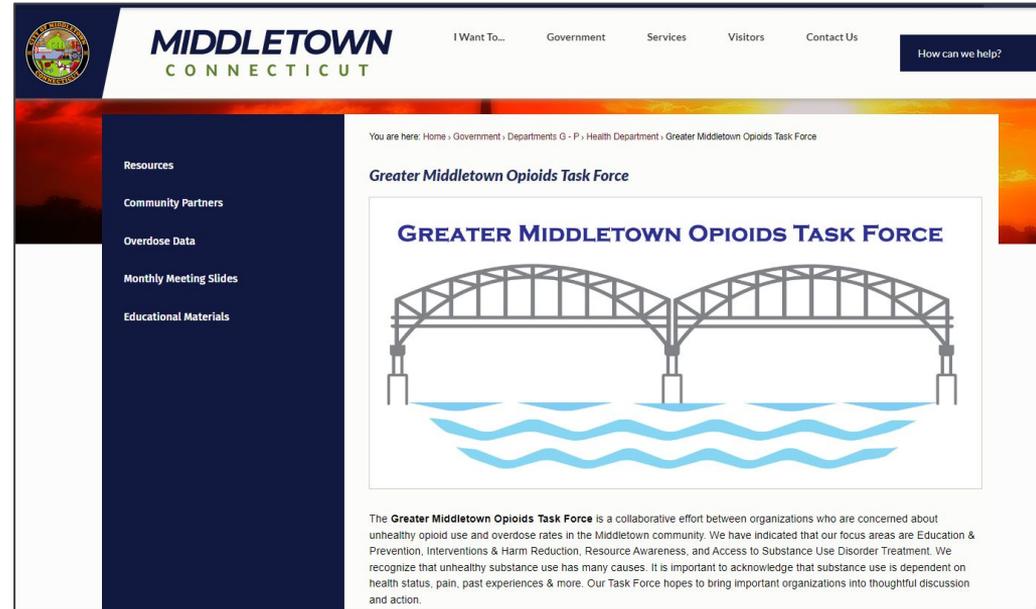
# Mission & Vision Statement

- **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

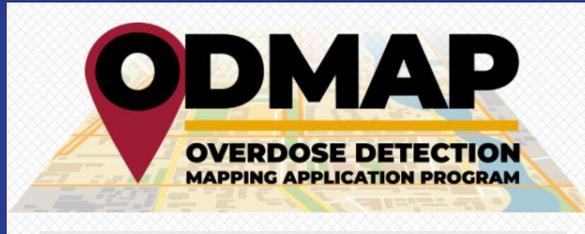


The screenshot shows the website for the Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force. At the top left is the Middletown Connecticut logo. The main header features the text "MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT" and navigation links: "I Want To...", "Government", "Services", "Visitors", and "Contact Us". A dark blue button on the right says "How can we help?". Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: "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 over water. Below the graphic is a paragraph of text: "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



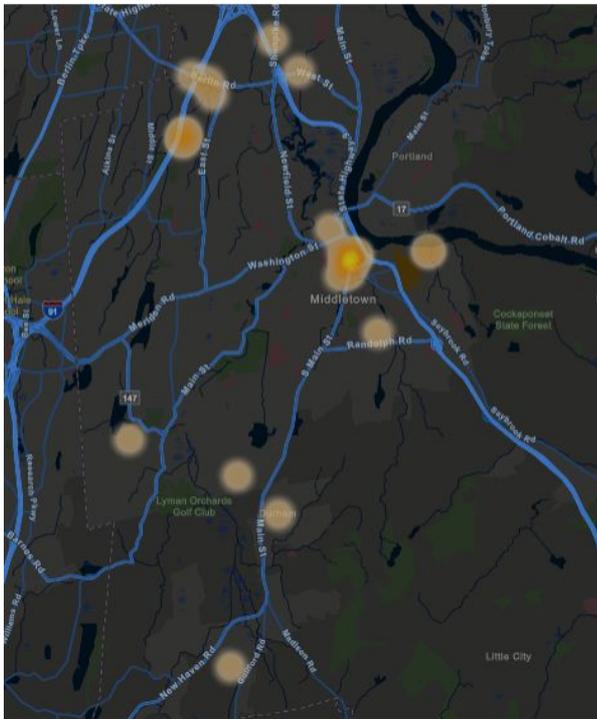
## Overdoses from January 1 - December 17, 2024

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and  
Portland

<b>Total Suspected Overdoses</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Fatal Overdoses</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Naloxone Administered</b>	<b>52*</b>

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

# Overdose Heatmap from 1/1/24 - 12/17/24 Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Portland

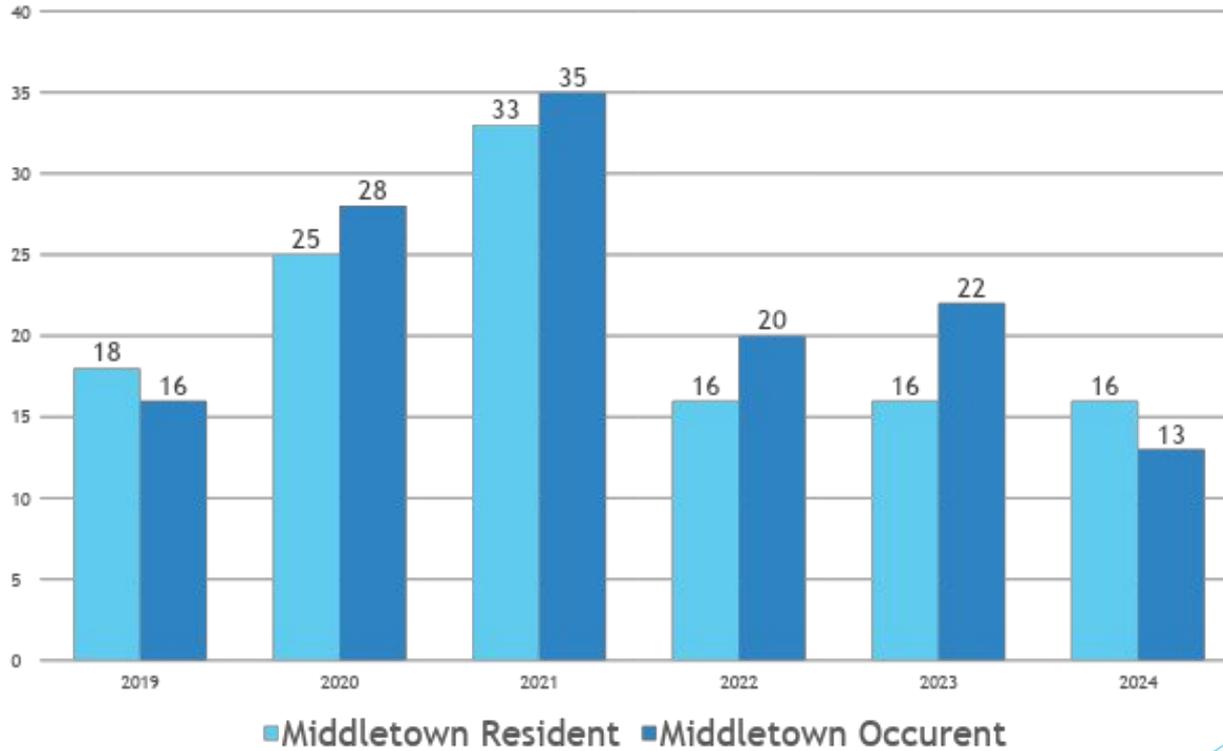


# Middletown Unintentional Overdose Deaths

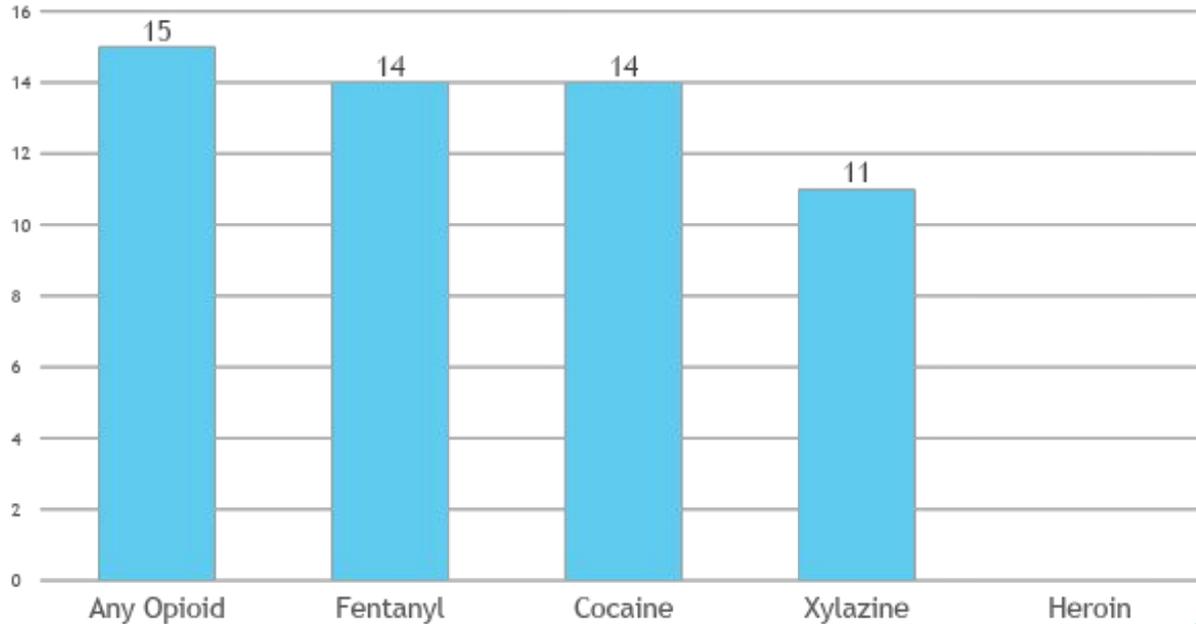
2019 - 2024  
(as of 11-12-24)

Source: Office of the CT Chief Medical  
Examiner

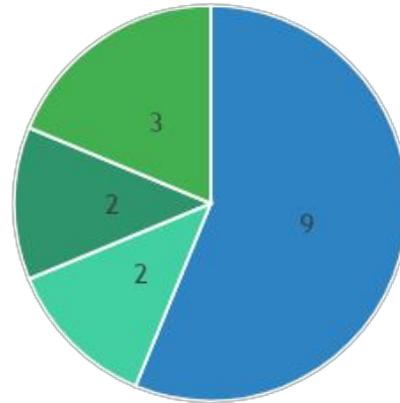
## Unintentional Overdose Deaths



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

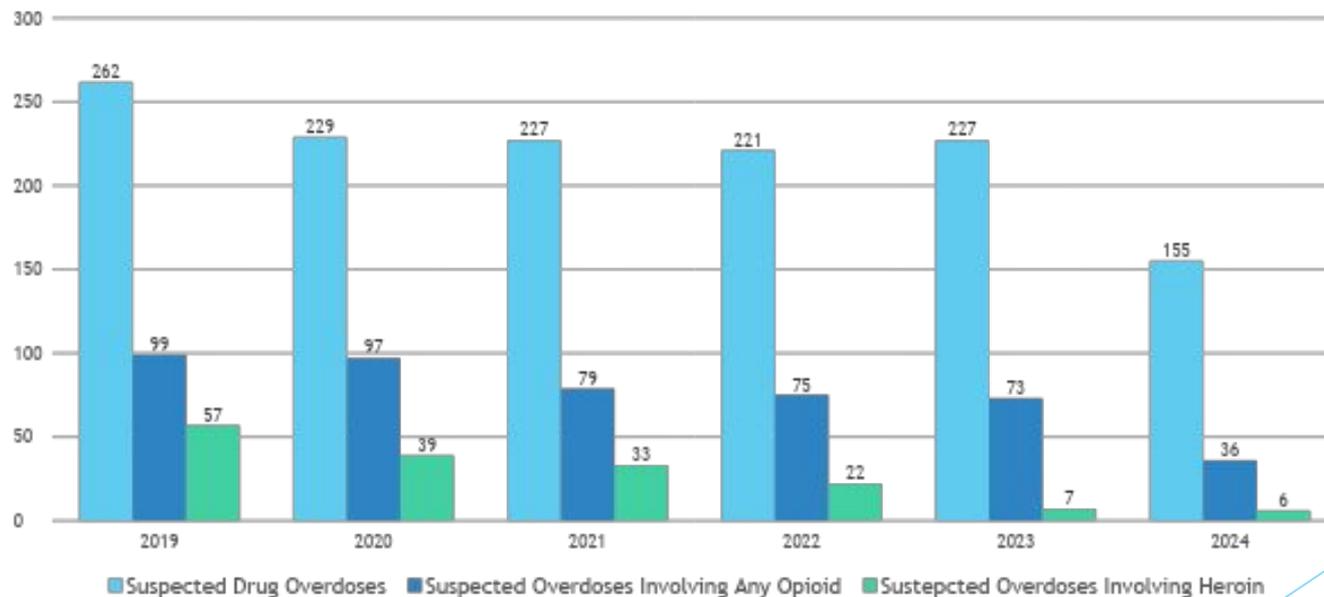


# 2024 Unintentional Fatal Overdoses 16 Middletown Residents Location of Death



Location of Death Decedent's Home Hospital Other home Motel/Hotel

## Middletown Non-fatal drug overdoses 2019-2024



Source: EpiCenter 4.0.3



# Spotlights

# Guest Speaker - Results of Survey of Naloxone Availability at CT Pharmacies

**Peter Canning**

**Paramedic, R.N., EMS Coordinator**

UConn Health

[canning@uchc.edu](mailto:canning@uchc.edu)



# Guest Speaker - Evaluation of CTs Overdose Prevention / Response Infrastructure

**A. Ram, PhD**

Yale School of Public Health

[a.ram@yale.edu](mailto:a.ram@yale.edu)





Updates

# Subcommittee Updates

## Harm Reduction / Intervention Workgroup:

- Recovery Friendly Community

## Middletown Opioids Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Committee:

- Grant applications due 12.17.24





# Underway & Standing Agenda Items

# Underway, Considerations & Standing Agenda Items

Planned / Underway	Future 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>● Definition of Task Force geographic area</li><li>● CLEAR-type concept</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">OSAC Website</a></li><li><a href="#">September 9, 2024 Agenda</a></li><li><a href="#">OSAC Bylaws</a></li></ul></li><li>● Legislative / Policy Updates</li></ul>





# Member Announcements

## Any Member Announcements?



## Task Force Member Spotlight



Please contact Catherine Rees at [catherine.rees@midhosp.org](mailto: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"><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, January 15, 2025, 12pm, Zoom

