Unintentional Overdoses in Connecticut During COVID-19 Pandemic

Susan Logan, MS, MPH
Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit
Connecticut Department of Public Health

Presentation for Alcohol and Drug Policy Council Virtual Meeting
6/16/2020
Caution: This content may be disturbing to some people viewing it.

In order to understand this epidemic, we need to know the burden of the disease statewide and in our communities.

Data helps us to discover insights and observe patterns and trends.

If we know the data, we can help to prevent further overdoses and addiction, and it strengthens our commitment to finding new and better ways to provide treatment and sustained recovery services.
Overdoses and COVID-19 Pandemic

- DPH has **not** observed higher than expected incidence in nonfatal overdoses since the beginning of COVID-19
- There may be an association between COVID-19 and fatal unintentional drug overdoses

* Reviewed data January 1 - May 31, 2020:
  * Suspected and confirmed fatal drug overdoses
  * Suspected nonfatal drug overdoses
  * Number of alerts in EpiCenter syndromic surveillance
  * ODMAP analysis - No correlation by CT county between COVID-19 and drug overdose reports to CT Poison Control Center by EMS
Connecticut

SWORD reported overdoses in Connecticut decreased 10% post lockdown using the same criteria as HIDTA used to show a national increase. From January 1 through March 18, there were an average of 11.48 overdoses per day. From March 19 to May 19, there were 9.677 per day.

From January 1 through May 19, there were 10.68 per day

March 18 Lockdown Date for W/B HIDTA Analysis
ED Visits for Suspected Opioid Overdoses Jan - May 2019 and 2020

Emergency Department Data
Suspected Overdoses Involving Any Opioid in CT: 2020 vs. 2019

COVID-19

Data Source: DPH EpiCenter; Date Retrieved 6/5/2020
Analysis of Unintentional Overdose Fatalities During COVID-19 Pandemic

Available on www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

Fatalities Due to U1 Drug Overdose, Overall 2019-2020

Number of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Month, Connecticut, 2019-April 2020*

COVID-19

Number of Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>134</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* COVID-19 pandemic impact noted in April 2020.
Fatalities Due to UI Drug Overdose, % Fentanyl 2019-2020

Percentage of Fentanyl Involved Overdose Deaths, by Month, Connecticut, 2019- April 2020*

COVID-19

Jan: 62.5  Feb: 79.7  March: 76.5  April: 75.6  May: 74.3
June: 91.2  July: 88.5  Aug: 86.6  Sept: 80.9  Oct: 83.1
Nov: 84.7  Dec: 86.1

2019  2020*
Xylazine: An Emerging Substance in 2019

Number of Xylazine Involved Overdose Deaths, By Month, Connecticut 2019-April 2020*

*Data are subject to change
Questions?

For more information:
Contact Susan Logan at Susan.Logan@ct.gov or visit www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

Acknowledgements:
Data provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and analyzed by Shobha Thangada, CT DPH IVSU