Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut Increased from year 2012 to 2018.

The misuse of opioid-prescriptions and illicit drugs was the main cause for drug overdose deaths in Connecticut which resulted in a total of 5121 deaths during 2012 to 2018. There was a gradual but significant increase in number of deaths from year 2012 (357) to 2018 (1017).

What we know about year 2018 overdose deaths:

- Overdose deaths increased from 2012 to 2018.
- 53.9% of deaths happened in a home.
- Non-Hispanic white males had the highest mortality rate.
- Mortality rate was highest between ages 25-60 years.
- 93% of deaths involved ‘any opioid’.
- 75% of deaths involved Fentanyl as the cause of death.

KEY POINTS (2012-2018):

- Total number of overdose deaths between 2012-2018 were 5121.
- Significant increase from year 2012 to 2018 (186%).
- 52.4% of the deaths happened at home and 31.9% at the hospital.
- Mortality rate was higher among males (30.7) than females (10.3).
- Mortality rate was highest between ages 25-54 years, non-Hispanic white males.
- About 93% of total deaths involved ‘any opioid’ in year 2018.
- 75% of deaths involved Fentanyl in 2018 whereas it was 26% in 2012.

Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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**How to prevent drug overdose deaths:**

- Create awareness in communities about the risk factors of opioid overdose and educate about excessive use of opioids.
- Safe disposal of unused medications in defined locations.
- Enhance and maximize prescription monitoring programs where physicians register and monitor the prescriptions they write for patients; thereby reducing doctor shopping.
- Enhance and promote Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs for opioid addiction.
- For further information visit: [www.drugfreect.org](http://www.drugfreect.org) ; [www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention](http://www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention)

**Contact Information:**
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