Early Warning System Report

Quick Overview of Drug Overdose Decedents, 2019 - April 2020*

- In 2019, there were 1,200 unintentional drug overdose related deaths.
- As of April 2020, there were 359 confirmed drug overdose deaths for the year; however, this number may change because there are 213 pending cases waiting for toxicology confirmation.
- The percentage of fentanyl-involved drug overdose deaths continues to be high in 2020.
- New and emerging lethal combinations of Xylazine (animal tranquilizer) with fentanyl were identified in 2019 and the same combination continues to be present in 2020 drug overdose deaths also.

Monthly Overview of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths (2019 – April 2020*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>January 1 – April 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There were 1,200 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2019, with an increase of 18% compared to 2018.</td>
<td>As of April 2020, there were 359 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 213 pending cases.</td>
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<td>For the first time in 2019, an animal tranquilizer Xylazine in combination with fentanyl was involved in 70 drug overdose deaths. An average of 7-8 Xylazine-involved deaths were identified per month.</td>
<td>The lethal combination of Xylazine and fentanyl continues to be a problem in 2020. As of April, there were 46 deaths with Xylazine and fentanyl combined.</td>
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<td>On average, fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs were involved in 82% of the overdose deaths in 2019.</td>
<td>Fentanyl continues to be a problem in 2020. The average percentage of fentanyl-involved deaths was at 86.9% as of April 2020.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Connecticut
*Numbers and percentages are subject to change in 2020

For substance use disorder information visit: [https://www.drugfreect.org/](https://www.drugfreect.org/).
Unintentional drug overdose deaths, by month, Connecticut, 2019- April 2020*: In 2019, 1,200 people died from an unintentional drug overdose in Connecticut, an increase of 18% compared to 2018. As of April 2020, there were 359 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 213 pending cases. The chart below represents the monthly count of confirmed drug overdose deaths.

The percentage of fentanyl-involved overdose deaths continues to be a problem in 2020: Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased significantly in 2019 to 82%, compared to previous years. As of April 2020, the average percentage of fentanyl-involved deaths was at 86.9%. The chart below represents the percentage of fentanyl-involved deaths by month.
Drug overdose death rates were higher in males compared to females in 2019:
Throughout 2019, rates of unintentional drug overdose-related death were consistently higher among males when compared to females, in Connecticut. The line graph below represents rates of unintentional drug overdose death by gender (rate per 100,000 gender-specific population) in 2019.

Drug overdose death rates were higher in the non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black populations compared to the Hispanic population in 2019:
Drug overdose death rates were highest in the 35-44 years old age group in 2019:

Drug overdose death rates were highest for residents of Litchfield and Windham counties in 2019: