The use of illicit drugs and misuse of prescription opioids were the main cause of drug overdose deaths in Connecticut, resulting in a total of 6,321 deaths from 2012 to 2019. There was a gradual, but significant, increase in the number of deaths from 2012 (N=357) to 2019 (N=1,200).

What we know about overdose deaths in 2019:
- Overdose deaths increased by 18% in 2019 compared to 2018.
- For the first time in 2019, the animal tranquilizer ‘Xylazine’ was found with fentanyl in 70 (6%) deaths.
- Non-Hispanic White males had the highest rate of mortality.
- 94% of deaths involved an opioid (e.g. fentanyl, heroin, or prescription opioid pain reliever).
- 82% of deaths involved fentanyl as the cause of death.

KEY POINTS:
- 1,200 drug overdose deaths in 2019.
- There was a significant increase in deaths from 2012 to 2019 (236%).
- 53.1% of the deaths occurred at a home and 29.1% at the hospital (injured elsewhere and transported).
- Males (51.9) had a higher mortality rate than females (16.1) in 2019.
- Mortality rate was highest for non-Hispanic White males 25-54 yrs. old.
- 82% of deaths involved fentanyl in 2019, a 7% increase from 2018.
- Amphetamine/methamphetamine (25%), oxycodone (48%) and cocaine (43%) involved deaths increased in 2019, compared to 2018.
How to prevent drug overdose deaths:

- Create awareness in communities by providing education on the use of opioids and harm reduction choices.
- Learn about naloxone, the lifesaving drug that reverses opioid overdoses. Visit: www.norasaves.com
- Share options for safe disposal of unused medications and the site of local drug collection boxes.
- Maximize use of prescription monitoring programs where physicians register and monitor the prescriptions they write for patients.
- Enhance and promote Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) programs.
- For further information visit: www.drugfreect.org; www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

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