

UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT: A FACT SHEET – 2021

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION, INJURY & VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • May 2022

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut Increased From 2012 to 2021

The use of illicit drugs and misuse of prescription opioids were the main causes of drug overdose deaths in Connecticut, resulting in a total of 9,219 deaths from 2012 to 2021. There was a gradual, but significant, increase in the number of deaths from 2012 (N=357) to 2021 (N=1,524).

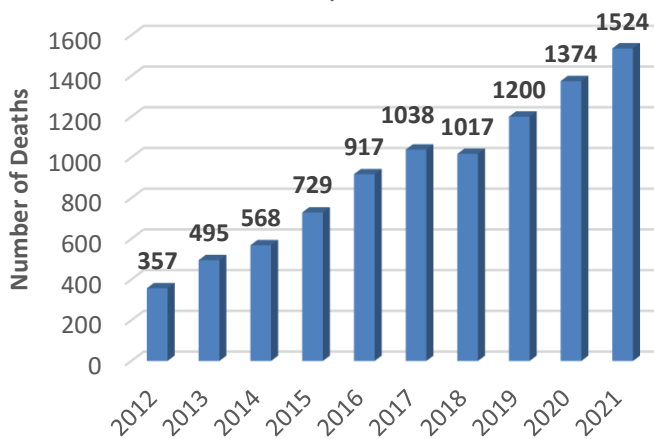
What we know about overdose deaths in 2021:

- Overdose deaths increased by 11% in 2021 compared to 2020.
- Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer was found in 301 (20%) overdose deaths compared to 141 (10%) in 2020.
- The non-Hispanic Black population had the highest rate of overdose-related mortality by race and ethnicity.
- 93% of overdose deaths involved an opioid (e.g. fentanyl, heroin, or a prescription opioid pain reliever).
- 86% of overdose deaths were caused by fentanyl.

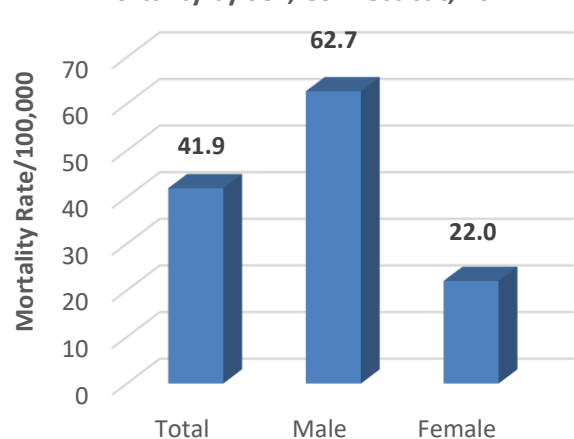
KEY POINTS:

- There were 1,524 drug overdose deaths in 2021.
- There was a significant increase in deaths from 2012 to 2021 (327%).
- 60.1% of deaths occurred at a residence.
- Males had a higher mortality rate than females in 2021 (62.7 vs. 22.0 per 100,000 population, respectively).
- The mortality rate was highest for non-Hispanic Black males, and among 35–44-year-olds.
- In 2021, heroin-involved deaths decreased by 7.1% and cocaine-involved deaths increased by 9.1%, when compared to 2020 data.

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths, Connecticut, 2012-2021

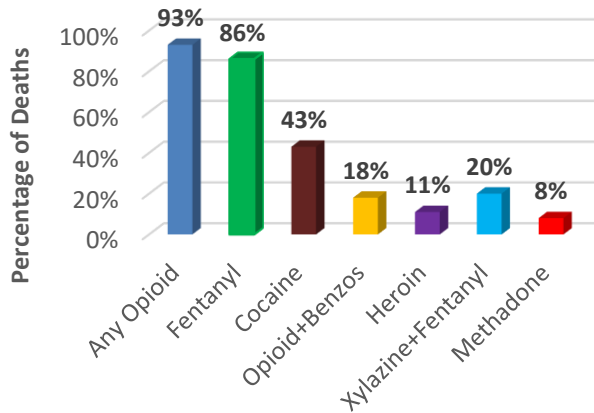


Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Mortality by Sex, Connecticut, 2021

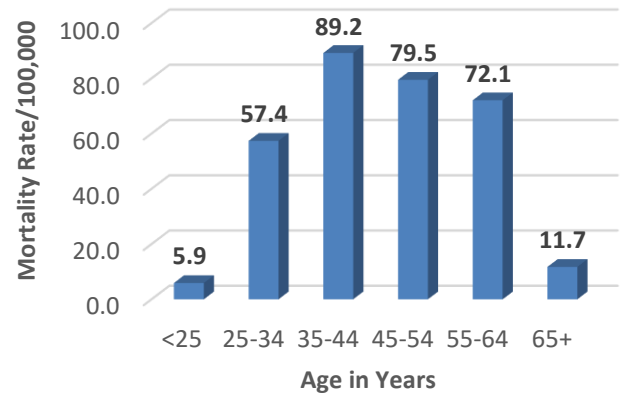


Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and CT State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

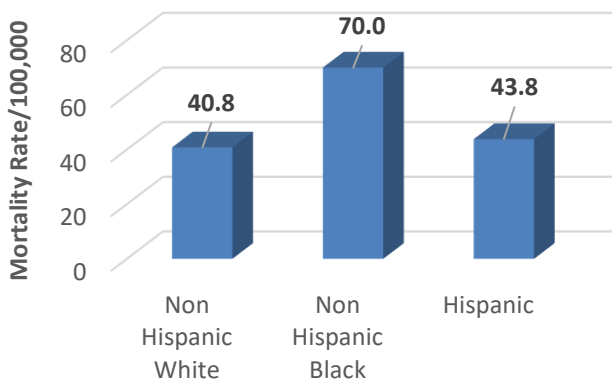
Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Type, Connecticut, 2021



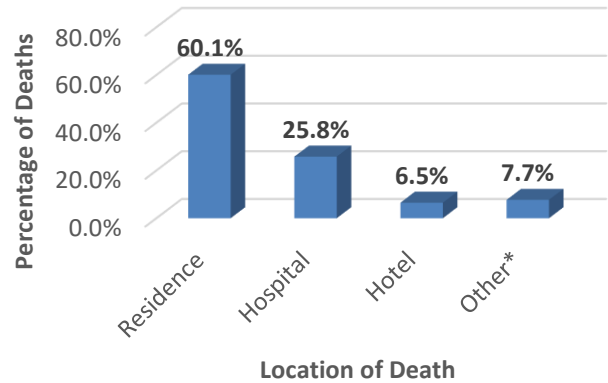
Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Age, Connecticut, 2021



Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Mortality by Race and Ethnicity, Connecticut, 2021



Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Location of Death, Connecticut, 2021



*Includes: public places, motor vehicles, parking lots etc.

Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and CT State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

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

Contact Information:

Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Phone: 860-509-8251

Connecticut Department of Public Health
 Opioid and Drug Overdose Prevention Program • 860-509-8251
www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

