

CT EMS SWORD

Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive Newsletter

August 2020, Issue XV

SWORD Statewide Reporting July 2020

In the month of July 2020, there were 399 calls in to the CT Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 377 were non-fatal and 22 resulted in fatalities. There were 320 total naloxone administrations: 216 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 92 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and 64 non-fatal with no naloxone administered. Five (5) non-fatal with “unknown” naloxone administered. Of the 22 fatalities, eleven (11) received multiple doses of naloxone, one (1) was given a single dose, and ten (10) with no naloxone administered. The gender breakdown for the state is: Male (288); Female (104) and (7) unknown.

The 399 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield (57), Hartford (145), Litchfield (26), Middlesex (21), New Haven (114), New London (24), Tolland (6), and Windham (6). The age breakdown of the patients is as follows: 0 to 24 years of age (36); 25 to 34 years of age (106); 35 to 44 years of age (92); 45 to 54 years of age (84); 55 to 64 years of age (51); 65 years of age and older (19); age unknown (11).

*Numbers subject to change

***TIP: Store the CPCC number in your cell for ease of use! 1-800-222-1222**



This graph shows the total suspected overdoses called into CPCC by month since January 2020

Thank you to all EMS providers who have called in SWORD cases to the CPCC.

Keep up the great work!

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions- In the Last Month



July, 2020 ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions by day.

This graph shows total suspected overdoses called in each day during the time period. The red line running horizontally shows a 3-day moving average of call-ins.

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions- All Data Submitted



Cumulative (June—July, 2020) Overdoses by the Hour of the Day

This graph shows the hour of the day suspected overdose incidents have occurred statewide since the SWORD program began on June 1, 2019.

Note: All data in this newsletter comes from reports made by CT EMS and can be viewed in ODMAP Level 2

CT EMS SWORD Reported Deaths

To date, CT Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reported 407 fatal overdoses to the CT Poison Control Center (CPCC) through the Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD). It is likely this represents only one third of all fatal opioid drug overdoses in Connecticut. In some cases, the patient later had died at the hospital which was not captured in the EMS report. In other cases, EMS has no way to know that the patient's cause of death was due to an opioid overdose as this is often determined through testing of the blood by the medical examiner. However, when opioid paraphernalia is found on the scene of a fatality, these deaths would be reported. We realize it is impossible for EMS to capture all fatal opioid overdoses, however, it is the law that EMS report all possible fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses through the SWORD program. Currently when there are two (2) EMS reported overdoses in one county, ODMAP triggers a fatal only spike alert notification to state public health officials who then review all data points and consider alerting local public health and safety officials. This alert can give local public health and safety officials a vital head start to investigate possible lethal drug mixtures on the street and begin harm reduction measures. Thank you to crews in Fairfield County who were able to identify and report a triple victim suspected opioid overdose fatality.



The following are some of the bag stamps encountered in July: Merry Christmas, Death Row, Lose Yourself, The King of Death, Out of This World, Oh Yeah, Strike, Dead, Takin' Over, Four Kings, Lucky You, Love, Power Punch, Skull Crusher, Mechanic, House Wins. This information is shared with public health and safety officials and harm reduction groups, enabling them to better target resources. If present, and safe to do so, responders are urged to take a photo of the identified heroin bag at the scene and email to poisoncontrol@uchc.edu with the CPCC case number given when the reported overdose is called in.

* A glassine heroine bag, "Lose yourself", is pictured at left

Do you need help accessing ODMAP Level 1 (Spike Alert Level) or Level 2 (Map Level)?

[Click here to contact the ODMAP Helpdesk](#), or call (301) 489-1744



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[Click here](#) to contact OEMS regarding the SWORD program , ODMAP, or feedback

[Click here](#) to check out the SWORD page on our website

Thank you for your participation!

