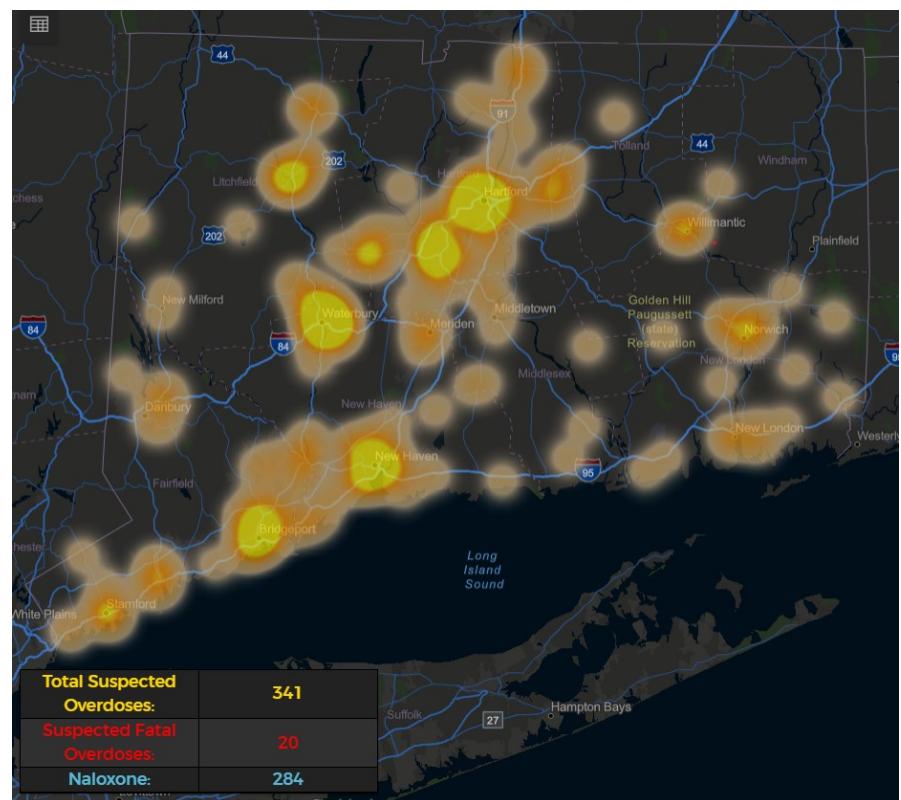
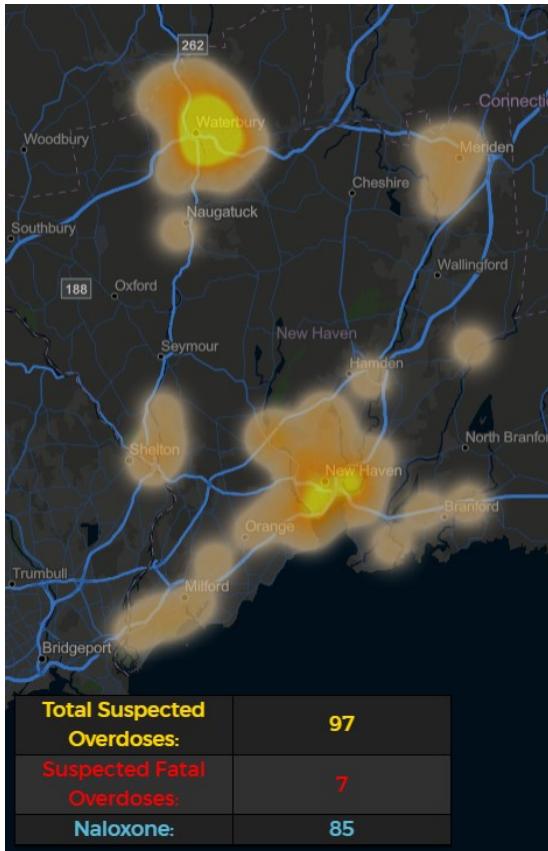


December 2021, Issue XXXI

Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



In the month of November the State of Connecticut saw increased overdose activity in Litchfield & New Haven counties. The heatmaps depicted, left, and above show cumulative data for the month of November 2021.

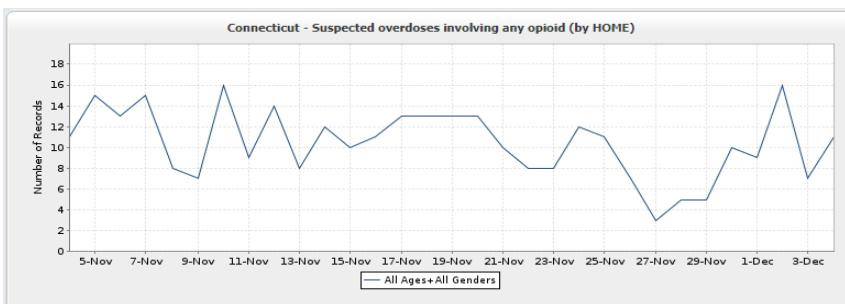
SWORD Featured

Connecticut's SWORD program was featured in the November/December issue of the Center for Disease Control's publication, Public Health Reports, highlighting the state's response to a fentanyl-contaminated crack cocaine outbreak in Connecticut in June of 2019. EMS responders reporting cases to the state poison control center, enable early recognition of a deadly event, enabling public health workers to warn crack users of the presence of fentanyl in the supply, distribute fentanyl test strips, and urge users to not use alone and



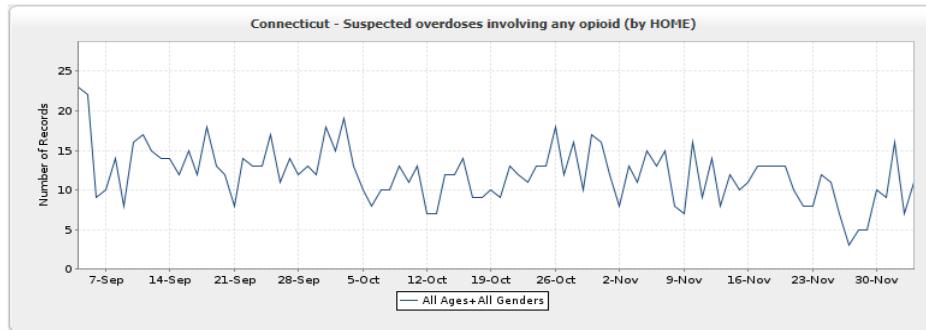
Marijuana Use with Opioid Toxicodrome

Between July 1, and November 15, 2021, the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) received over 40 SWORD reports from emergency medical service (EMS) responders of overdose patients with opioid toxicodrome syndrome (depressed consciousness, depressed respirations and pinpoint pupils), all of whom afterwards stated they only used marijuana and denied opioid use. Police at one of the overdose scenes were able to obtain a sample. The Connecticut state forensic laboratory tested the sample and determined it was positive for fentanyl, marijuana and Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol. This is the first lab confirmed case of marijuana with fentanyl in Connecticut and



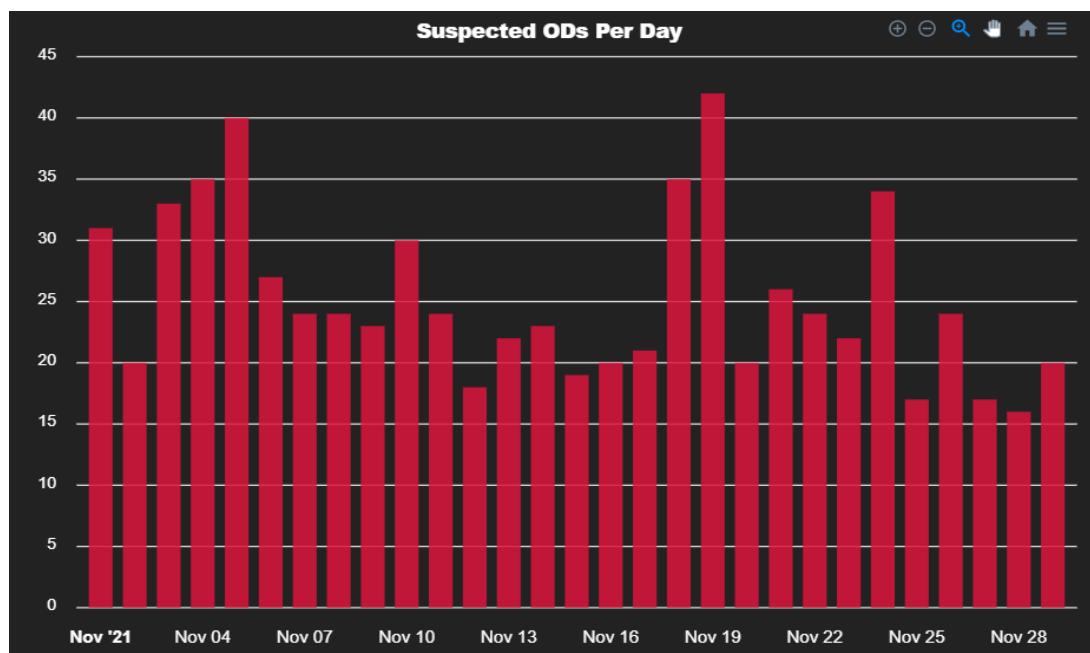
Left: < Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid*. This data shows counts for **November 2021** for the state of Connecticut.

Right: > Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid*. This data shows total counts for the **previous 90 days** for the state of Connecticut.



Data, above, represents the total count of emergency department visits (Syndromic Surveillance) related to prescription and illicit opioid drug overdoses. Data reflects overdoses based on town/city resident. It does not include non-resident overdoses. Data subject to change.

*Suspected overdoses involving any opioid include prescription and illicit opioids.



< Left: This graph represents EMS reported opioid overdoses by incident

SWORD Statewide Reporting November 2021

In the month of November 2021, there were 342 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 322 were non-fatal and 20 resulted in fatalities. There were 285 total naloxone administrations: 151 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 125 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and 44 non-fatal with no naloxone administered. There were one (2) non-fatal with "unknown" naloxone administered. Of the 20 fatalities, eight (8) received multiple doses of naloxone, one (1) received single dose, and eleven (11) with no naloxone administered, and none (0) were unknown.

The 342 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield (60), Hartford (114), Litchfield (26), Middlesex (10), New Haven (97), New London (25), Tolland (4), and Windham (7).

*Numbers subject to change

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

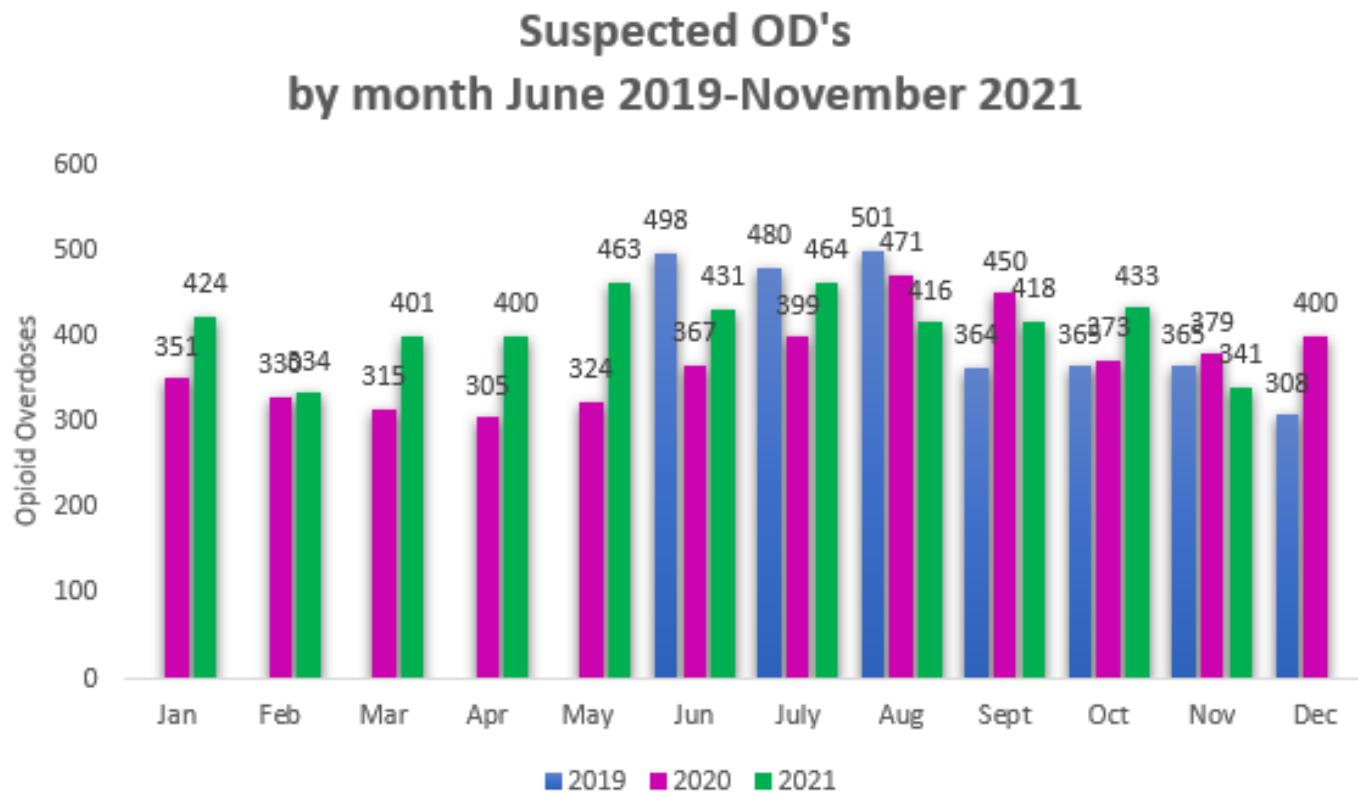
Data a Deeper Dive

Marijuana with Opioid Toxicome

challenges the notion that fentanyl is not a danger in illicit marijuana. Based on the positive lab specimen and the large number of SWORD reports, a situational advisory was issued urging people using any drugs, including marijuana, purchased illicitly from dealers who traffic in fentanyl, to be cautious, never use alone and to have naloxone on hand.

Currently, health analysts are reviewing the 40 cases, as well as new reports. We don't know if these cases involved deliberate lacing, accidental contamination or if

the user hid their opioid use. As part of this investigation, EMS responders who encounter similar cases should ask the patient the manner in which the patient consumed the marijuana (joint, pipe, bong, vape, etc.) as well as obtain as full a history of other drug use as possible and include this in their SWORD call. Photos of drug supplies along with the SWORD case number can be emailed to ctpoisoncontrol@uchc.edu. Responders should also mention such calls to the ED staff in case the ED wishes to do toxicological testing.

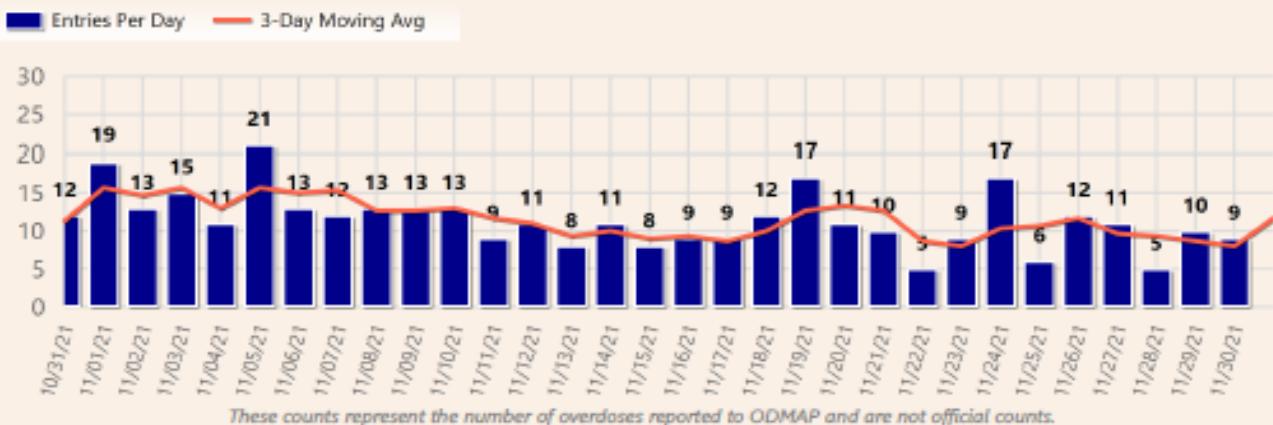


SWORD Featured cont. from pg. 1

to have naloxone at the ready. While the overdose cluster went over several days and cost 6 lives, by knowing there was this mix of drugs on the street we were able to save more lives by intervening in the community to mitigate harm. We were able to identify who was overdosing and where they were overdosing, to target harm reduction efforts to those specific areas. Lives were saved thanks to these initial EMS reports.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00333549211015662>

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - In the Last Month

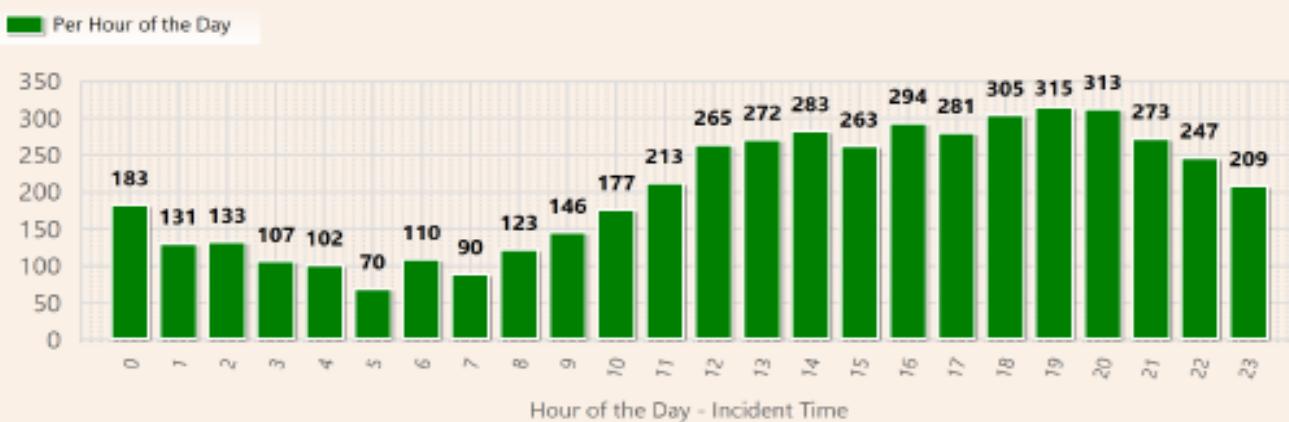


ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions by day.

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



Overdoses by the Hour of the Day

This graph shows the hour of the day suspected overdose incidents have occurred statewide since SWORD's inception in 6/2019.

Do you need help accessing ODMAP [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!

