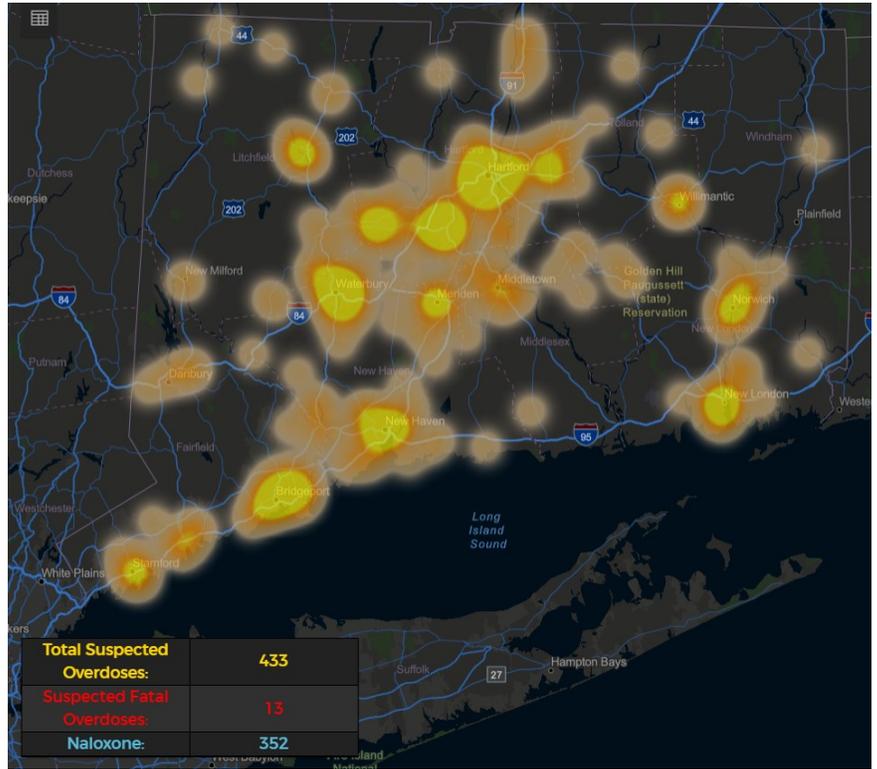
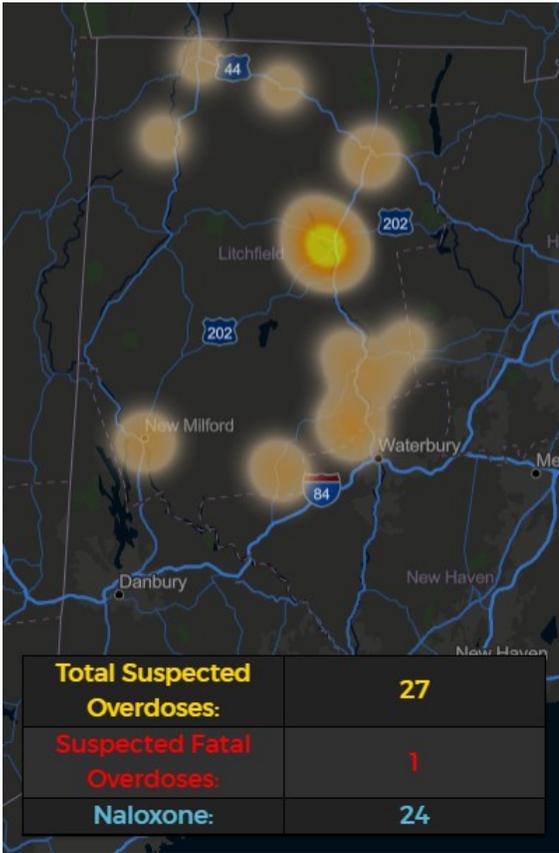


### Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



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

### SWORD Highlighted

Connecticut’s SWORD program was highlighted in a special issue of Public Health Reports, the official journal of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service. The article, *Using Surveillance With Near-Real-Time Alerts During a Cluster of Overdoses From Fentanyl-Contaminated Crack Cocaine, Connecticut, June 2019*, described the SWORD program, and how it was instrumental in preventing additional overdoses and loss of life through its rapid identification of an outbreak of overdoses in a Hartford neighborhood due to a contaminated batch of crack cocaine.



*SWORD Highlighted cont. at the bottom of page 3*

### Fentanyl Contaminated Cocaine

In October of 2021, the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) received 28 reports from emergency medical responders of overdose patients who were resuscitated with naloxone, but stated they only used cocaine. These patients all had classic opioid toxidrome symptoms such as depressed consciousness, agonal breathing and pinpoint pupils, yet after resuscitation they insisted they had not used opioids.

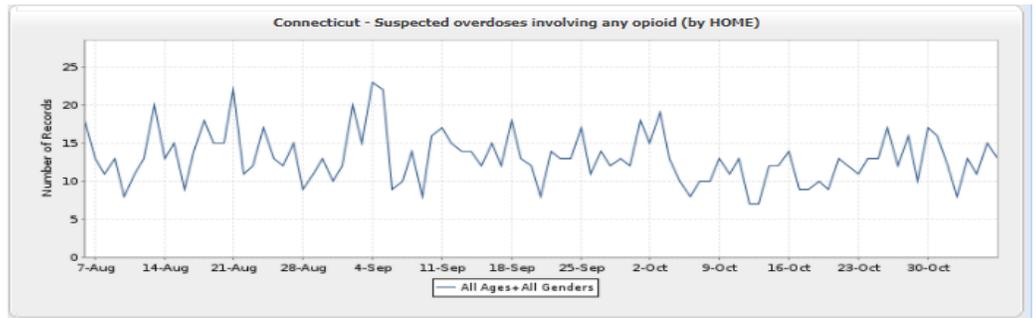
Among the October cases was a triple overdose at an overnight diner and a double overdose of workers in an assisted living facility. The previous month EMS crews reported 13 cases of similar cocaine overdoses requiring naloxone. These included a backyard scene where 4 people snorted cocaine, and then became unresponsive

*Fentanyl Contaminated Cocaine cont. top of on page 3*



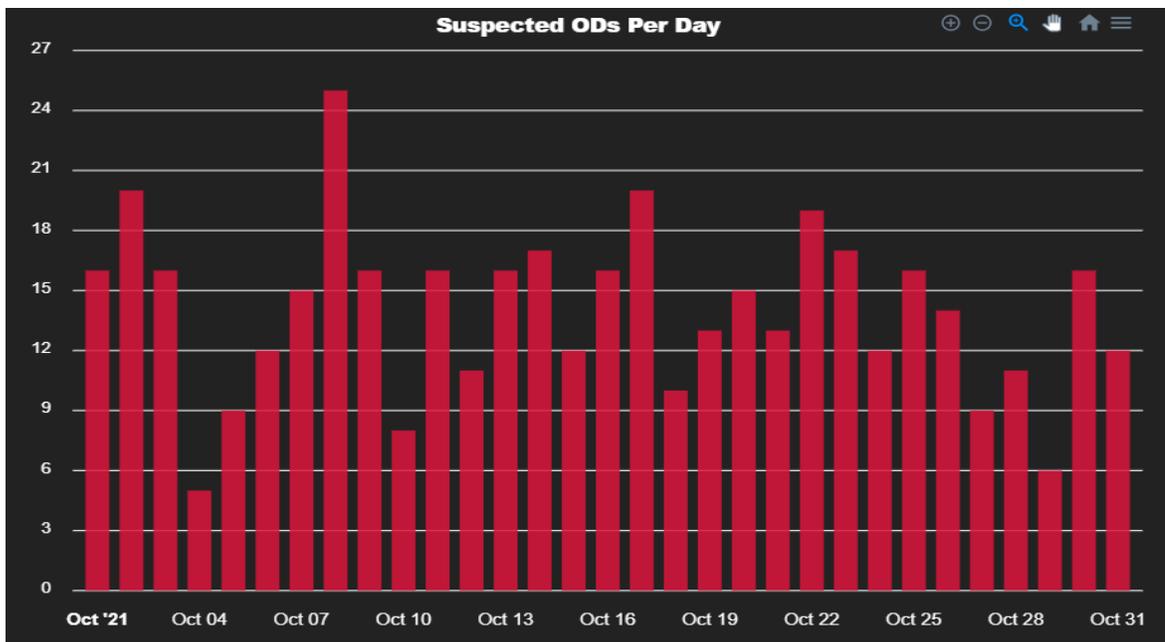
Left: < Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid\*. This data shows counts for **October 2021** for the state of Connecticut.

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 October 2021

In the month of October 2021, there were 433 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 420 were non-fatal and 13 resulted in fatalities. There were 352 total naloxone administrations: 183 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 162 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and 74 non-fatal with no naloxone administered, and 1 non-fatal where the status of Naloxone was unknown. Of the 13 fatalities, four (4) received multiple doses of naloxone, three (3) received single dose, and five (6) with no naloxone administered, and none (0) were unknown.

The 433 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield (66), Hartford (160), Litchfield (27), Middlesex (17), New Haven (103), New London (44), Tolland (8), and Windham (8).

\*Numbers subject to change

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

## Data a Deeper Dive

*Fentanyl Contaminated Cocaine cont.*

and suffered either respiratory arrest or agonal breathing. Three of the patients were successfully resuscitated with naloxone; one died. Toxicological evidence from the Office of the Connecticut Medical Examiner (OCME) confirmed that the fatality patient was positive for cocaine and fentanyl.

The EMS reports were made as part of our Connecticut Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD). These cases represented 3.1% of all monthly calls in September and 6.5% in October. SWORD data does not include overdoses where EMS was not called or when EMS was called, but failed to report the overdoses to the CPCC.

The death toll from drug overdoses in Connecticut in 2021 is expected to eclipse 2020's record of 1372 fatalities by over 10%. In 2020, 91% of opioid deaths in Connecticut involved fentanyl, Cocaine was present in 38.5% of all overdose deaths in 2019 and 2020, its highest level yet.

Like other states on the east coast, the predominant opioid is fentanyl, which has largely supplanted heroin. The fentanyl comes in powdered form that is cut with adulterants and is indistinguishable from white

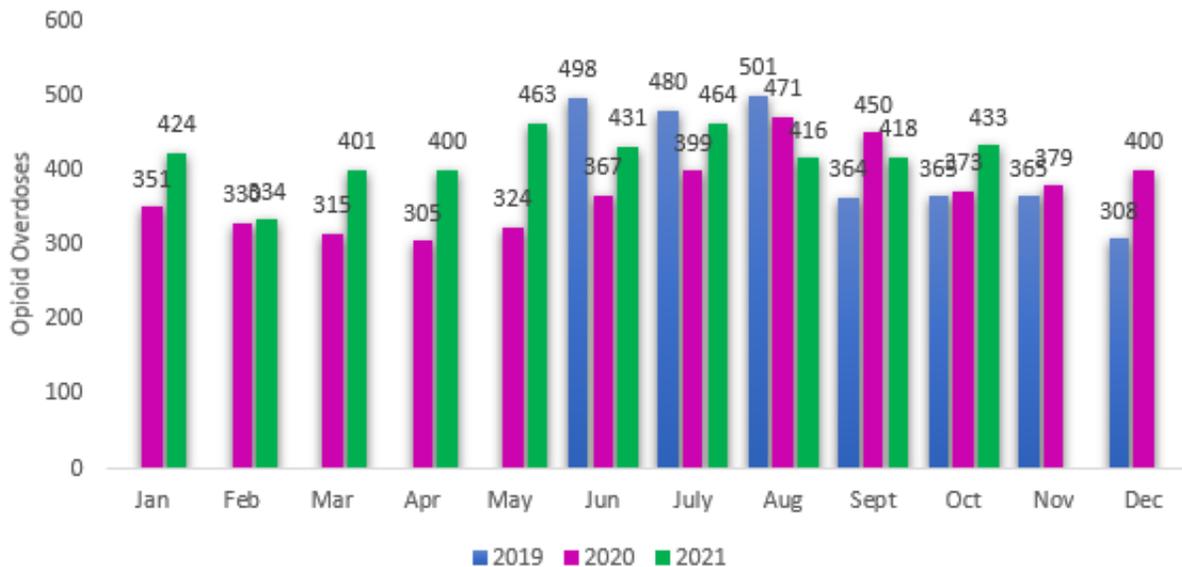
heroin or cocaine by sight. Most in Connecticut dealers sell both cocaine and fentanyl.

According to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services Forensic Lab, in 2020 there were 228 submissions from law enforcement that contained cocaine. Of those submissions, 21 (9.2%) contained cocaine with trace amounts of fentanyl. As of October 1, 2021, there have been 189 law enforcement submissions that contained cocaine, and of those 27 (14.3%) contained both cocaine and fentanyl.

We believe these reports demonstrate that cross contamination of cocaine with small amounts of fentanyl is plausibly responsible for a small portion of the increasing number of overdoses and deaths in the state. EMS workers should warn their patients who use cocaine and buy from dealers that also sell fentanyl to be particularly wary of contaminated supply. They should never use cocaine alone and always have naloxone present.

Thanks for all you do to help keep your patients safe.

### Suspected OD's by month June 2019-October 2021



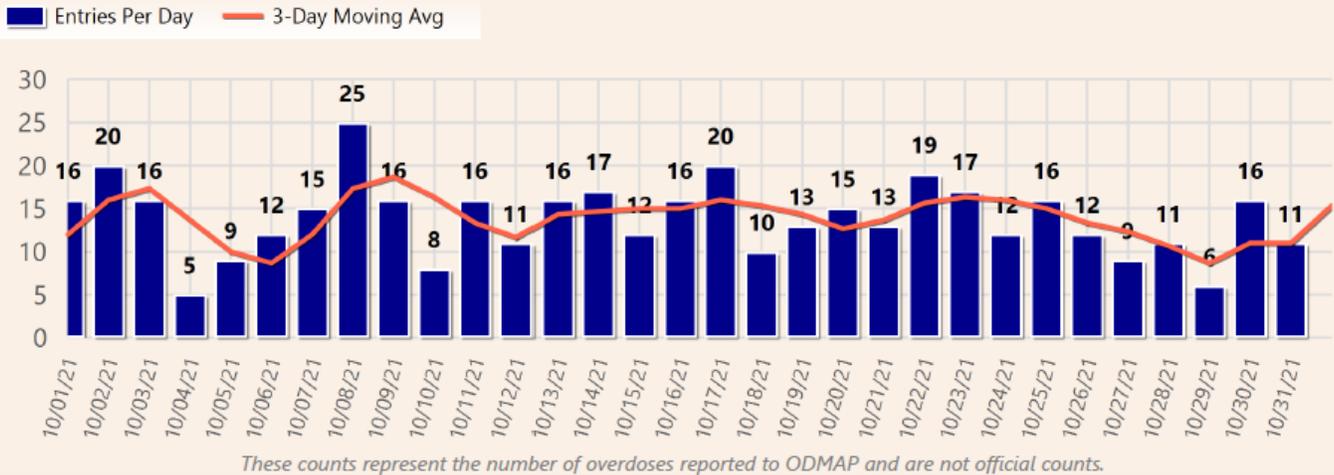
*SWORD Highlighted cont. from pg. 1*

The article can be found at this link:

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

Thanks for the role you play in the success of this critical surveillance tool monitoring the opioid overdose epidemic.

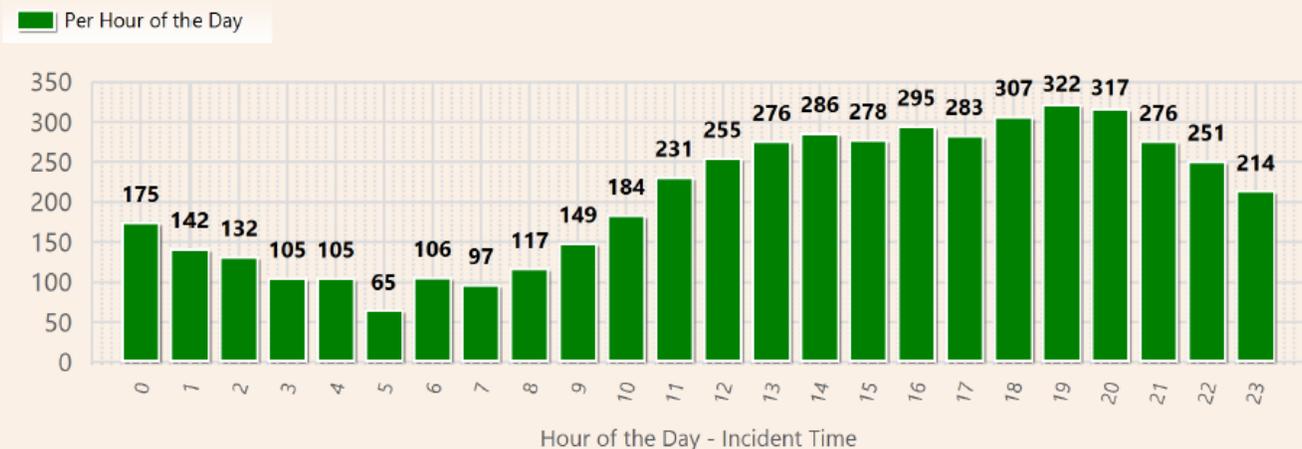
### ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - In the Last Month



### ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions by day.

*This graph shows total suspected overdoses called in each day during the time period.*

### 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



## Department of Public Health

### Office of Emergency Medical Services

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

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

410 Capitol Ave  
Hartford, CT 06134  
860-509-7975

*Thank you for your participation!*

