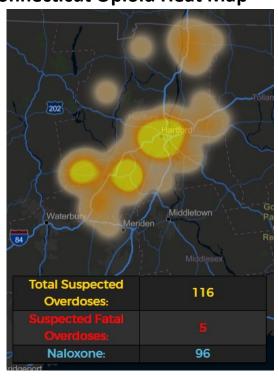


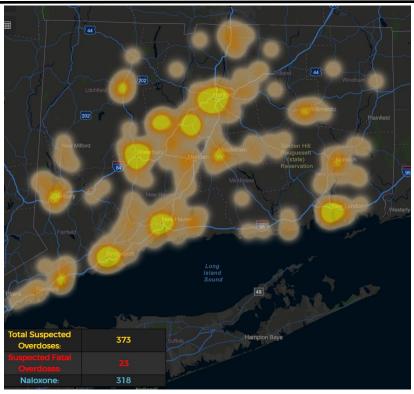
# PH) CT EMS SWORD

Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive Newsletter

April 2022, Issue XXXV

### **Connecticut Opioid Heat Map**



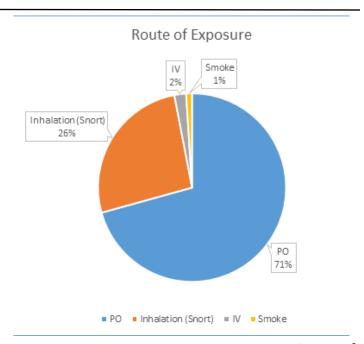


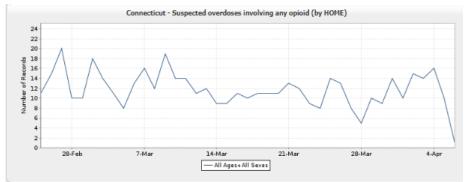
In the month of March the State of Connecticut saw increased overdose activity in Hartford and New London counties. Windham county is at top left, and New London county is at lower left. The heatmaps depicted, above show cumulative data for the month of March 2022.

## Review of SWORD Reported Oxycodone Overdose

Seventy-nine percent of patients who overdosed on opioids and required naloxone resuscitations during a recent eight month period had a known drug of exposure off fentanyl or heroin. This number is down from Year One of SWORD where 87% percent had a known opioid drug of exposure of used heroin/fentanyl. This is likely reflective of reports of increasing seizures of counterfeit prescription pills that actually contain fentanyl instead of prescription pharmaceutical oxycodone.

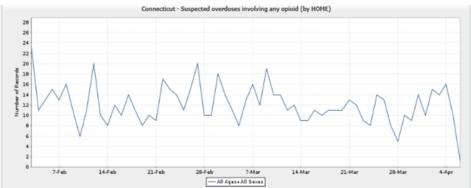
We examined 100 cases of patients who stated they used oxycodone during this same time period of September 2021 and March 2022. This represented 5% of all overdoses reported to SWORD who received naloxone. Of those whose route of ingestion was recorded, 70% used the drug PO, 26%



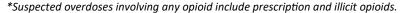


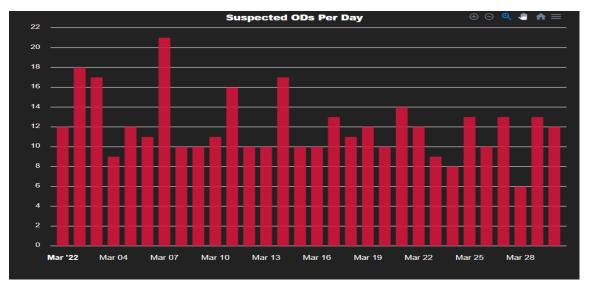
Left: < Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid\*. This data shows counts for March 2022 for the

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.





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

### **SWORD Statewide Reporting March 2022**

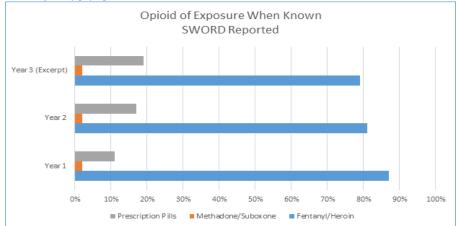
In the month of March 2022, there were 373 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 350 were non-fatal and 23 resulted in fatalities. There were 318 total naloxone administrations: 178 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 129 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and forty-three (43) non-fatal with no naloxone administered. There were 0 (zero) non-fatal with "unknown" naloxone administered. Of the 23 fatalities, seven (7) received multiple doses of naloxone, four (4) received single dose, twelve (12) with no naloxone administered, and 0 (zero) were unknown.

The 373 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield (62), Hartford (116), Litchfield (16), Middlesex (18), New Haven (98), New London (46), Tolland (7) and Windham (10).

\*Numbers subject to change

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

Multiple Overdose Incidents cont. from pg. page 1



crushed and snorted the drug, 2% injected IV and 1% stated they smoked the drug. 44% of those who described where the drug came from said they used a drug from a prescription, 56% purchased or obtained the drugs on the street (dealer or friend/acquaintance).

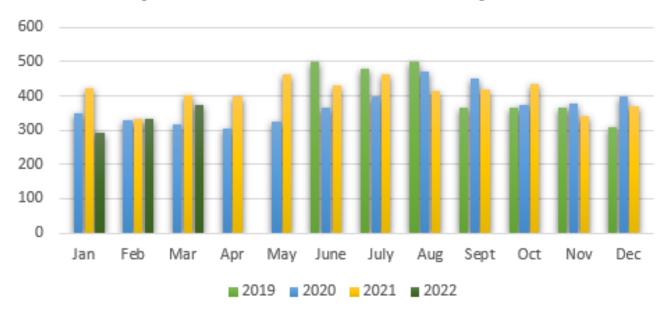
69% of the patients were male, 31% were female. There was fairly even distribution between ages 20-59. 77% of those 49 and under obtained their oxycodone illicitly versus only 17% of those 50 an over. 31% of those 49 and under either snorted or used their Oxycodone IV versus only 20% of those 50 an over.

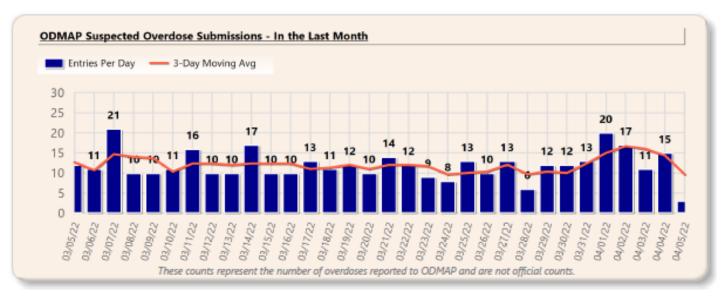
It is not known what percentage of the oxycodone consumed was actually counterfeit fentanyl.

While the bioavailability of fentanyl is estimated at 30% through ingestion it is much lower than the bioavailability of oral oxycodone. However, because of the large amount of fentanyl that may be in each counterfeit bill, the large dose is enough to counteract the low bioavailability and can lead to overdose. These pills are even more dangerous when used IV or through inhalation where their bioavailability is much higher.

People who use oxycodone should be aware of the possibility that the pill they have obtained may be counterfeit, containing fentanyl. They are urged to never use alone and always have naloxone available. EMS should share this warning with patients who use oxycodone and other prescription opioids.

### Suspected OD's by month June 2019-February 2022





#### **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.



### Cumulative (June 2019—March 2022) 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.

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

<u>Click here</u> to contact OEMS regarding the SWORD program,

ODMAP, or feedback, <u>Click here</u> to check out the SWORD page on our website

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

Thank you for your participation!