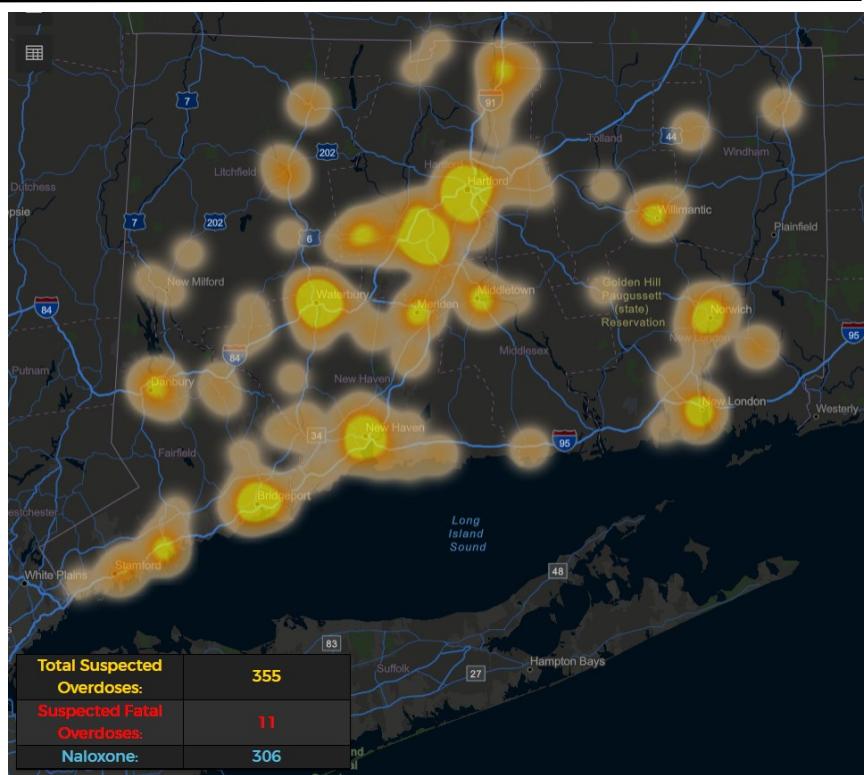
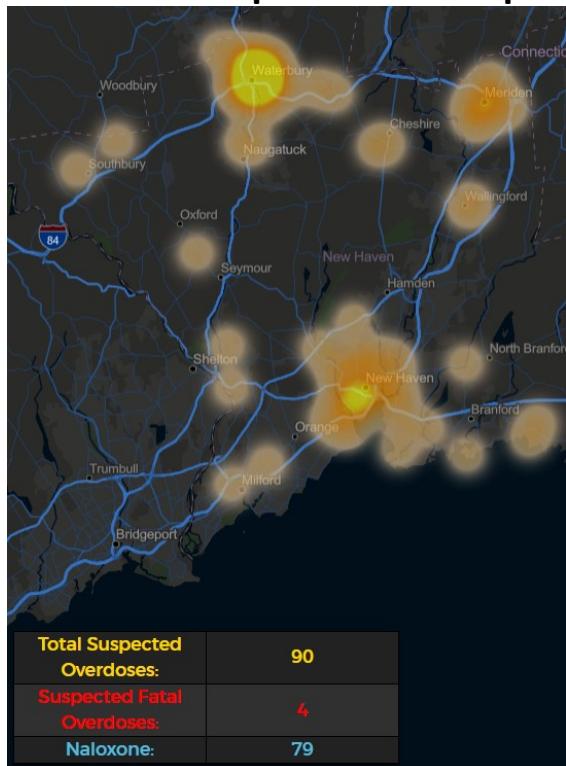


July 2022, Issue XXXVIII

Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



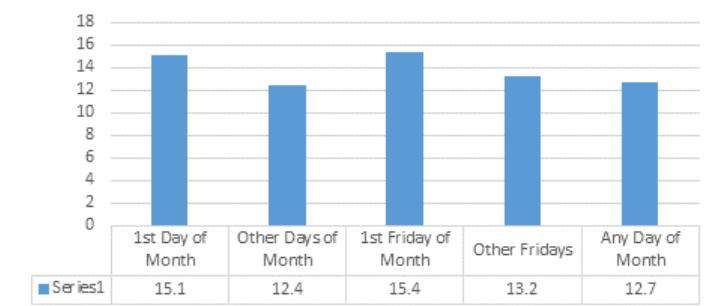
In the month of June the State of Connecticut saw increased overdose activity in Hartford and Fairfield counties. Hartford county pictured on the left. The heatmaps depicted, above

First of the Month and Opioid Overdoses

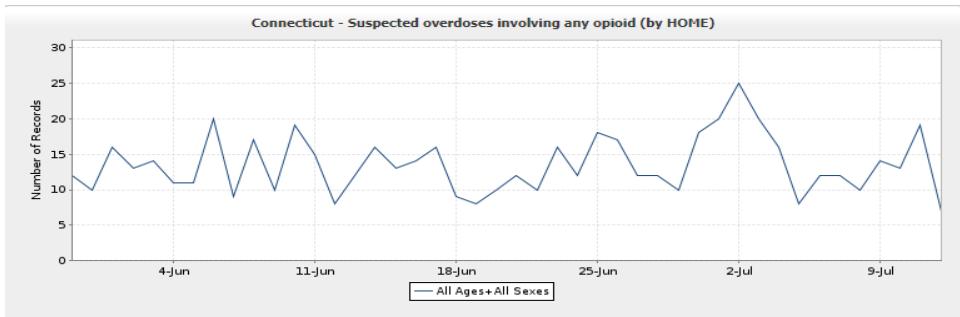
Many in EMS have noticed that overdoses seem to spike on the first day of the month. We examined three years of SWORD data to answer these questions: Are overdoses more likely to occur on the first day of the month versus all other days? Are overdoses more likely to occur on the first Friday of the month versus all other Fridays?

There were 542 overdoses on the first day of the month for an average of 15.1 a day. There were 13,403 overdoses on other days (2-31) for an average of 12.4 per day. **There were 21% more overdoses on average on the first day of the month than on the average for the other days of the month.** There were 445 overdoses on the first Friday of the month for an average of 15.4 overdoses a day and 1580 overdoses on all other Fridays for an average of 13.2 overdoses on non-first

SWORD Reported Opioid Overdoses
Average Per Day
June 2019-May 2022

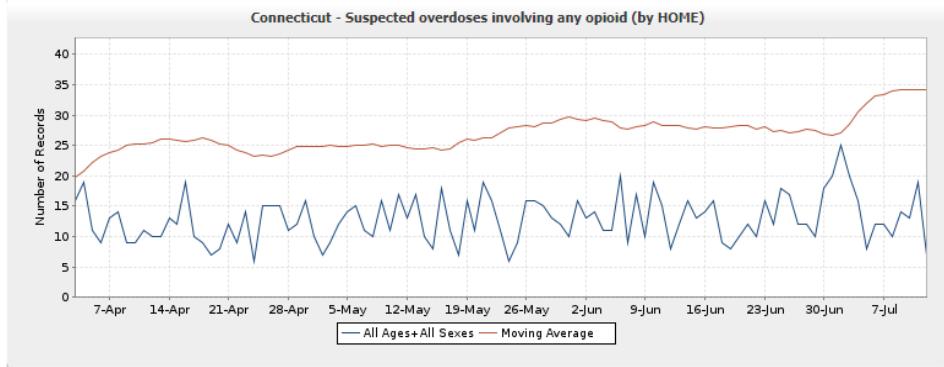


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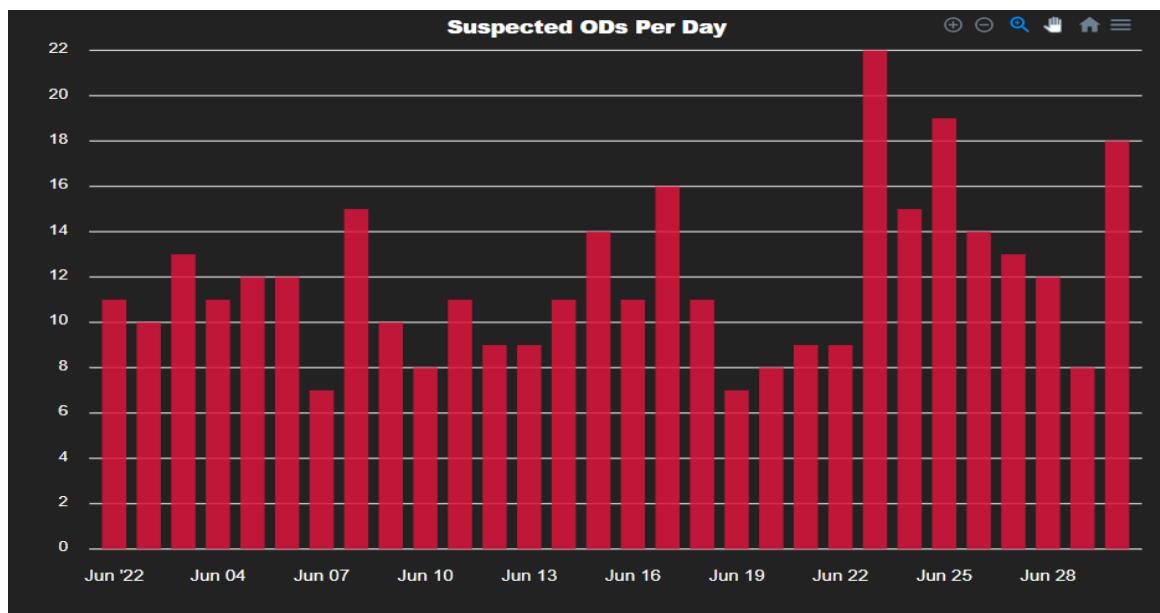
Left: < Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid*. This data shows counts for **June 2022** for the state

Right: > Total count of emergency department visits related to suspected overdoses with any opioid*. This data shows total counts for the **previous 100 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 June 2022

In the month of June 2022, there were 355 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 344 were non-fatal and 11 resulted in fatalities. There were 306 total naloxone administrations: one hundred and 182 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 117 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and 44 non-fatal with no naloxone administered. Of the 11 fatalities, four received multiple doses of naloxone, five received a single dose, and four with no naloxone administered.

The 355 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield 58, Hartford 129, Litchfield 14, Middlesex 14, New Haven 90, New London 36, Tolland one, and Windham 13.

*Numbers subject to change

Spike Alert Verification Process

Connecticut uses a three pronged approach to identifying overdose spikes and issuing alerts. These three prongs include 1. SWORD/ODMAP 2. EpiCenter syndromic surveillance system. 3. The Office of the Connecticut Medical Examiner.

SWORD is the first prong. EMS responders contact the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) immediately after responding to a suspected opioid overdose. They answer a series of questions about the overdose and the information is logged in the CPCC's Toxicall data base. A subset of the information is then input by CPCC specialists into ODMAP. Spike alert triggers are set in ODMAP to notify DPH administrators when a certain number of overdoses are logged. When a trigger is hit, a team member reviews all recent SWORD calls, including reading the Toxicall narratives. If a particular pattern of public health significance –location, type of overdose, similar paraphernalia -- is observed, this is reported.

The state Epicenter syndromic surveillance system is the second prong. State epidemiologists review this data which represents near real-time estimates of emergency department (ED) utilization for non-fatal and fatal suspected drug and opioid overdoses as well as triage notes of suspected overdose patients.

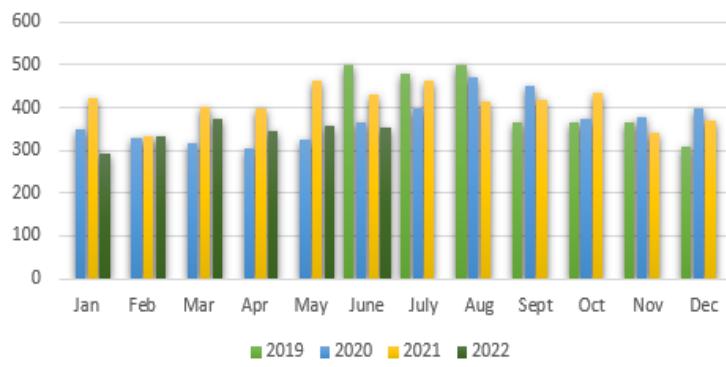
The third prong is the state Office of the Connecticut Medical examiner. The Office of the OCME is contacted for any reports of recent overdose fatalities. In October of 2021 the OCME began entering fatalities into ODMAP, which provides rapid identification of fatal overdoses. The OCME will then provide more detailed information about these overdoses on request.

Analyses of these three databases are shared with local health department/districts, ambulance companies, law enforcement, fire departments, and harm reduction groups when it is determined a threat exists. Since ?, DPH has issued ? advisories.

An example of this three pronged approach occurred in June of 2019, when a series of overdoses occurred in Hartford when people who used only crack cocaine suffered overdoses requiring naloxone. CPCC specialists were immediately able to identify a possible problem within hours of the first overdose.

The nexus of the overdoses was pinpointed to a specific Hartford neighborhood. The CPCC and CT DPH notified local health and public safety officials, as well as harm reduction groups. Harm reduction groups distributed fentanyl test strips and naloxone to crack cocaine users and warned of the dangers of using alone. The outbreak lasted five days and tallied at least 22 overdoses, including six deaths. A summary of the response was published in Public Health Reports in 2021.

**Suspected OD's
by month June 2019-June 2022**



First of the Month and Opioid Overdoses from pg. 1

Fridays. People were 14.3% more likely to overdose on the first Friday of the month than on any other Friday.

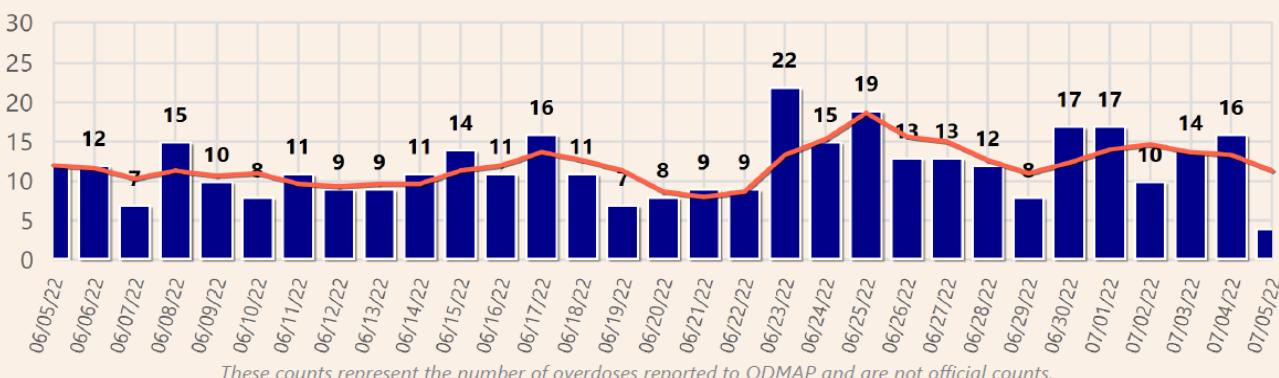
Conclusion: Overdoses are more likely to occur on the first day of the month than any other day, and are more likely to occur on the first Friday of the month than other Fridays in the month. Public Health and harm reduction organizations should consider this information when planning prevention activities.

Limitations: SWORD data includes only those overdoses where 911 was called and EMS reported the overdose to the Connecticut Poison Control Center.

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - In the Last Month

Entries Per Day

3-Day Moving Avg



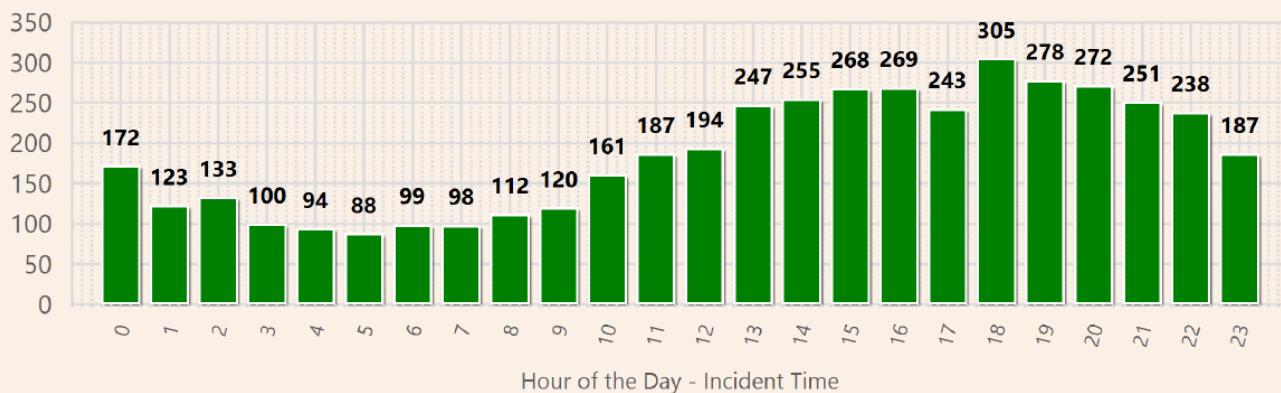
ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions by day.

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

Per Hour of the Day



Cumulative (June 2019–June 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



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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

Thank you for your participation!

