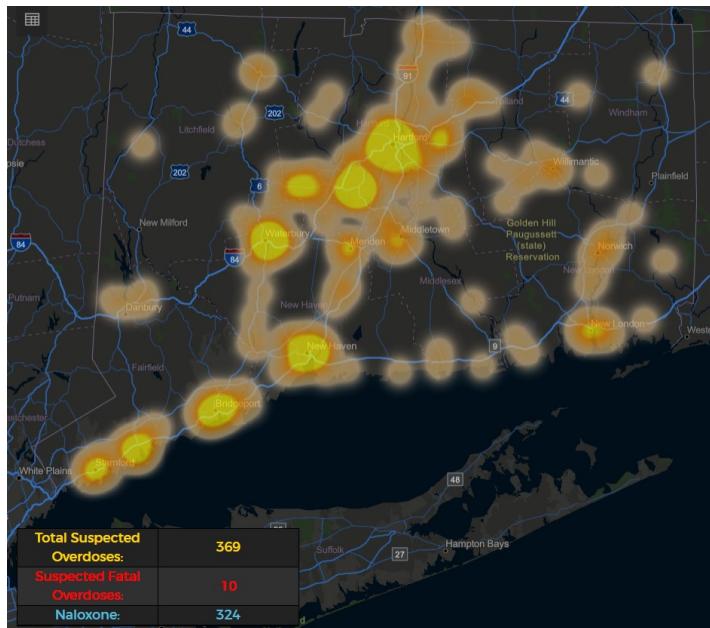
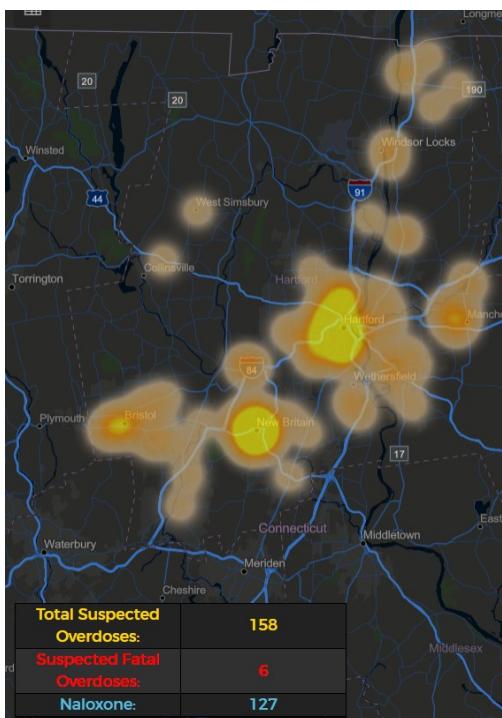


October 2022, Issue XLI

### Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



In the month of July the State of Connecticut saw increased overdose activity in Hartford & New Haven counties. Hartford county pictured below. The heatmaps depicted, above show cumulative data for the month of September 2022.



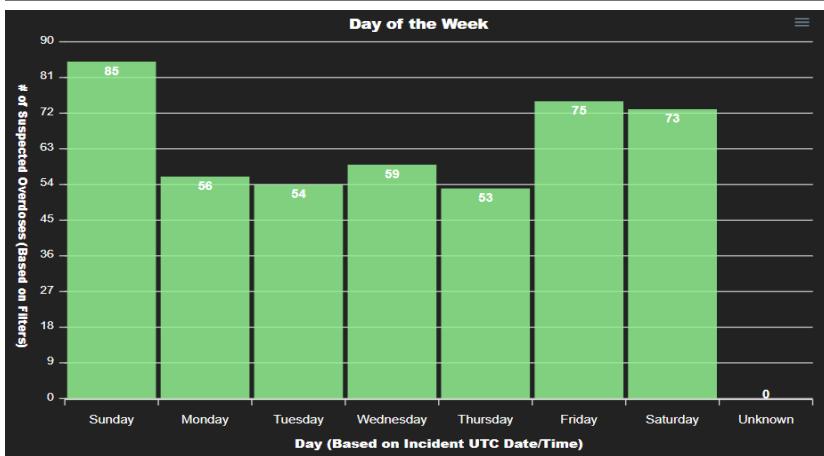
### Naloxone Leave Behind

Over 108,000 Americans died of overdoses in 2021. 1524 died in Connecticut, including 1414 overdoses due to opioids, largely due to Fentanyl. Fentanyl is potent and cheap, 50 times as strong as heroin that is made in clandestine labs, smuggled into US, and sold as powder cut with adulterants as well as often pressed into counterfeit pills. A typical bag or pill contains only a small amount of active fentanyl but may contain a lethal amount if poorly mixed. Because there is no guarantee of a consistent dose from bag to bag, pill to pill, users cannot safely judge their doses, and if they are using alone, they can die if not found soon enough.

There are three approaches to curbing the opioid death epidemic: 1) Interdiction - Law enforcement tries to stop the flow of drugs and arrest dealers. 2) Treatment – People with substance use disorder enter program designed to help them stop using drugs. 3) Harm Reduction – Harm reduction recognizes that people use drugs for various reasons. It seeks to mitigate harmful effects of drug use and keep people alive until they are ready for a new stage in their lives. Harm Reduction includes community naloxone, syringe exchange, and street drug testing.

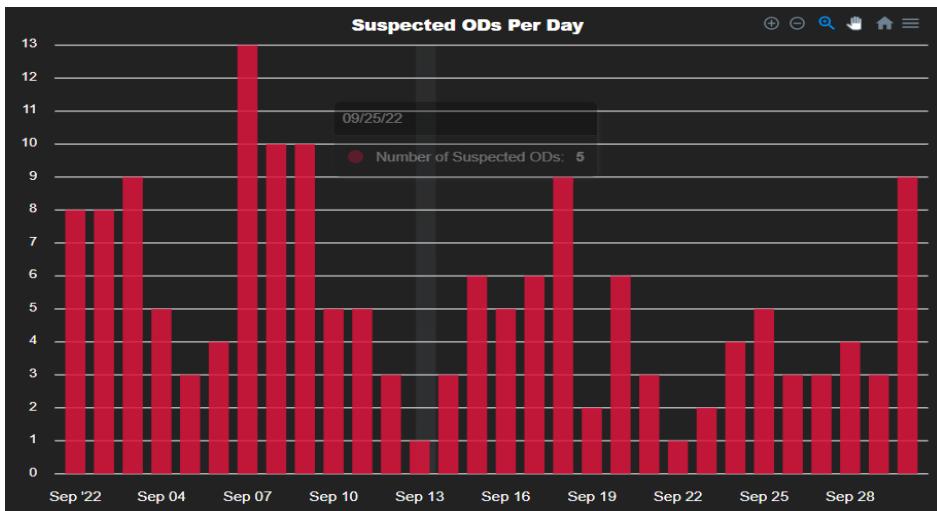
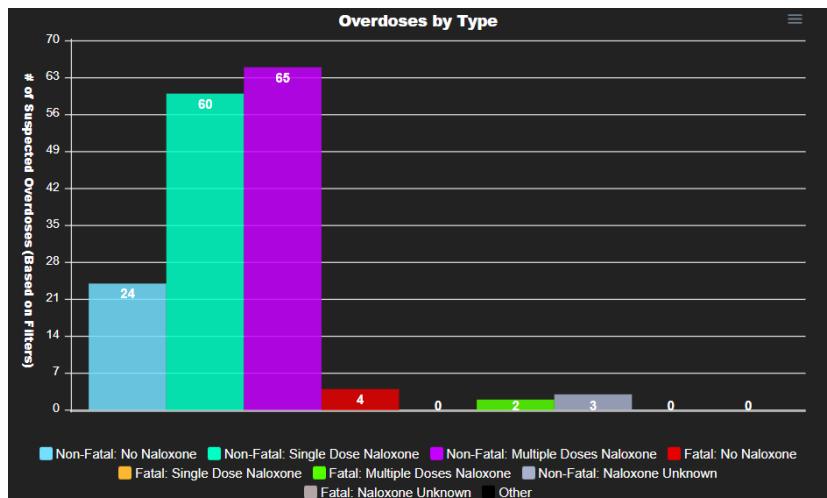


cont. on page 3



Left: < Activity based on day of the week based on Incident within the State of Connecticut during the month of September 2022.

Right: > Activity based on suspected overdoses by type as reported in the month of September 2022.



< Left: This graph represents EMS reported opioid overdoses by incident day during September, 2022.

## SWORD Statewide Reporting September 2022

In the month of September 2022, there were 369 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 359 were non-fatal and 10 were reported as fatalities. There were 324 total naloxone administrations: 185 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 134 non-fatal single dose naloxone, and 36 non-fatal with no naloxone administered. Of the 10 fatalities, three received multiple doses of naloxone, two received a single dose, and five with no naloxone administered.

The 369 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield 58, Hartford 158, Litchfield 9, Middlesex 17, New Haven 86, New London 23, Tolland 11, and Windham seven.

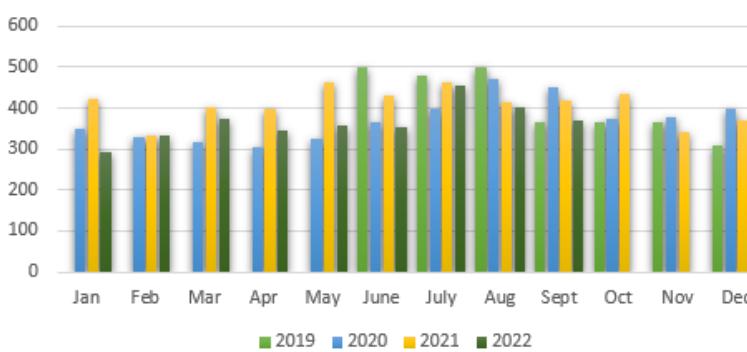
\*Numbers subject to change

## Rainbow Fentanyl

When calling in to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) with reports of suspected opioid overdose, it is important to provide as much information as you can about the paraphernalia found at scene or description of the drugs used. This information is very helpful. For instance, over the last several years we have received increasing reports of people taking oxycodone pills they bought off the street and overdosing on a single pill. The pills were likely counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, which explains the many who test positive for fentanyl at the hospital despite taking only "prescription pills."

Lately, we have received reports of colored fentanyl powder (blue or purple) in Connecticut. We believe that the colored fentanyl powder does not represent a more powerful brand but is just used as a marketing tool to differentiate one batch from another in much the same way wax folds contain different names, such as "Pray for

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



*Leave Behind cont. from pg. 1*

The Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services has provided 2,000 Overdose Prevention kits (naloxone, first aid instructions, guide to local treatment services) to local health departments to support local EMS services engaged in the Naloxone Leave Behind Program, a new state protocol that allows EMS to provide these kits to a patient, friends or family members following an opioid overdose resuscitation. When calling in to the Connecticut Poison Control Center to report suspected opioid overdoses (as required by the Connecticut law) please let them know if you have left a kit at the scene. This information is now being tracked through the federal ODMAP tracking



Death" or "Joker." There has been much media speculation that colored or "rainbow fentanyl" pills are now being targeted to children.

We have seen no evidence of this in Connecticut. The pills recovered in other states appear to be counterfeit oxycodone pills died in various colors (pink, green, yellow, purple) where typically the pills have been blue. Nevertheless, it is very important for EMS to report what they are seeing at overdose scenes to help public health and safety analysts in Connecticut understand the current drug scene and trends. Please alert your patients to danger of counterfeit pills that may contain lethal doses of fentanyl instead of measured prescription oxycodone or other advertised drugs. And report what you see to the CPCC when making your SWORD reports.

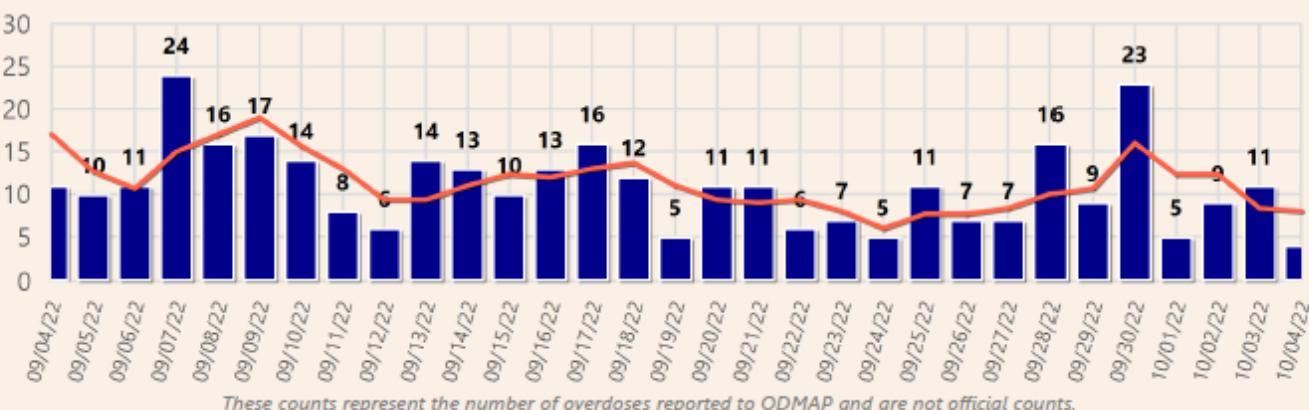
software. CPCC specialists will be asking this question to all SWORD callers.

People who suffer nonfatal overdose are at high risk for fatal overdose. Naloxone can save lives if administered in time. Also, having an empathetic contact with EMS can help people be more likely to seek help for addiction, which is a medical disease. Too often stigma, prevents people from seeking medical help. We in EMS are here to help all members of our community without judgement. With opioid overdose deaths still rising in Connecticut and across the nation, EMS has a vital role to play in providing compassionate care and harm reduction services to our citizens.

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

Entries Per Day

3-Day Moving Avg



### ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions by day.

### ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - All Data Submitted

Per Hour of the Day



### Cumulative (June 2019–September 2022) Overdoses by the Hour of the Day

This graph shows the hour of the day suspected overdose incidents have occurred statewide since the

Do you need help accessing ODMAP [Click here to contact the ODMAP Helpdesk](#), or call (301) 489-1744



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**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

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*Thank you for your participation!*

