

CT EMS SWORD

Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive Newsletter

August 2019, Issue III

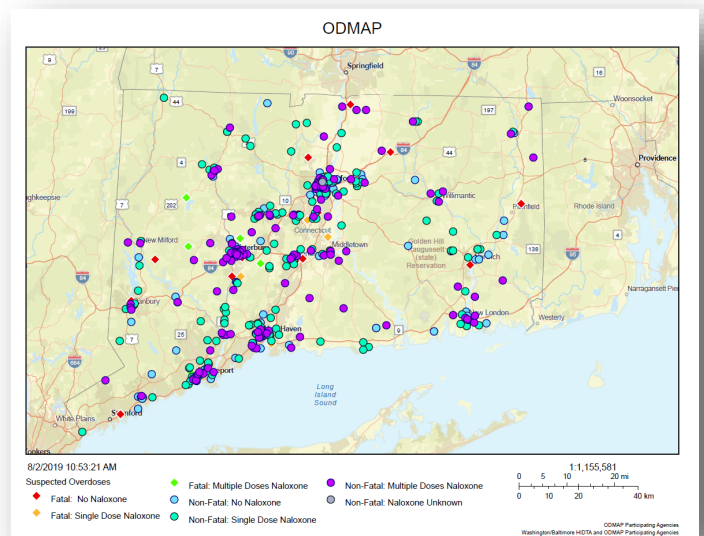
How does the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health monitor for overdose spikes?

- ◇ The Department of Public Health’s (DPH) Syndromic Surveillance Program monitors emergency department visits in near real-time to track suspected overdoses.
- ◇ The DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) StateWide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD) initiative collects data on all overdoses that Emergency Medical Services responds to, whether or not the patient is transported to the hospital, refuses transport, or is presumed on scene.
- ◇ The Office of the Connecticut Medical Examiner (OCME) reports data on fatal overdoses, although in many cases, this information is not available to health authorities until several days after the fact.

Both the Syndromic Surveillance Program and SWORD have automatic spike alerts that send out email notifications to the Department of Public Health when spikes are detected. The SWORD data which is also entered into the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) enables authorities to quickly review case narratives and locations to determine if the overdoses are related and, if so, identify potential deadly batches for harm reduction professionals on the street. Since the program began, the DPH has reviewed several outbreaks in Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, Torrington and Norwich to gain a near real-time understanding of what may be happening. This information is also shared with Local Health Departments and Districts as well as harm

reduction and syringe services professionals. The brief narrative EMS gives to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) Specialists is particularly important in providing context to any potential cluster of deadly batches. In some cases overdose spikes have been determined to be unrelated, in other cases, links have been clearly identified thanks to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reports. Each and every call EMS makes to the CPCC is an important piece of the puzzle and helps with both immediate response to spikes and long-term planning to address trends.

Keep up the great work!



State of CT ODMAP view for July 2019

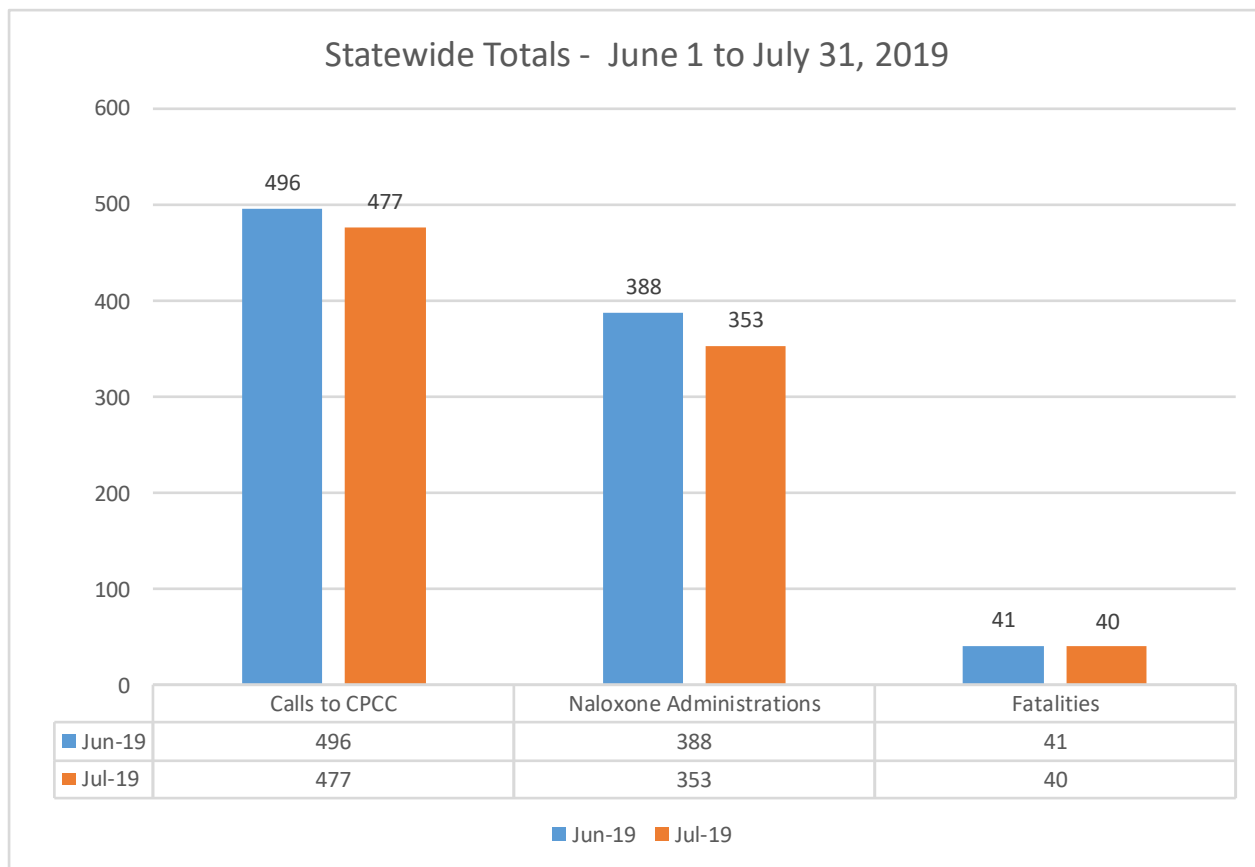
KUDOS: [REDACTED] and all who have called in SWORD cases to the CPCC. Keep up the great work!

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Reporting FAQ

I called the CPCC and was put on hold for several minutes. I am very busy and cannot wait.

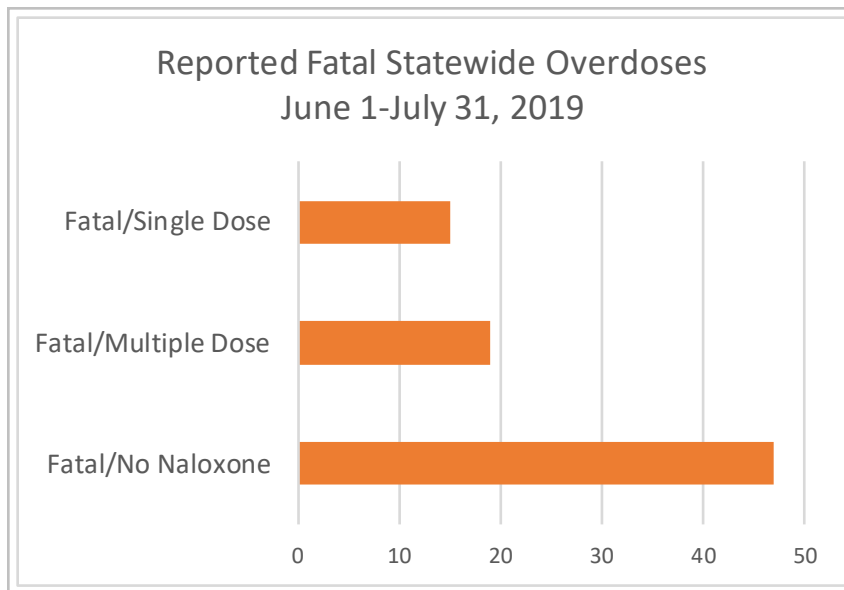
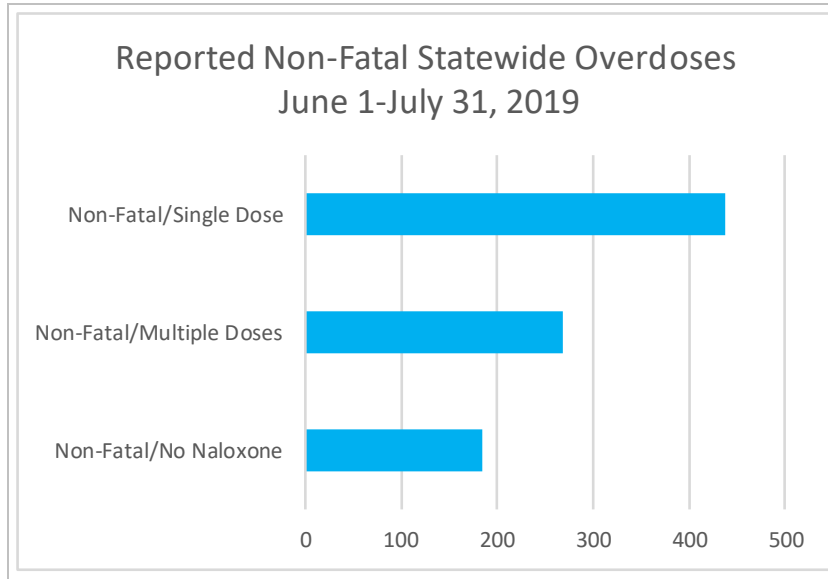
In most cases, your call will be answered immediately and the call should only take 2-4 minutes. There are times when, just like in EMS, the poison center is at level zero, with specialists dispensing emergency information to poison victims or their families, or giving advice to physicians managing emergency cases. Calls have to be prioritized. The poison specialist may either ask you to call back later or take your number and call you back. Thanks for your patience.



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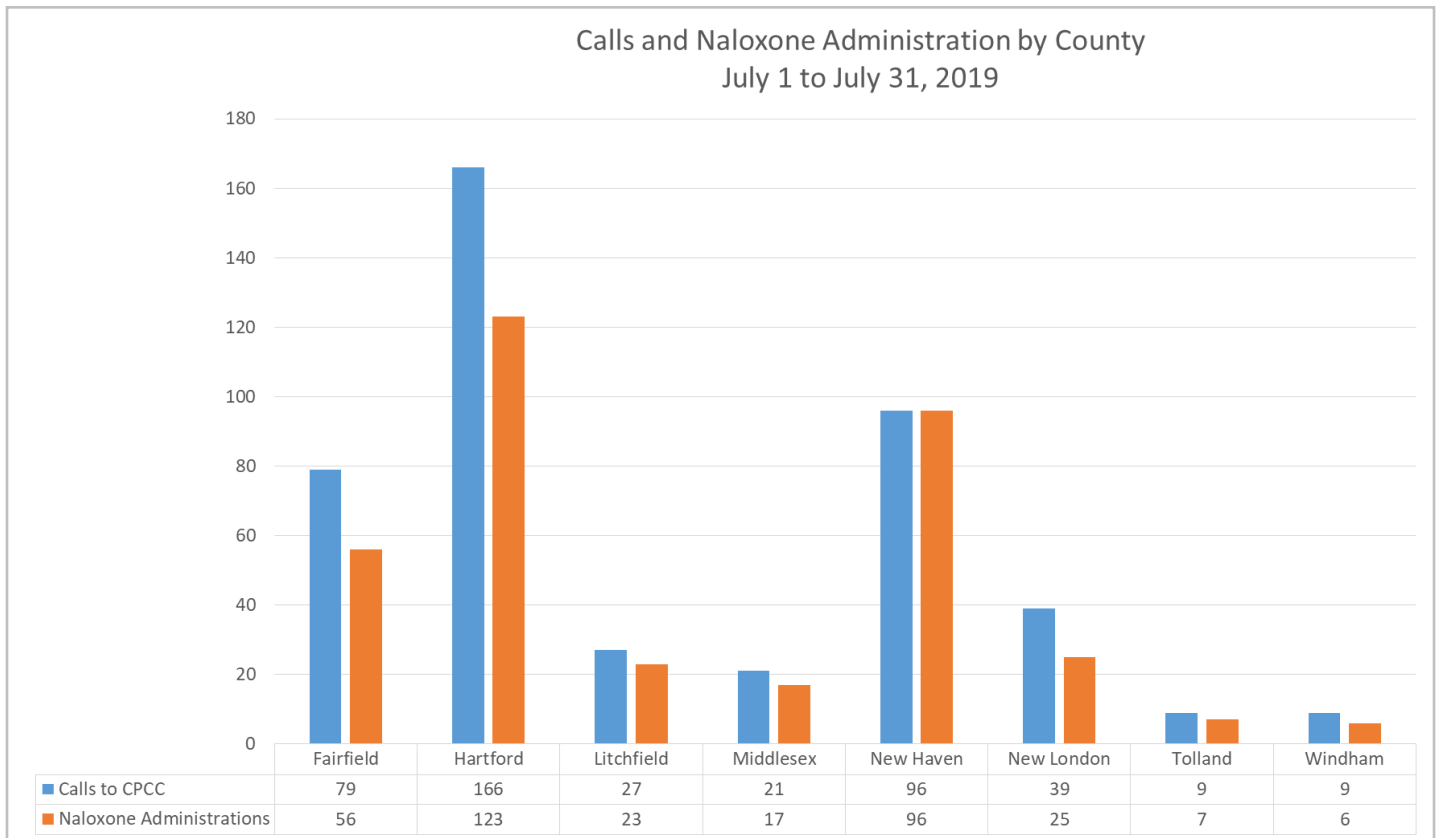
Results from the second full month of SWORD reporting are in! The Connecticut Poison Control Center received 477 calls in July, including 353 naloxone administrations and 40 fatalities. The data is entered into Toxicall and ODMAP software, which will assist local public health departments, public safety and community agencies such as harm reduction, better target their response to this epidemic that has killed over 1,000 Connecticut residents in each of the last two years.

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Pictured above are three of the “brands” photographed on EMS scenes

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ODMAP Access for EMS, Fire Departments, Hospitals, Law Enforcement and Local Health

ODMAP is available to government (tribal, local, state, and federal) entities serving the interests of public safety and/or public health. ODMAP is also available to licensed first responder agencies and hospitals. Once you have signed a participation agreement, you will be able to view the ODMAP along with certain charts like the graph at the bottom of the page which shows suspected overdoses per day.

Once you gain Level 2 access, your agency may view real-time overdose data. The [Overdose Spike Response Framework](#) is a resource that can guide development of a local Overdose Response Plan.

Agencies will want to 1) first request [Agency Access](#) and then 2) decide an Agency Administrator (who can set alerts) and then 3) create Level 2 users.

Note: All data in this newsletter comes from reports made by CT EMS and can be viewed in ODMAP Level 2

Office of Emergency Medical Services

Thank you for your participation!

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

[Click here to contact OEMS with any questions](#) regarding SWORD or ODMAP