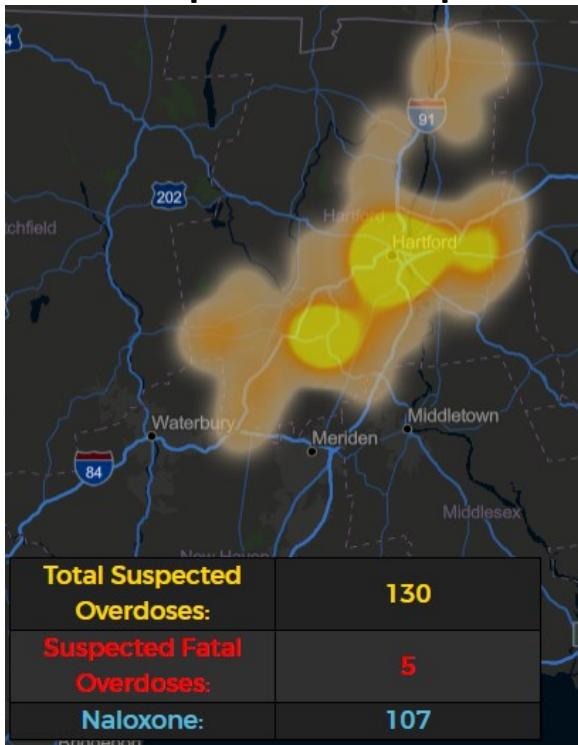
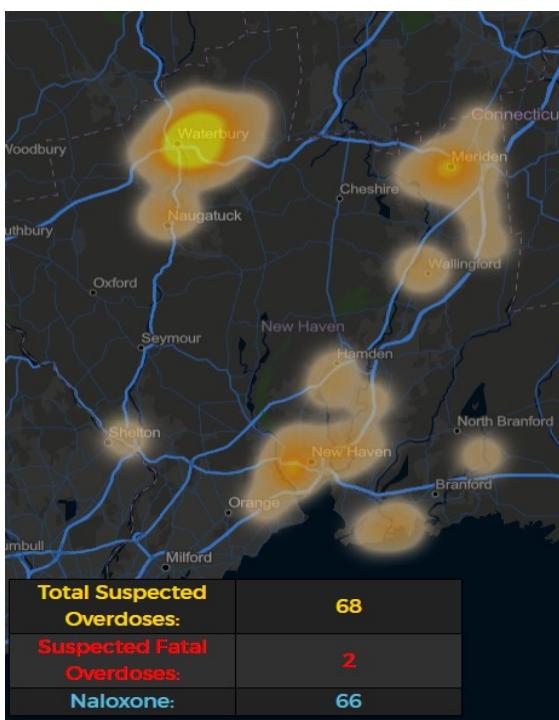


November 2023, Issue LIV

## Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



In the month of October 2023, significant overdose activity was noted in Hartford (above) and New Haven (below) Counties.



## Opioid Route of Administration in SWORD Reported Overdoses 2019-2023

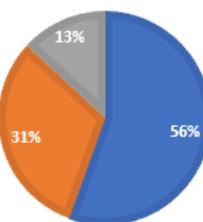
**Background:** Illicit opioids are primarily administered through one of three routes: injection, inhalation (snorting or smoking), oral ingestion. Injecting use leads to the fastest strongest high, particularly when injected directly into a vein (IV) as opposed to into the muscle or beneath the skin. Injection also carries with it increased danger for skin infections and serious diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis, and endocarditis. Inhalation either through snorting powder or smoking provides less strength than intravenous but is also rapid. Ingestion is the slowest onset and has the lowest bioavailability which is the percentage of administered drug that reaches the circulation. Depending on the drug, oral bioavailability can range from 33% for morphine to up to 87% for oxycodone. Intravenous bioavailability is 100%.

**Objective:** Determine most popular routes of opioid administration and if there is a trend toward or away from one route of administration.

**Methods:** We examined the routes of opioid administration by those who had their opioid overdoses reported to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) between June 1, 2019 and September 12, 2023. The categories included Inhalation (snorted/smoked), Injected, Ingested, Other, and Unknown.

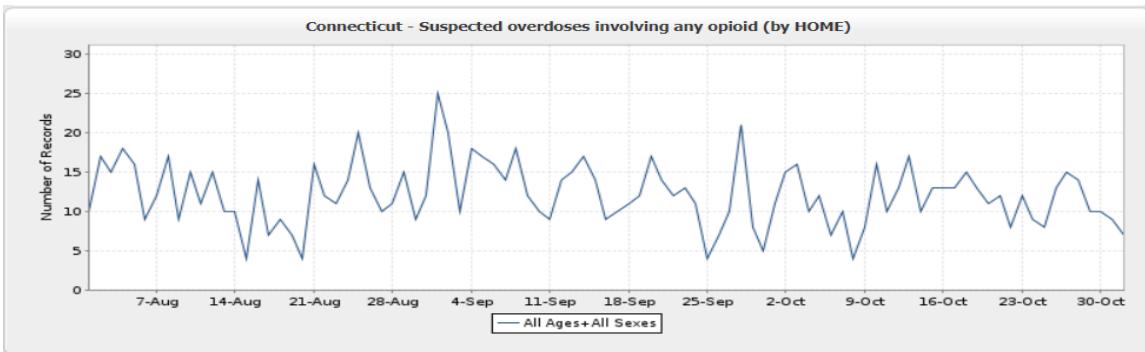
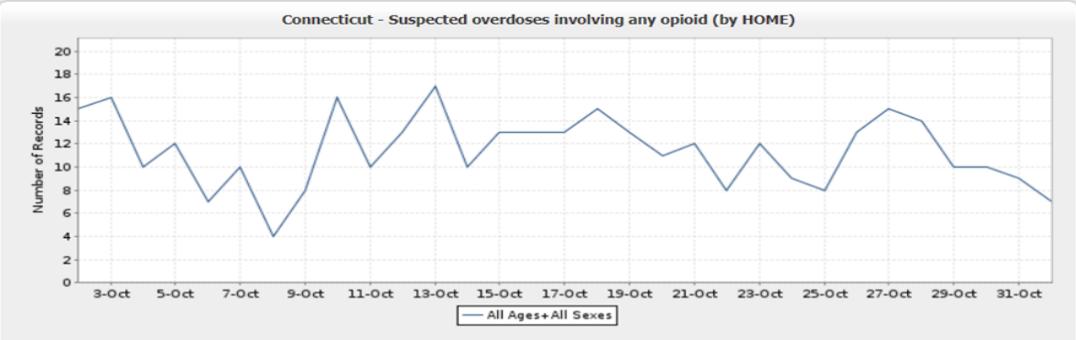
### OPIOID ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION SWORD REPORTED OVERDOSE 2019-2023

■ Snort/smoke ■ Inject ■ Ingest



**Right >: Suspected Overdoses Involving Any Opioid, totaled by day, for the previous 30 days:**

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, November 2023.

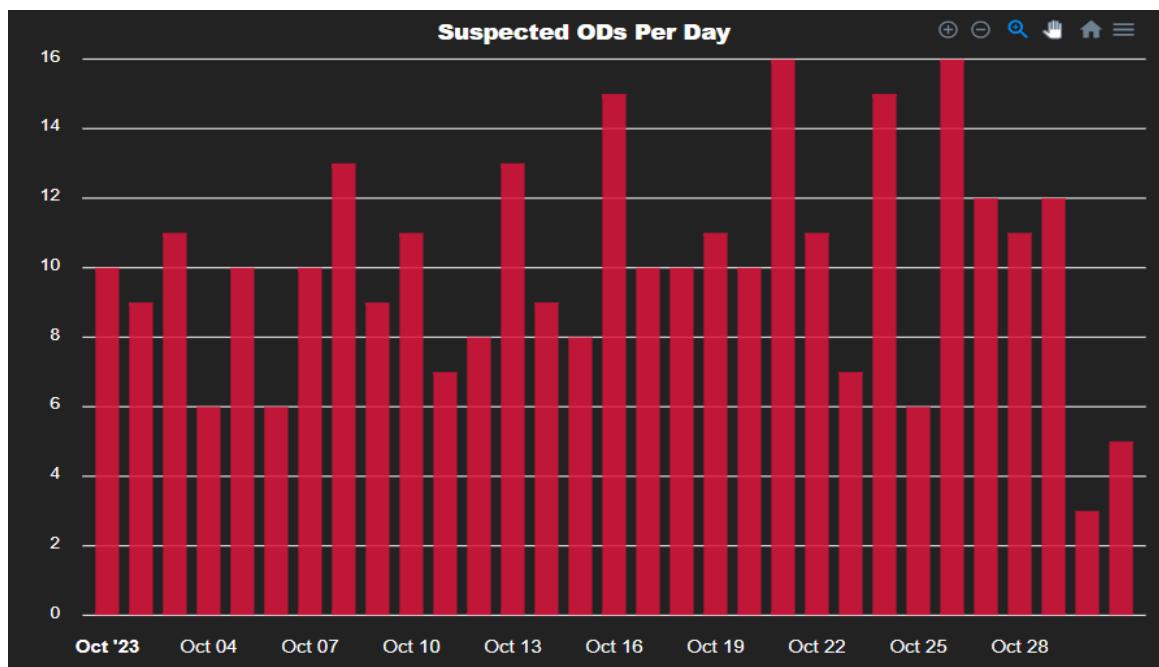


**Left: < Suspected overdoses involving any opioid by day previous 3 months**

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, November 2023.

**Right >: This graph represents EMS reported opioid overdoses by incident day during October 2023.**

This graph was sourced from OD-MAP in November 2023.



## SWORD Statewide Reporting October 2023

In the month of October 2023, there were 310 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 299 were non-fatal and 11 were reported as fatalities. There were 277 total naloxone administrations: 157 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 111 non-fatal single dose naloxone, 28 non-fatal with no naloxone administered and two non-fatal naloxone administration unknown. Of the 11 fatalities, seven received multiple doses of naloxone, two received a single dose, and two with no naloxone administered.

The 310 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield 47, Hartford 130, Litchfield nine, Middlesex 17, New Haven 68, New London 24, Tolland two and Windham 13.

\*Numbers subject to change

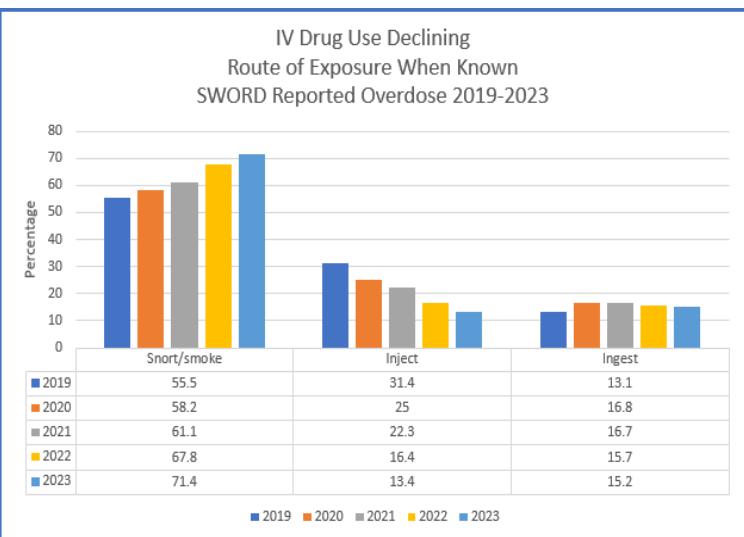
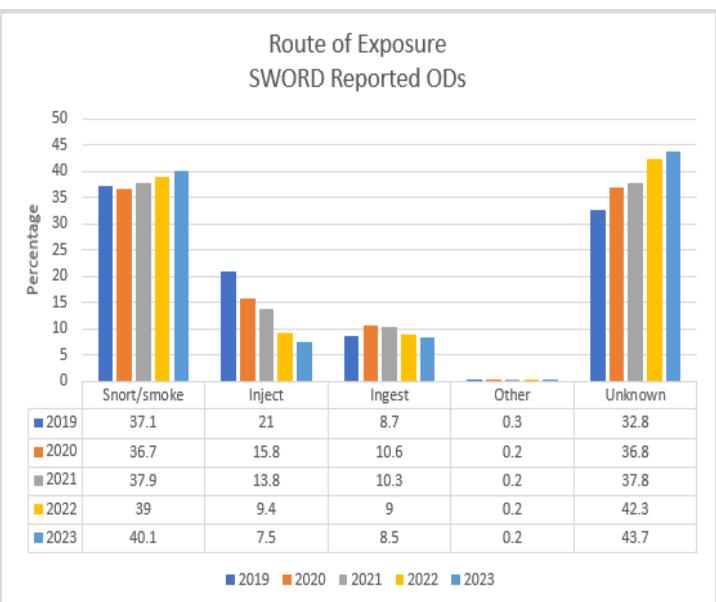
## Overdoses Route of Administration cont. from pg. 1

Results: Inhalation was the most popular route of administration with 7433 (38.1%), followed by injection with 2627 (13.4%), ingestion with 1875 (9.6%), other with 46 (0.2%) and 7552 (38.7%) were listed as unknown. When the route of exposure was known, 62% used inhalation, 22% injection and 16% ingestion. Inhalation increased from 55.5% in 2019 to 71.4% in 2023, while injection decreased from 31.4% to 13.4%.

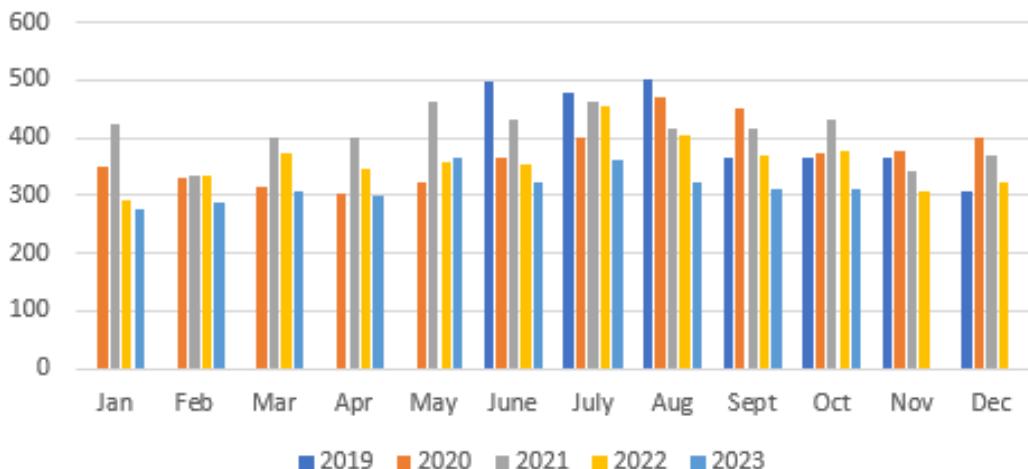
Discussion: The most predominate route of administration by people who overdose is inhalation with the trend increasingly away from injection. This could represent the efforts of harm reductionists to discourage the more dangerous intravenous route of administration. Of note, the number of unknown administration routes increased from 32.8% in 2019 to 43.7% in 2023. This could represent a growing unwillingness of intravenous users to admit their route of administration due to stigma.

Limitations: Data is either self-reported by the patients or deduced by the EMS personnel. The data only includes those overdoses where 911 was called and EMS reported the encounter to the CPCC.

Conclusions: The results showed a trend away from injecting and toward inhalation, while ingestion remained consistent. Inhalation was the most popular route of administration.



## Suspected Overdoses by month June 2019-October 2023



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

Entries Per Day    3-Day Moving Avg



These counts represent the number of overdoses reported to ODMAP and are not official counts.

### 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—October 2023) 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



Connecticut Department of Public Health

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Hartford, CT 06134  
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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!*

