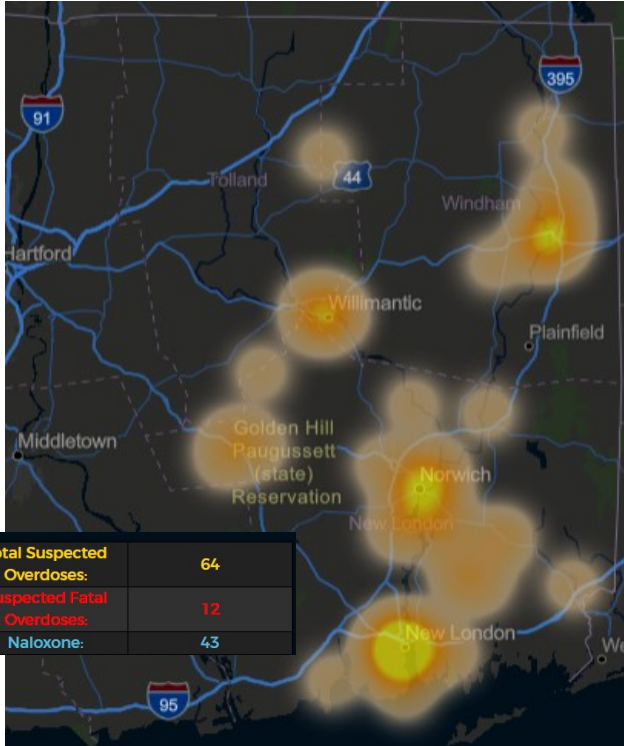
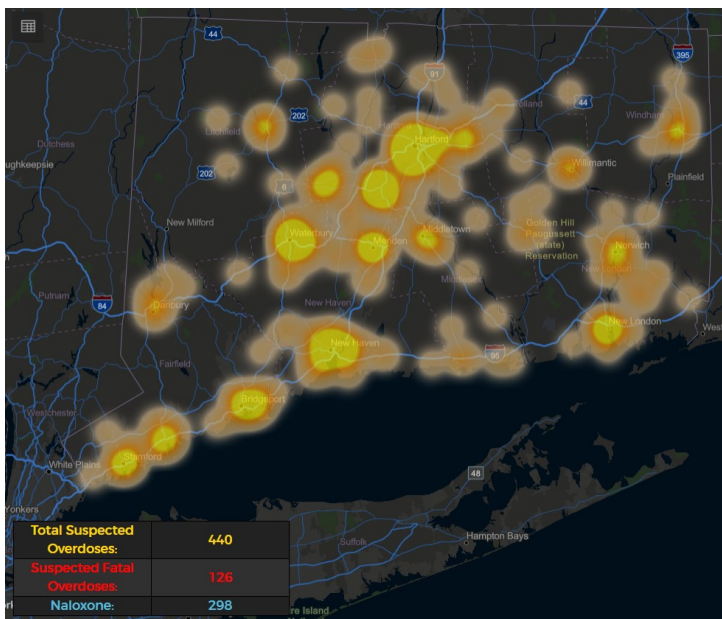


Connecticut Opioid Heat Map



In the month of August 2023, significant overdose activity was noted in Windham and New London Counties, (above). The Statewide view can also be observed below .



Patients Resuscitated with Naloxone Often Deny Drug Use

Introduction

We examined 100 consecutive Sword reported calls in August of 2023 where patients with opioid toxidrome syndrome were resuscitated with naloxone and were alert enough afterwards to answer what drug they had used.

Results

Twenty-seven percent of patients resuscitated with naloxone denied any use of drugs. Twenty-four percent admitted heroin or fentanyl use. Twenty-four percent did not admit what drug they used. Nine percent admitted taking prescription pills, including pills bought on the street. The pills included Percocet (3), “street pills” (3), oxycodone (1), Adderall (1), and Xanax (1). Seven said they only used cocaine or crack. Five claimed they only smoked marijuana. Four said they only drank alcohol.

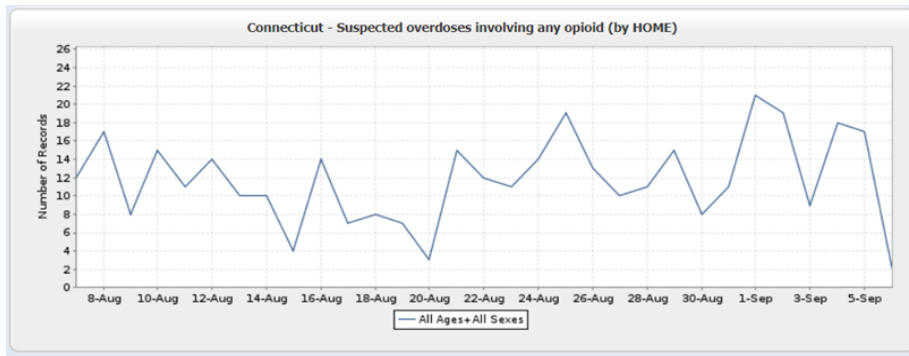
The patients were 68 percent male and 32 percent female. Twenty percent received their naloxone from bystanders. Eighty-five percent were transported to the hospital.

Discussion

People with opioid toxidrome syndrome (decreased consciousness and respirations with pinpoint pupils in the setting of suspected opioid overdose) resuscitated with naloxone appear reluctant to freely discuss what drug they used that caused their overdose. This may be because of stigma or fear of prosecution for using illegal drugs. Twenty-seven denied any use of illegal drugs. Twenty-four did not disclose what drug they used. Nine claimed they either used marijuana or alcohol, which are legal in Connecticut, but are incapable of causing opioid toxidrome syndrome and do not respond to naloxone. Only 31 admitted the use of illegal drugs. These include 24 who used heroin or fentanyl and 7 who said they only used crack (3) or cocaine (4), which have been known to be contaminated with fentanyl. Nine

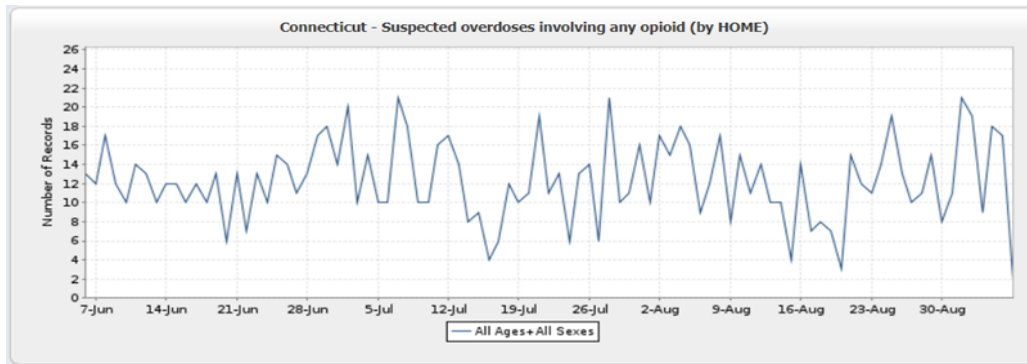
Right >: Suspected Overdoses Involving Any Opioid, totaled by day, for the previous 30 days:

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, September 2023.



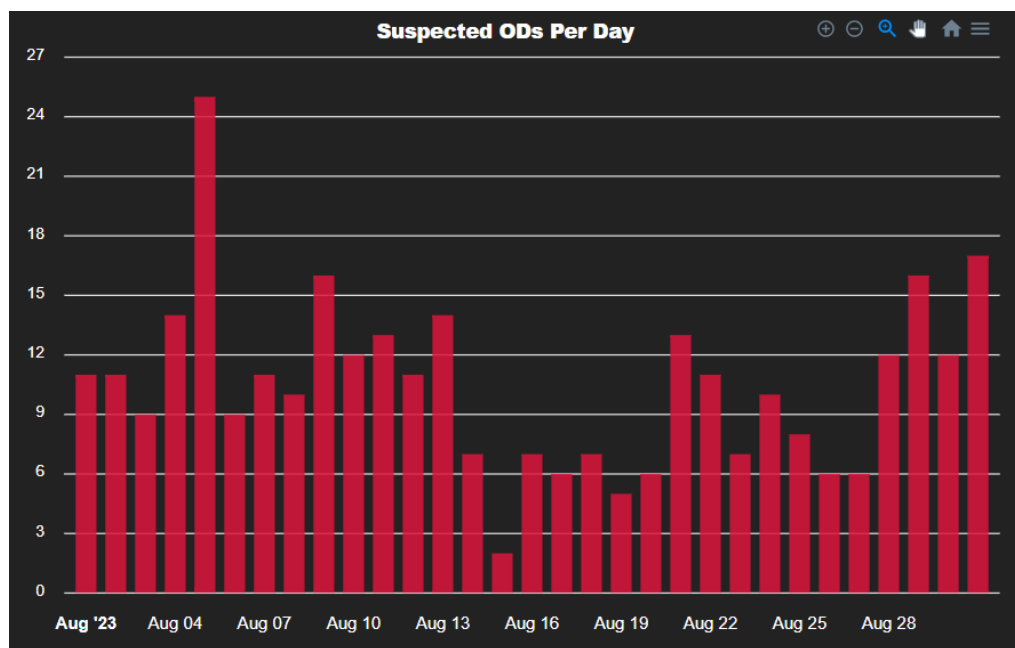
Left: < Suspected overdoses involving any opioid by day previous 3 months

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, September 2023.



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

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



SWORD Statewide Reporting June 2023

In the month of July 2023, there were 324 calls to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) for SWORD. Of these calls, 314 were non-fatal and 10 were reported as fatalities. There were 285 total naloxone administrations: 173 non-fatal multiple doses of naloxone administered, 104 non-fatal single dose naloxone, 36 non-fatal with no naloxone administered and one non-fatal naloxone administration unknown. Of the ten fatalities, six received multiple doses of naloxone, two received a single dose, and two with no naloxone administered.

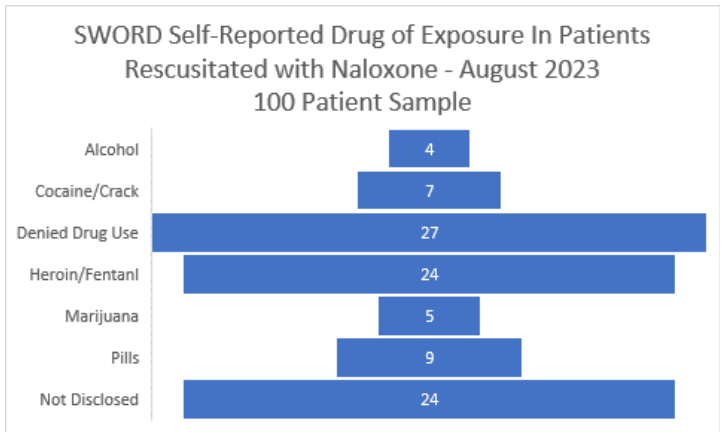
The 324 cases involved suspected overdoses from all of our counties: Fairfield 45, Hartford 113, Litchfield five, Middlesex 18, New Haven 87, New London 38, Tolland three and Windham 15.

*Numbers subject to change

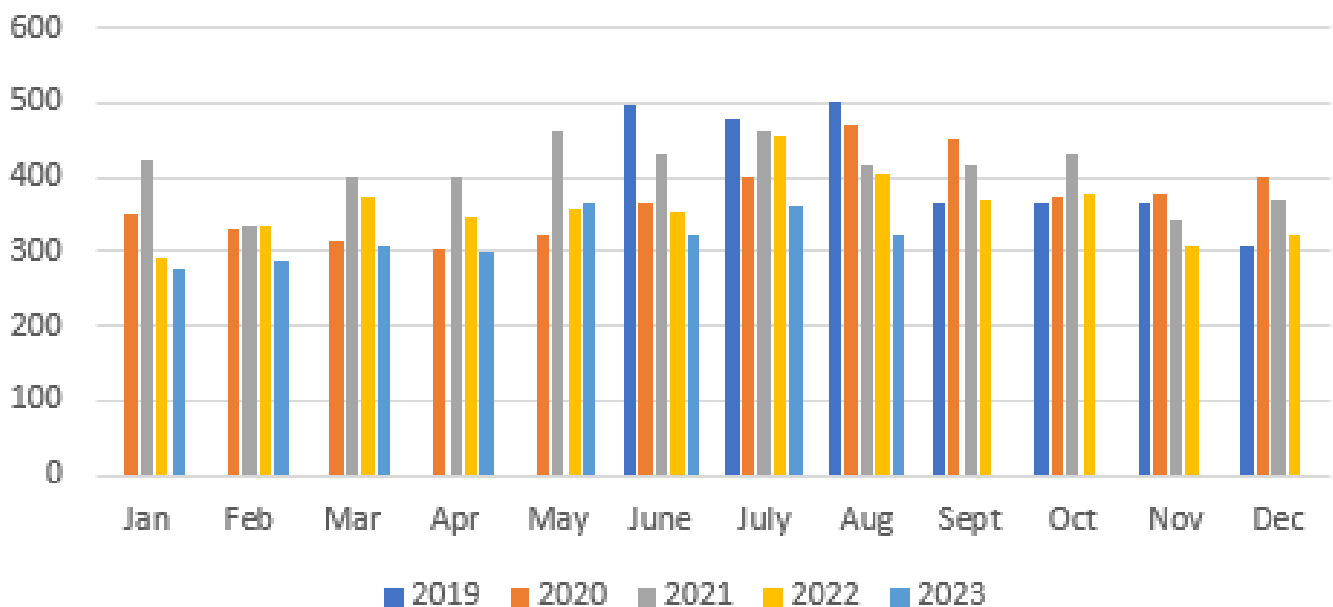
admitted use of prescription pills some of which may have been obtained illegally and/or may have been counterfeit.

Conclusion

EMS personnel, when confronted with patients with opioid toxidrome syndrome who are resuscitated with naloxone, should not be deterred by patient denial of drug use. EMS should continue to offer harm reduction advice, information on treatment resources, take home naloxone kits, and if the service is participating, administration of buprenorphine if indicated and consented by patient.

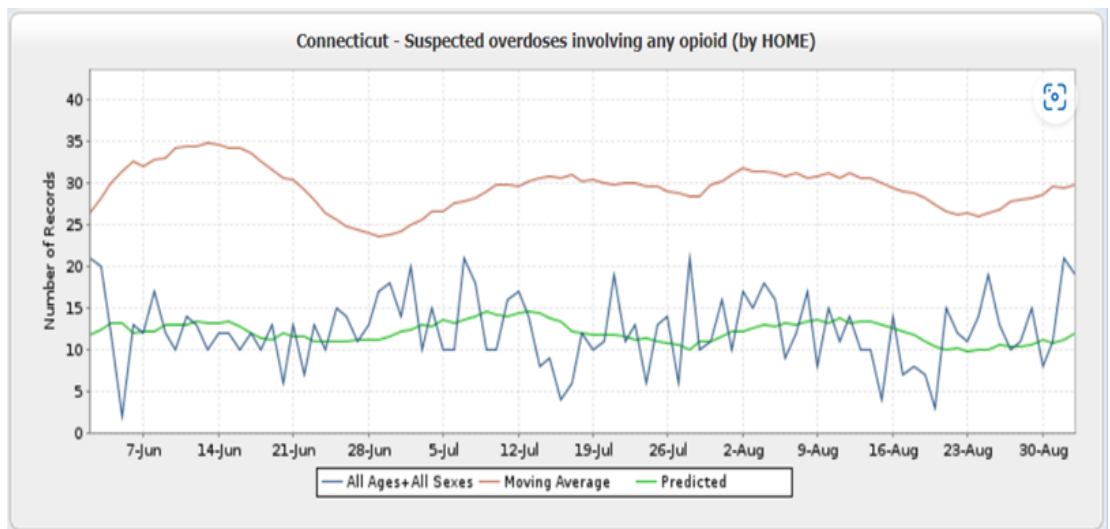


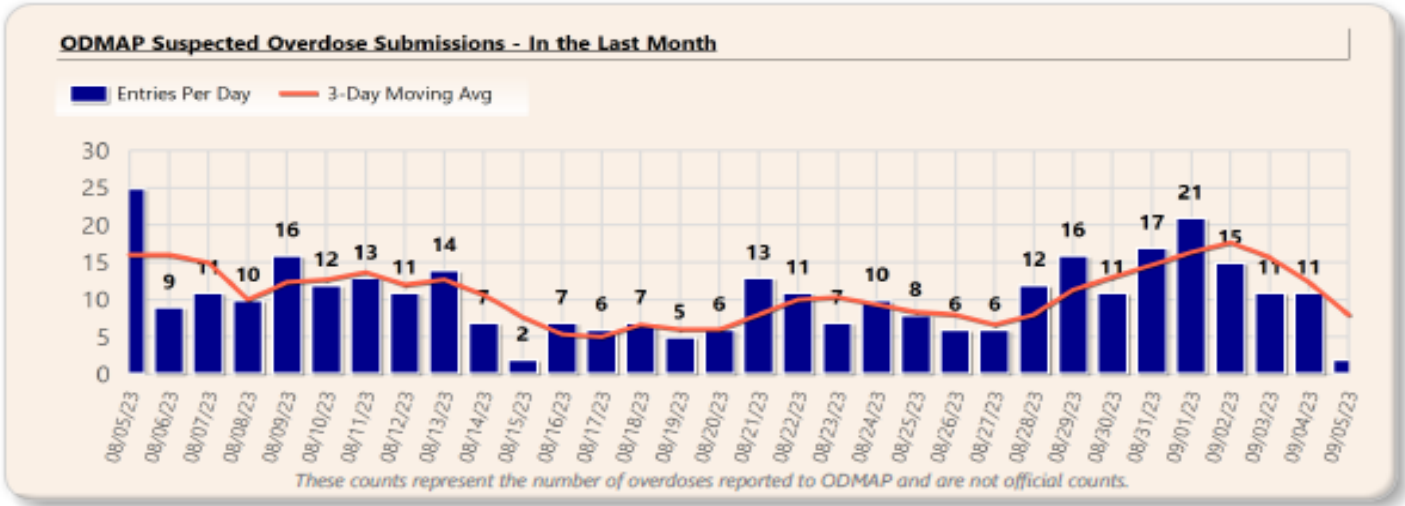
Suspected Overdoses by month June 2019-August 2023



Right >: Suspected Overdoses Involving Any Opioid, totaled by day, for the previous 30 days. Red line represents moving average. Blue line indicates all ages + all sexes. Green line represents predicted.

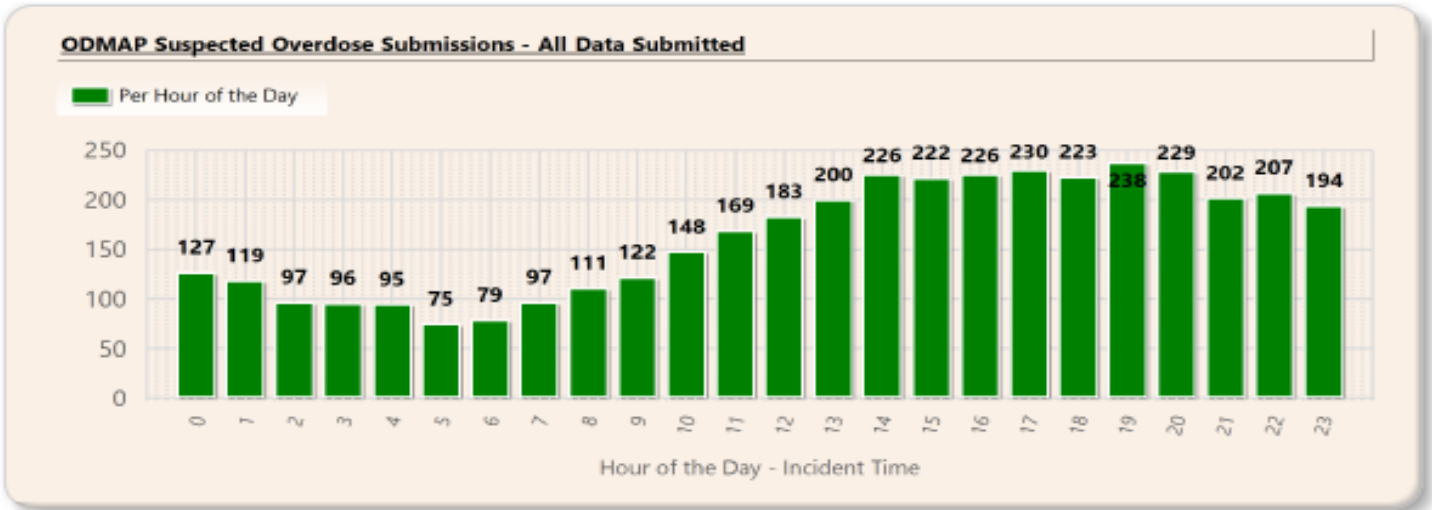
Information sourced from EpiCenter system, September 2023.





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—August 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



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

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!

