

May 9, 2023

Connecticut Opioid REsponse (CORE) Strategic Plan

2023 Update

Presenter: David Fiellin, MD



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Overview

- CORE Team
- 2016 CORE Report Recommendations
- 2016-2022 Data
 - *OD Deaths*
 - *MOUD Access*
 - *Naloxone Access*
- Principles for the Use of Funds From the Opioid Litigation
- 2023 CORE Strategic Plan Update Proposal

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CORE Team



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Gail D'Onofrio, MD, MS



Robert Heimer, PhD

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2016 CORE Recommended Strategies

<https://portal.ct.gov/CORE>

1. Increase access to the most effective medications (methadone and buprenorphine) for opioid use disorder.
2. Reduce overdose risk, especially among individuals at highest risk
3. Increase adherence to opioid prescribing guidelines, especially those providing prescriptions associated with an increased risk of overdose and death.

2016 CORE Recommended Strategies

<https://portal.ct.gov/CORE>

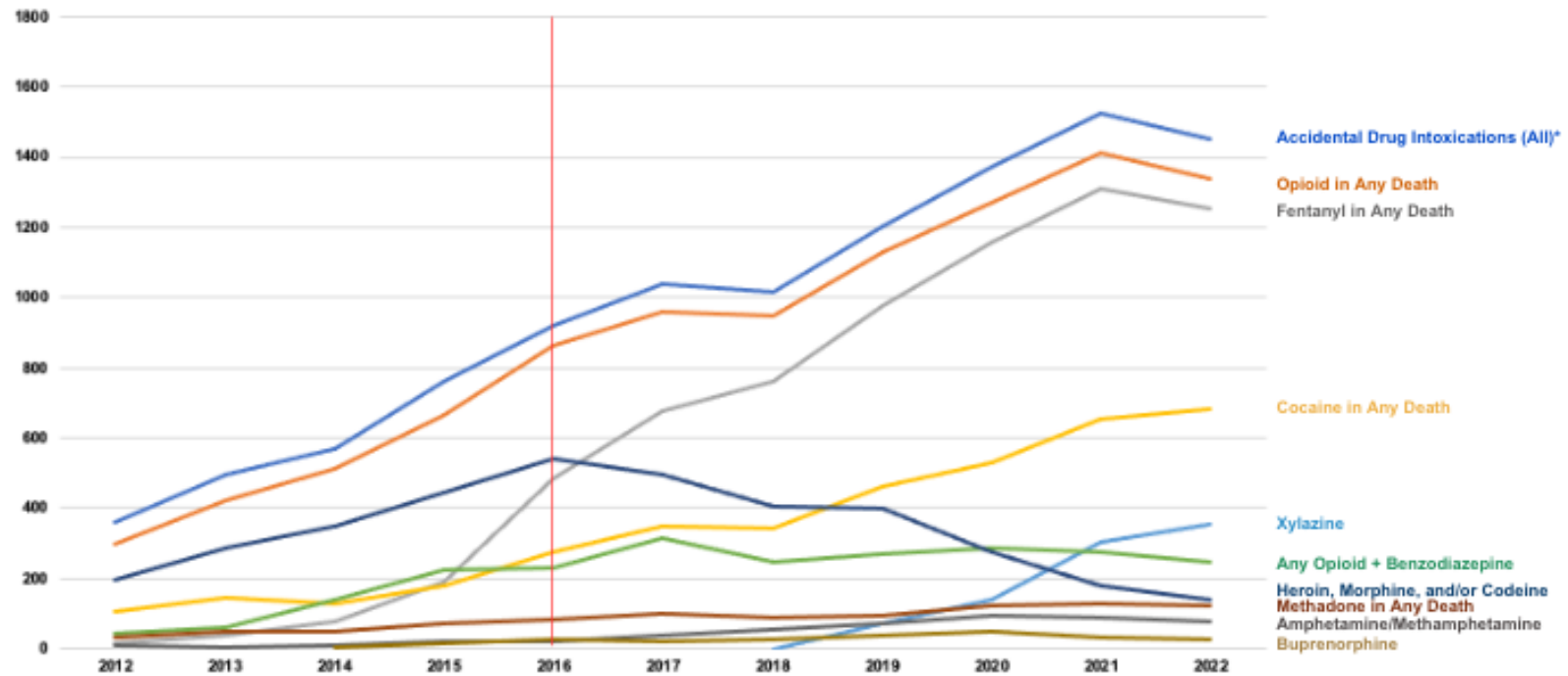
4. Increase access to and track use of naloxone.
5. Increase data sharing across relevant agencies and organizations.
6. Increase community understanding of the scale and nature of OUD and the most effective and evidence-based responses to promote treatment uptake and decrease stigma.

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OD Deaths 2012-2022

Connecticut Accidental Drug Intoxication Deaths, 2012-2022
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner



*Some deaths had combinations of drugs; pure ethanol intoxications are not included.

OD Death Characteristics – 2021

Age (mean, range)	45, 14-73
Sex, % male	73
Race, % white	63
Ethnicity, % Hispanic	18

Lauretta Grau, PhD, Yale School of Public Health

OD Death Characteristics – 2022

Age	35-44
In-Residence	63%
Fentanyl-Involved	85% (1,251)
Benzo-Involved	17% (246)
Cocaine-Involved	47% (684)
Xylazine-Involved	25% (353)
*Past Year DOC Involvement	10%

CT DPH Monthly Drug Overdose Death Report, January 2019-March 2023

**Data from DOC*



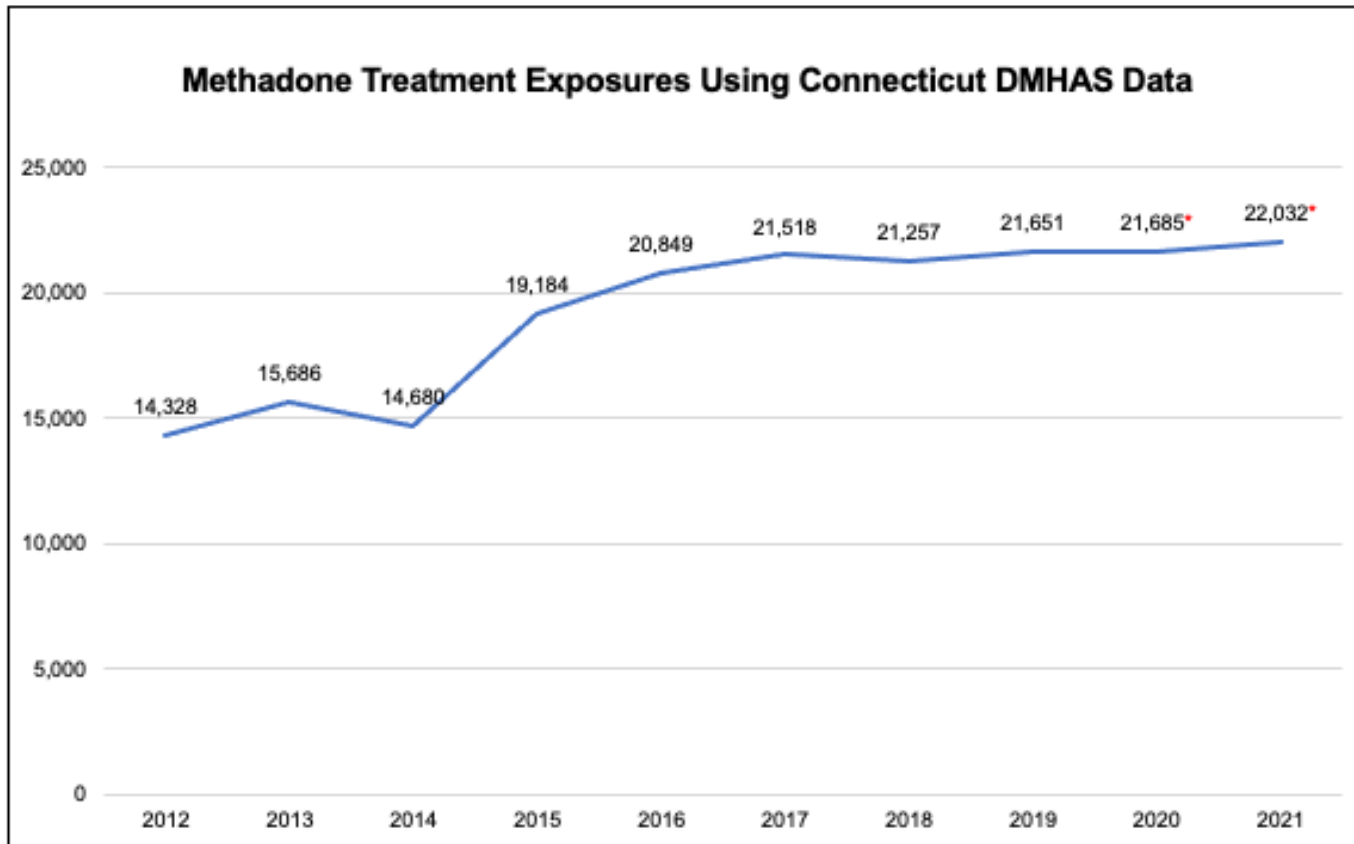
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OD Deaths - Takeaways

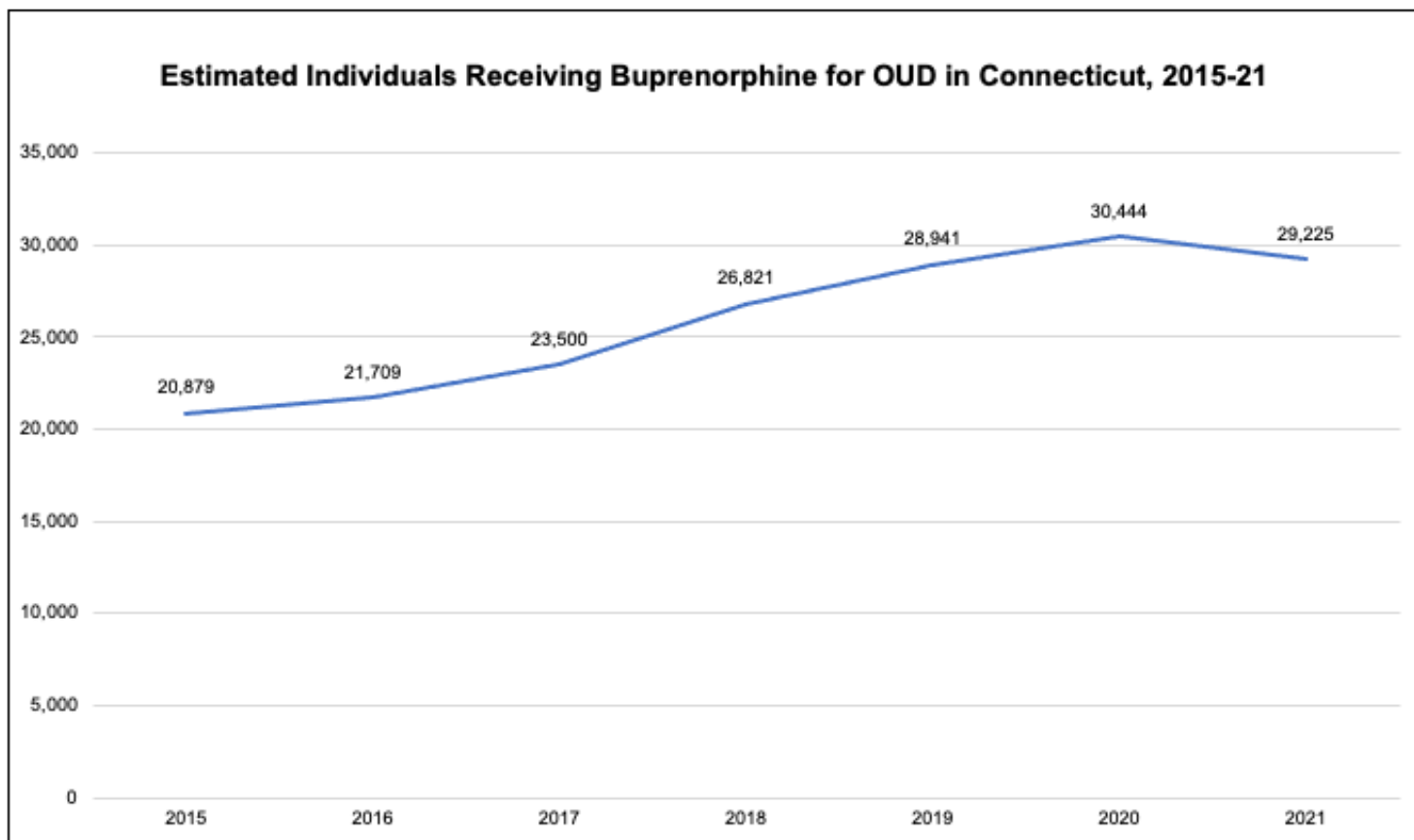
- Fentanyl is increasingly prevalent in the illicit drug supply and a primary driver of overdose deaths
- Xylazine is increasingly prevalent in the illicit drug supply
- Cocaine-involved overdose deaths are on the rise
- Black and Hispanic populations overrepresented
- Prescription drugs are no longer directly contributing substantively to the overdose crisis

Methadone Access 2012-2021



*Estimated

Buprenorphine Access 2015-2021



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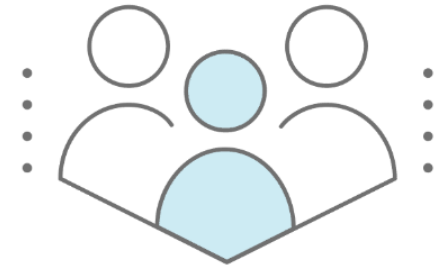
Naloxone Access



Pharmacist
dispensations



Naloxone kits
distributed by syringe
service programs



Naloxone kits
distributed in the
community



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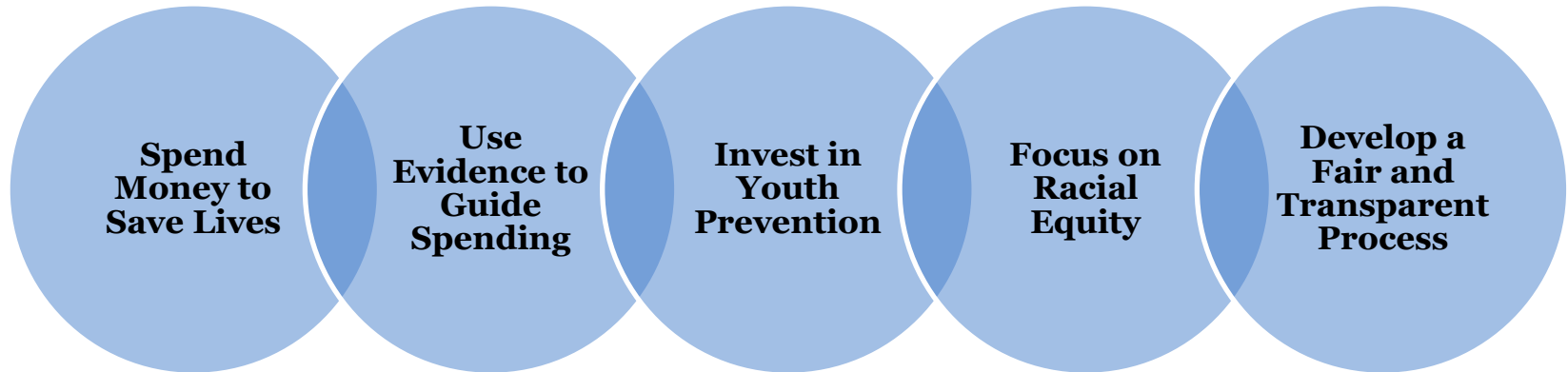
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Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation

<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/the-principles/>

- Endorsed by a coalition of 48 organizations across the spectrum of the substance use field including physicians, addiction medicine specialists, recovery, treatment, and harm reduction.
- Provides planning and process level guidance for state and local policymakers on how to effectively spend money from the opioid settlements.



Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation

<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/the-principles/>

**Principles
for the Use of
Funds From the
Opioid Litigation**

**Primer on
Spending Funds from
the Opioid Litigation**

A Guide for State and Local
Decision Makers

**Ten Indicators to Assess
the Readiness of State
and Local Governments
to Receive the Opioid
Settlement Funds**



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2023 CORE Strategic Plan Update Proposal

Mission: With a focus on return on investment with respect to lives saved and an emphasis on strong scientific support, revise the 2016 CORE Strategic Plan to identify and inform optimal funding strategies for the OSAC to allocate opioid settlement funds received by the Connecticut.

Activity	Timeline
Launch	March 14, 2023
Data, Evidence Review, Key funding priorities	March-May 2023
Stakeholder Meetings	June-July 2023
Technical Assistance	July 2023-August 2024
Final Updated CORE Report Submitted to DMHAS	February 2024



2023 Initial Draft Key Funding Priorities

1. Increase access to and support the most effective medications (methadone and buprenorphine) for opioid use disorder across diverse settings
2. Reduce overdose risk, especially among individuals at highest risk and highest need, with linkage to treatment, naloxone and harm reduction
3. Improve the use of existing data and increase data sharing across relevant agencies and organizations
4. Increase health workforce and community understanding of the scale and nature of OUD and the most effective and evidence-based responses to promote treatment uptake and decrease stigma
5. Simultaneously deploy and evaluate select prevention strategies
6. Address social determinants and needs of impacted and at risk populations



Discussion

Further questions and requests for our team relevant to the 2023 CORE Strategic Plan Update may be directed to **Emma Biegacki, MPH**, at emma.biegacki@yale.edu.

