

# UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT: A FACT SHEET – 2020

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION, INJURY & VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • July 2021

## Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut Increased From 2012 to 2020

The use of illicit drugs and misuse of prescription opioids were the main cause of drug overdose deaths in Connecticut, resulting in a total of 7,695 deaths from 2012 to 2020. There was a gradual, but significant, increase in the number of deaths from 2012 (N=357) to 2020 (N=1,374).

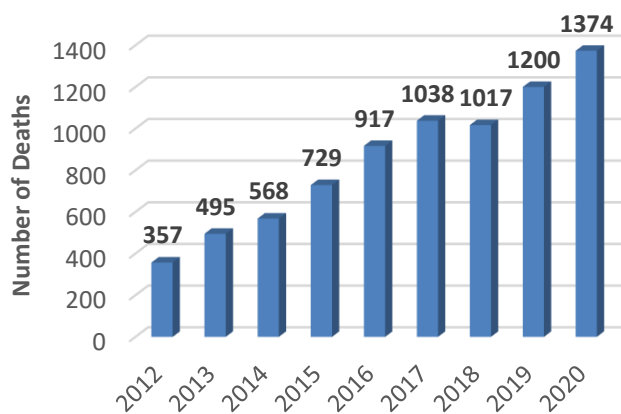
### What we know about overdose deaths in 2020:

- Overdose deaths increased by 14.3% in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer found with fentanyl, was in 140 (10%) deaths compared 70 (6%) in 2019.
- The non-Hispanic Black population had the highest rate of mortality by race and ethnicity.
- 93% of deaths involved an opioid (e.g. fentanyl, heroin, or prescription opioid pain reliever).
- 85% of deaths involved fentanyl as the cause of death.

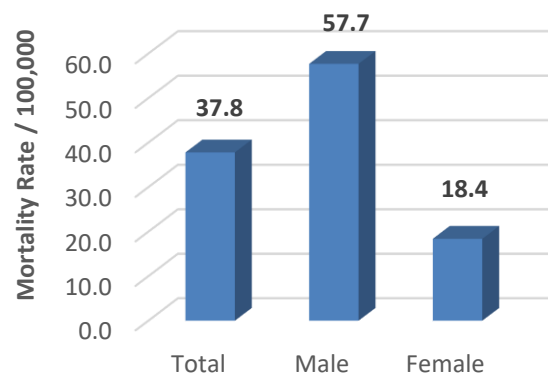
### KEY POINTS:

- 1,374 drug overdose deaths in 2020.
- There was a significant increase in deaths from 2012 to 2020 (285%).
- 53.1% of deaths occurred at a residence, their own or elsewhere.
- Males (57.7 per 100,000 population) had a higher mortality rate than females (18.4) in 2020.
- Mortality rate was highest for non-Hispanic Black males, 25-54 yrs. old.
- 85% of deaths involved fentanyl, a 3% increase from 2019.
- Amphetamine/methamphetamine (14%), methadone (16%), and cocaine (38%) - involved deaths increased in 2020.

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths, Connecticut, 2012- 2020

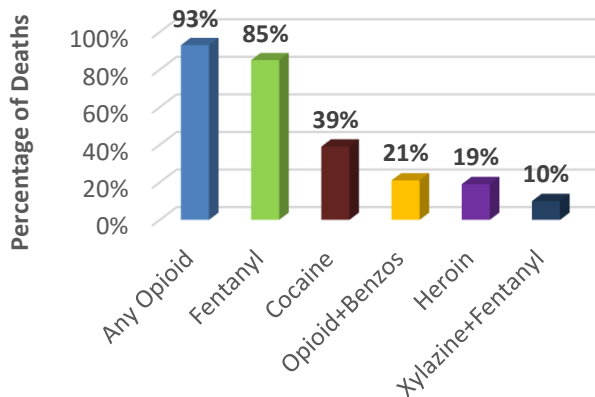


Males Had the Highest Rate of Drug Overdose Mortality by Sex, Connecticut, 2020

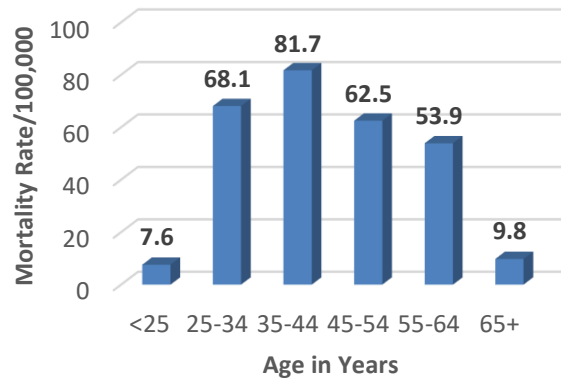


Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

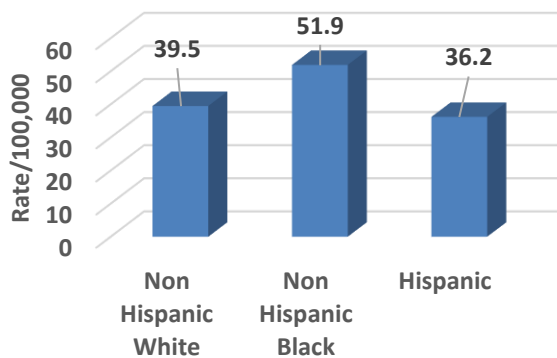
Fentanyl was involved in 85% of Drug Overdose Deaths, Connecticut, 2020



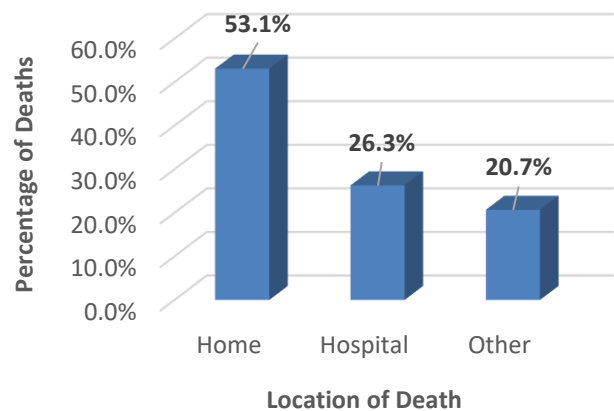
Individuals Ages 35-44 Years had the Highest Drug Overdose Mortality Rate by Age, Connecticut, 2020



Non-Hispanic Black Population had the Highest Mortality Rate, Connecticut, 2020 (Rate per 100,000 population)



Most Overdose Deaths Occurred at Home, Connecticut, 2020



Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

### How to prevent drug overdose deaths:

- Create awareness in communities by providing education on the use of opioids and harm reduction choices.
- Learn about naloxone, the lifesaving drug that reverses opioid overdoses. Visit: [www.norasaves.com](http://www.norasaves.com)
- Share options for safe disposal of unused medications and the site of local drug collection boxes.
- Maximize use of prescription monitoring programs where physicians register and monitor the prescriptions they write for patients.
- Enhance and promote Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) programs.
- For further information visit: [www.drugfreect.org](http://www.drugfreect.org); [www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention](http://www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention)

### Contact Information:

Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Phone: 860-509-8251

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
 Opioid and Drug Overdose Prevention Program • 860-509-8251  
[www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention](http://www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention)

