

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

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION, INJURY & VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • March 2020

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut Increased From 2012 to 2019.

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 6,321 deaths from 2012 to 2019. There was a gradual, but significant, increase in the number of deaths from 2012 (N=357) to 2019 (N=1,200).

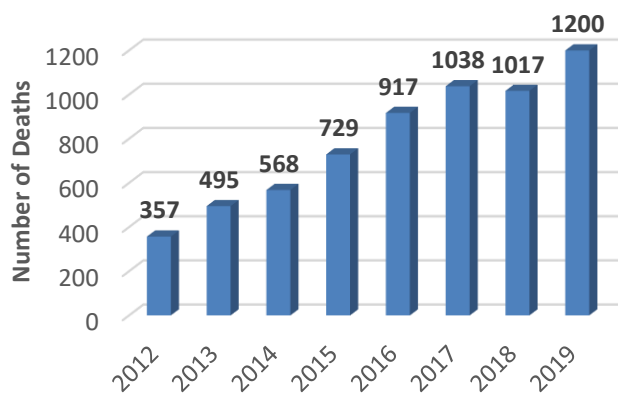
What we know about overdose deaths in 2019:

- Overdose deaths increased by 18% in 2019 compared to 2018.
- For the first time in 2019, the animal tranquilizer 'Xylazine' was found with fentanyl in 70 (6%) deaths.
- Non-Hispanic White males had the highest rate of mortality.
- 94% of deaths involved an opioid (e.g. fentanyl, heroin, or prescription opioid pain reliever).
- 82% of deaths involved fentanyl as the cause of death.

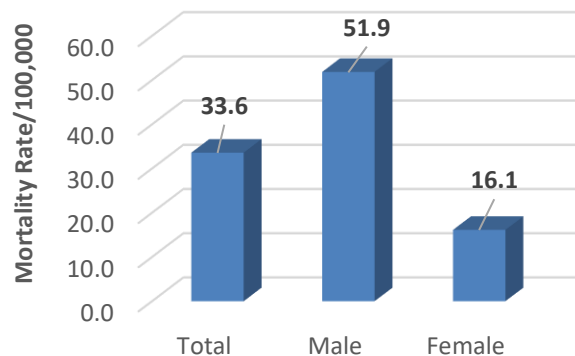
KEY POINTS:

- 1,200 drug overdose deaths in 2019.
- There was a significant increase in deaths from 2012 to 2019 (236%).
- 53.1 % of the deaths occurred at a home and 29.1% at the hospital (injured elsewhere and transported).
- Males (51.9) had a higher mortality rate than females (16.1) in 2019.
- Mortality rate was highest for non-Hispanic White males 25-54 yrs. old.
- 82% of deaths involved fentanyl in 2019, a 7% increase from 2018.
- Amphetamine/methamphetamine (25%), oxycodone (48%) and cocaine (43%) involved deaths increased in 2019, compared to 2018.

Unintentional Drug Overdose-Related Deaths in Connecticut, 2012-2019

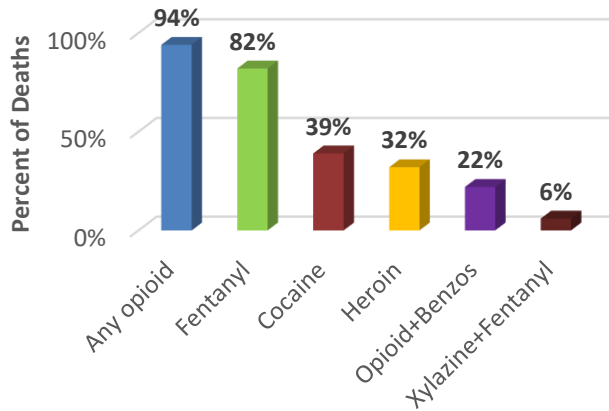


Males Had the Highest Rate of Drug Overdose Mortality by Sex, Connecticut, 2019

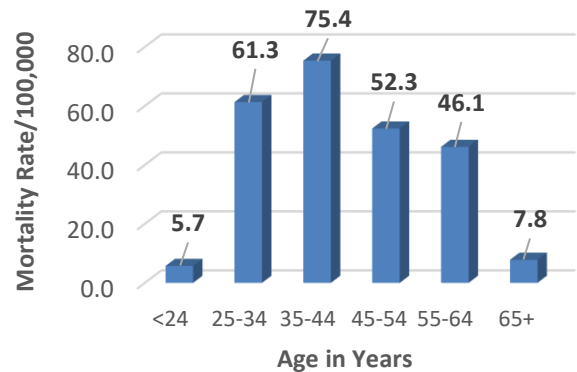


Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical

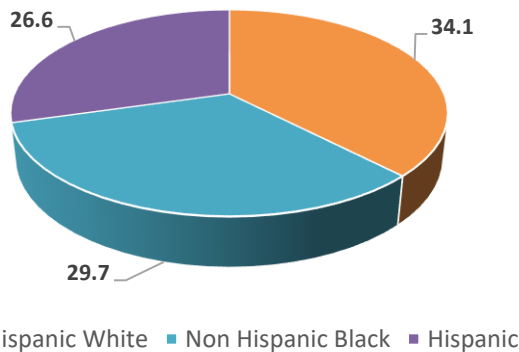
Fentanyl was Involved in 82% of Drug Overdose Deaths, Connecticut, 2019



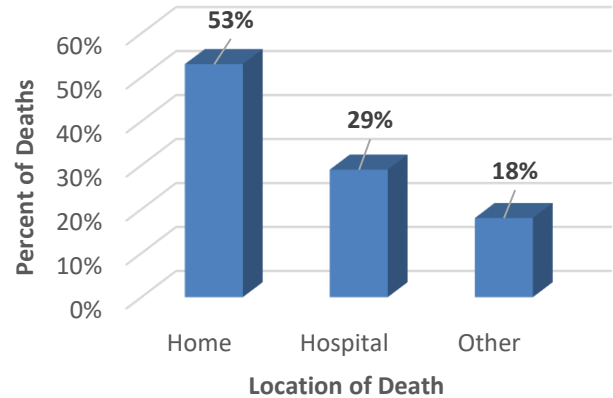
Individuals Ages 25-54 Years Had the Highest Rates of Drug Overdose Mortality by Age, Connecticut, 2019



Non-Hispanic Whites Had the Highest Rate of Drug Overdose Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, Connecticut, 2019
(Rate/100,000 population)



Most Drug Overdose Deaths Occurred in a Home, Connecticut, 2019



Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical

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
- 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; www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

Contact Information:

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