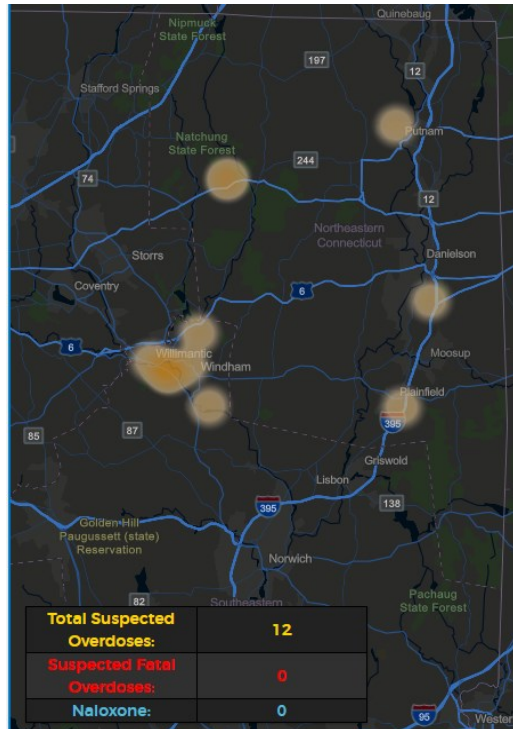


In November of 2024, increased activity was reported in both Tolland (above), and Windham County (below). Numbers are subject to change.



Race and Opioid Overdose in Connecticut

The overdose data collected from EMS patient care records, as well as the fatal overdose data collected by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), provides us with a roadmap to help us better understand the overdose crisis. The data that is received is used to identify trends and aid in decision making to impact outcomes.

Fatal overdoses are down significantly in Connecticut from our rolling 12 month high* of November 2021. ^[i] When we look closer at the data, one area that gives us pause, is the rate of fatal opioid overdoses in Black individuals. While fatal opioid overdoses among many races decreased in Connecticut in 2023, the percentage of Black opioid overdose deaths in Connecticut has increased every year since 2015. The percentage of Hispanic fatal opioid overdoses, which increased every year from 2015, started to decline in 2023. In 2024, Black opioid overdose deaths will exceed Hispanic opioid overdoses for the first time. The percentage of white opioid overdose deaths declined every year from 2015 to 2022 when they evened out at 59%-60%. ^[ii]

The CTDPH also uses rates per population, which is a more precise way of analyzing data. The rate per population data, which covers all overdoses and is not specific to opioid overdoses, also shows that while overdose rates declined among all races since 2023, the rate of fatal overdose per 100,000 population was almost twice as high in the Black population than the white population and had grown significantly in proceeding years. ^[iii]

The new EMS data collection tool that was started

* "Rolling 12 month high" refers to the highest value recorded within a continuously updated 12-month period.

this year by OEMS allows us to now track nonfatal overdoses by race. Data from April to November show when race was recorded 52% of all overdoses were in white patients, 25% in Black and 23% in Hispanic. When compared to fatal overdose percentages, this suggests Black and Hispanic patients, when they overdosed, were disproportionately likely to suffer a fatal overdose than white patients.

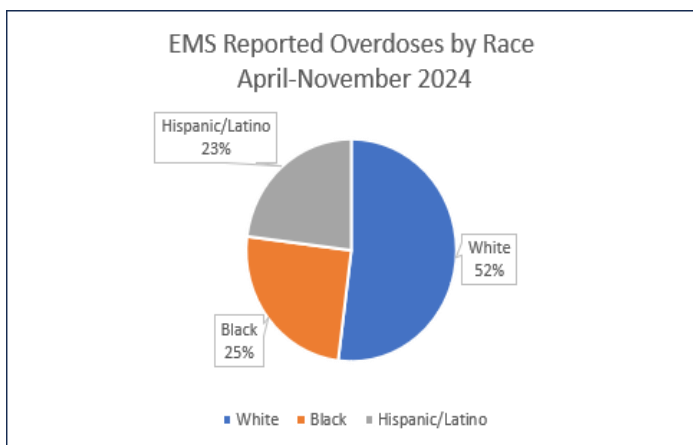


Fig. 1

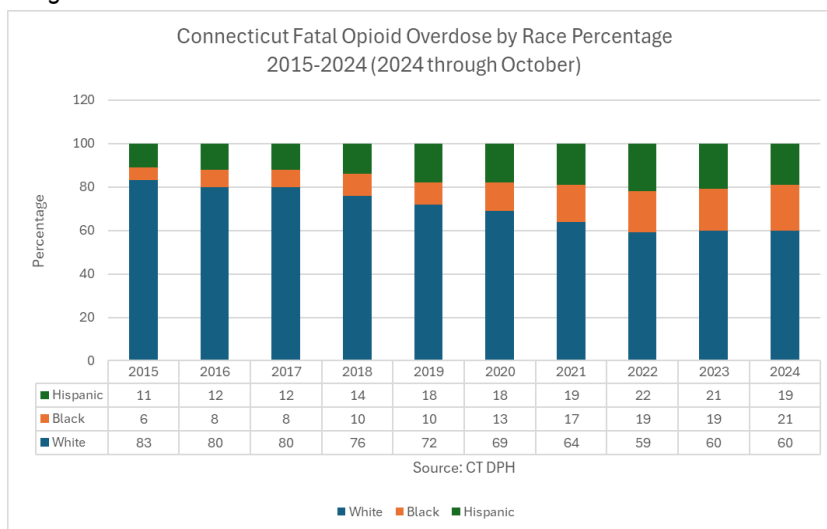


Fig. 2

What does this all mean? Overdose deaths are down. If any racial groups need further evaluation, it is the Black and Hispanic communities, where the rates are still significantly higher than the general population despite recent declines.

Tracking race data through EMS responses to opioid overdoses will continue to help us monitor trends and enable public health agencies to best allocate resources.

References

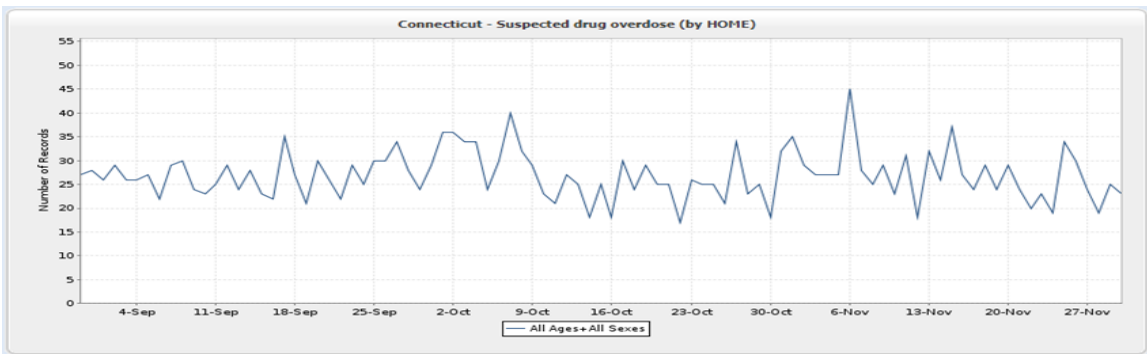
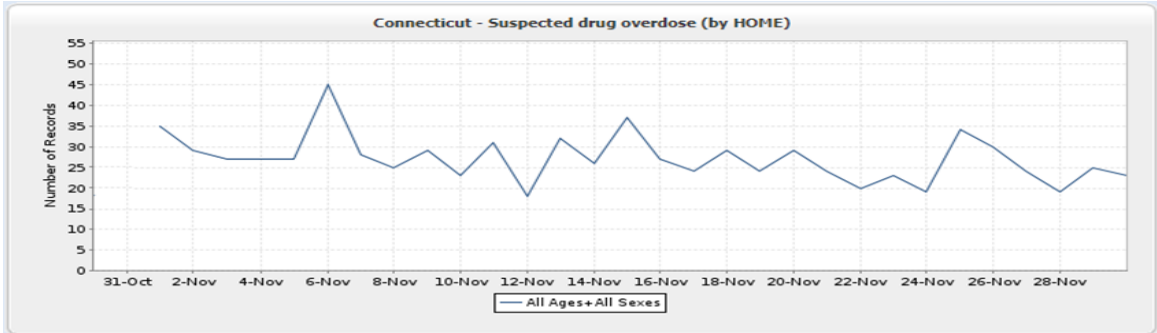
^[i] CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Provisional drug overdose data. Accessed December 5, 2024 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm#citation>

^[ii] Connecticut Department of Public Health, Opioid and Drug Overdose Statistics, Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut Data Dashboard, 2015 to 2024. Accessed December 5, 2024. <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/health-education-management--surveillance/the-office-of-injury-prevention/opioid-and-drug-overdose-statistics>

^[iii] CT DPH, Drug Overdoses Monthly Report, January 2019-September 2024. https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dph/injury-and-violence-prevention/opioid-overdose-data/monthly-death-reports/2019-september-2024_drug-overdose-deaths-monthly-report_connecticut_updated-10-25-2024.pdf?rev=0c62798f1db9457e8d20037c7d0d5b69&hash=F21C64574193F5586FF54CEF30F0E4A0

Right >: Suspected all overdoses by Day, November of 2024

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, December 2024.



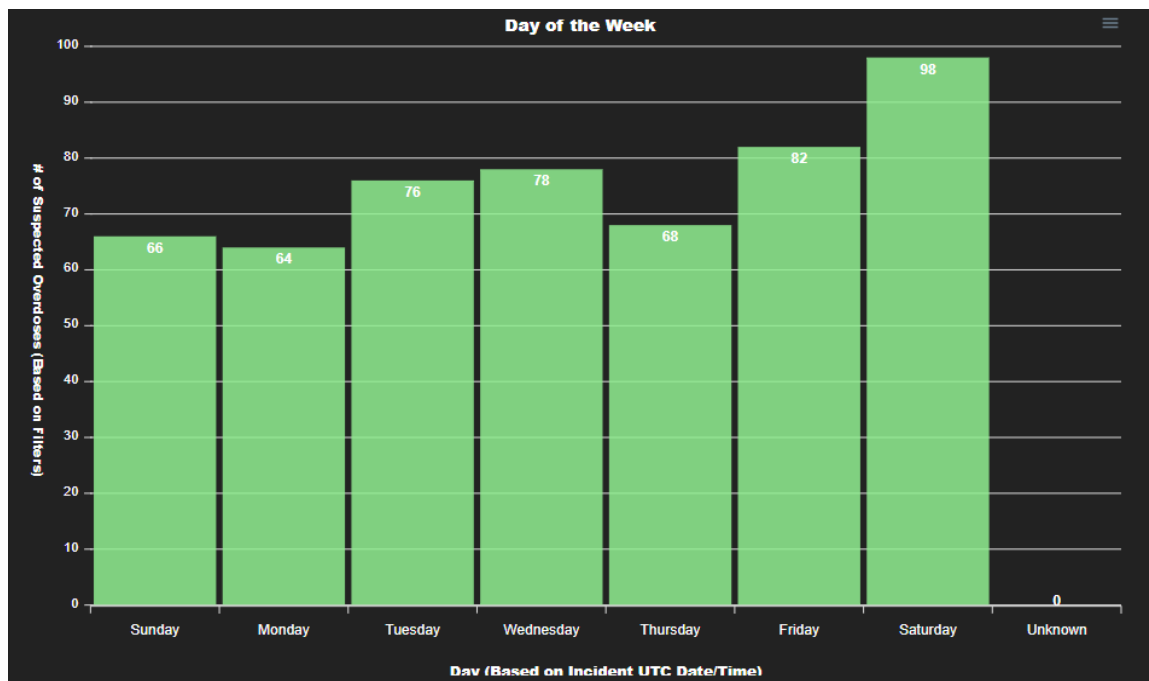
< Left: All overdoses by Day, September-November 2024.

Information sourced from EpiCenter system, December of 2024.

Right >: This graph represents EMS reported opioid overdoses by frequency of incident day during

November 2024.

This graph was sourced from ODMAP in December of 2024.



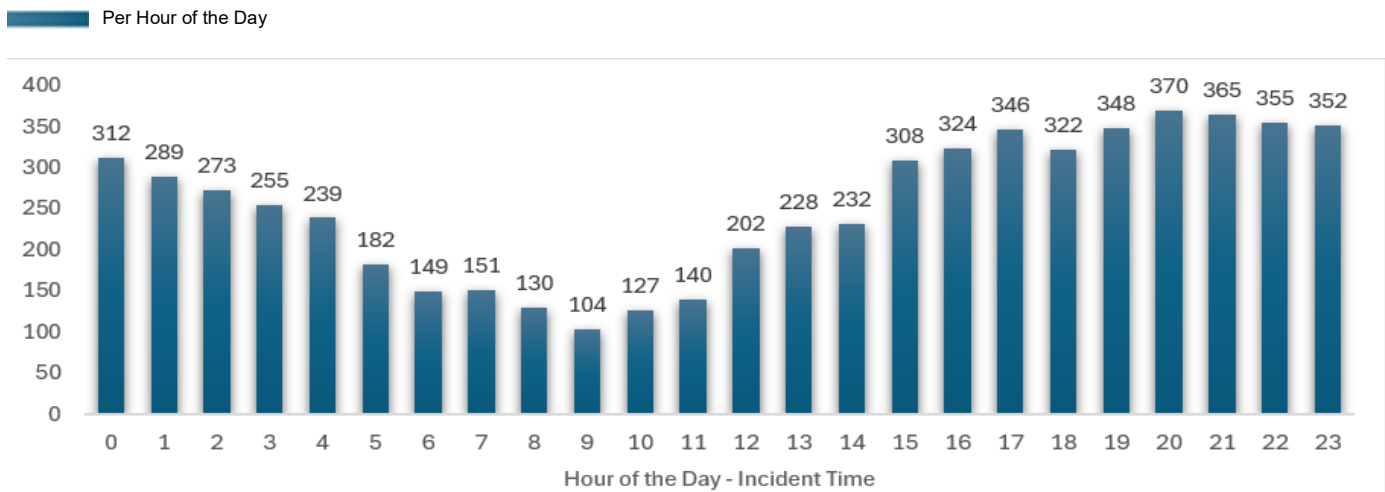
SWORD Statewide Reporting November 2024

In the month of November 2024, there were 532 non-fatal records submitted to DPH via Electronic Patient Care Record to the ImageTrend database for SWORD. Suspected non-fatal overdoses reported by EMS clinicians as follows: Fairfield County 88, Hartford County 162, Litchfield County <11, Middlesex County 23, New Haven County 191, New London County 33, Tolland County 14, Windham County 16.

In the month of November 2024, there were 62 fatal overdoses manually entered by the OCME into the ODMAP platform. Suspected fatal overdoses reported as follows: Fairfield County <11, Hartford County <11, Litchfield County <11, Middlesex County zero, New Haven County <11, New London County <11, Tolland County <11 and Windham County <11.

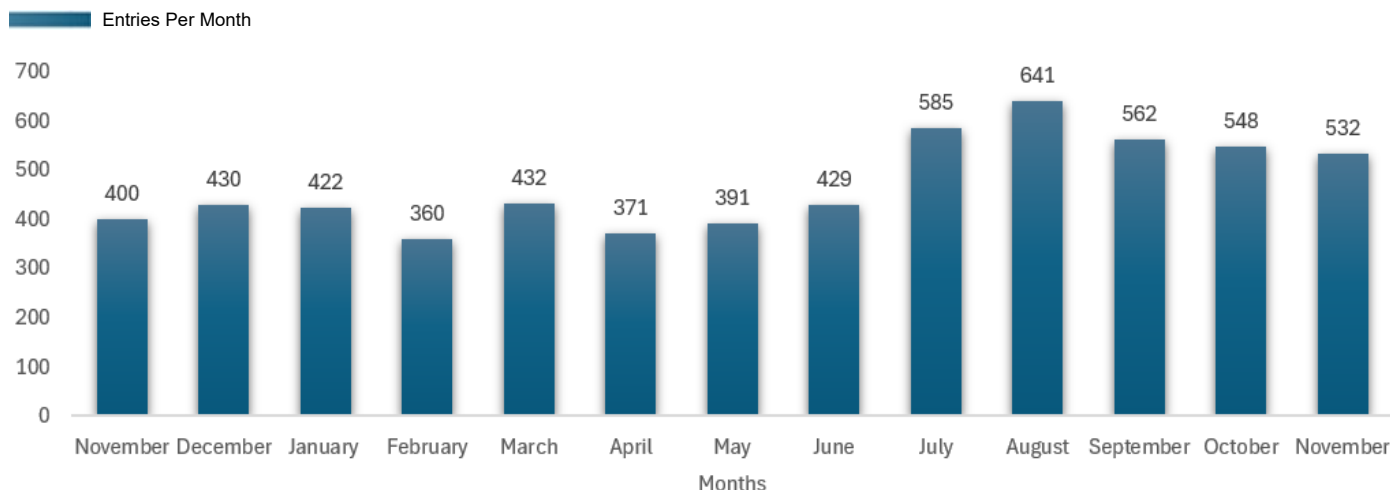
* Suspected fatal overdose data is entered into the ODMAP (Overdose Data Mapping Application) platform by the OCME, but it does not reflect laboratory confirmed data. The death data is for suspected opioid overdoses only.

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - All Data Submitted



Cumulative (November 2023—November 2024) Overdoses by the Hour of the Day
 This graph shows the hour of the day suspected overdose incidents have occurred

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Submissions - In the Last Year



ODMAP Suspected OD Submissions—In the Last Year by Month.

This data was pulled using agency filter Connecticut DPH, Office of EMS agency filter in December of 2024. This data was provided to ODMAP via the SWORD Application Programming Interface, all numbers are subject to change.

Do you need help accessing ODMAP [Click here](#) to contact the ODMAP Helpdesk, or call (301) 489-1744



**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.1

Thank you for timely EPCR completion!