

# Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut A FACT SHEET – 2022

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION, INJURY & VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT- May 2023

## Unintentional drug overdose deaths in

**Connecticut:** Illicit opioids and stimulants were the main causes of drug overdose deaths in Connecticut in 2022, resulting in 1,452 deaths for a cumulative total of 10,688 deaths from 2012 to 2022. There was a gradual increase in the number of deaths from 2012 (N=357) to 2021 (N=1,531), and 2022 had 4.7% decrease in drug related deaths compared to 2021.

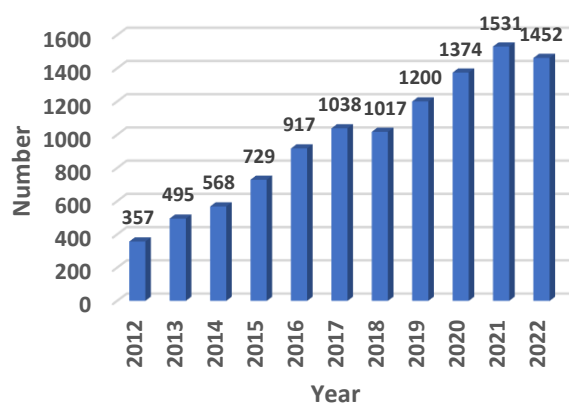
## What we know about overdose deaths in 2022:

- Overdose deaths decreased by 4.7% in 2022 compared to 2021.
- Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer often seen in combination with fentanyl, was found in 353 (25%) overdose deaths.
- The non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic populations had the highest rates of overdose-related mortality compared to the non-Hispanic White population.
- 92% of overdose deaths involved an opioid (e.g. fentanyl, heroin, or a prescription opioid pain reliever).
- 86% of overdose deaths were caused by fentanyl.

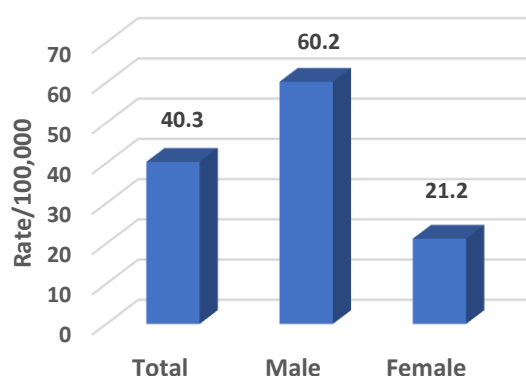
## Key Points:

- There were 1,452 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2022.
- There was a significant increase in deaths from 2012 to 2022 (306%).
- 63.4% of deaths occurred at either the decedent's or someone else's residence.
- Males had a higher mortality rate than females in 2022 (60.2 vs. 21.2 per 100,000 population, respectively).
- The mortality rate was highest for non-Hispanic Black males, and among 35–44-year-olds.
- In 2022, heroin-involved deaths decreased by 18.2% and cocaine-involved deaths increased by 9.3%, when compared to 2021 data.

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths,  
Connecticut, 2012-2022



Males Had the Highest Rate of Drug  
Overdose Mortality, Connecticut, 2022

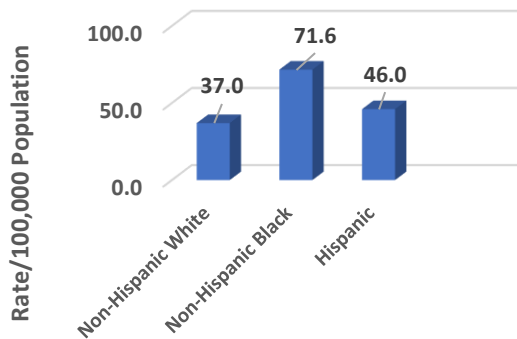


Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and CT State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

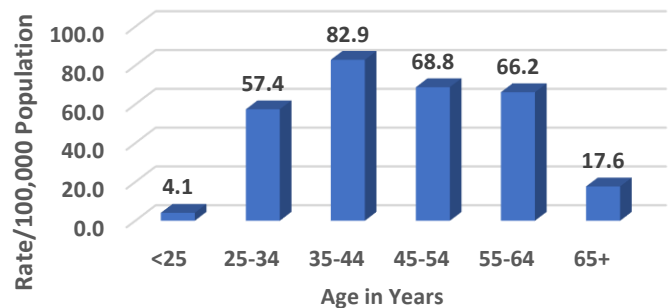
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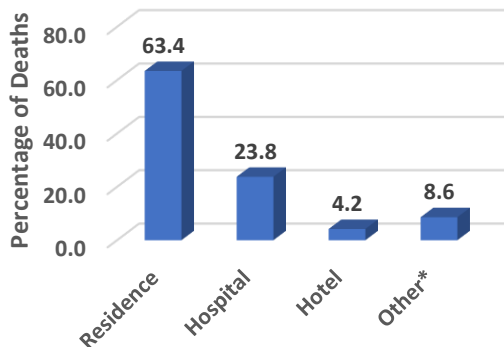
Non-Hispanic Black Population Had the Highest Rate of Drug Overdose Mortality, Connecticut, 2022



Individuals Ages 35-44 Years Had the Highest Rate of Drug Overdose Mortality, Connecticut, 2022

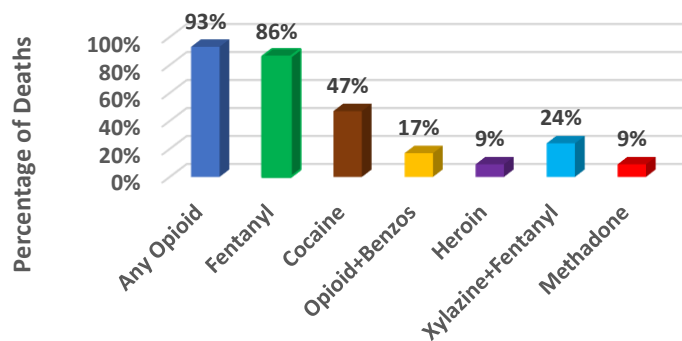


Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Location of Death, Connecticut, 2022



\*Include: Public places, motor vehicles, parking lots,

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Type, Connecticut, 2022



Data Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

### 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  
Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit • 860-509-8251  
[www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention](http://www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention)

