

Opioid Drug Overdose Deaths in Connecticut

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Issue

Provide recent statistics on opioid drug overdose deaths in Connecticut.

Prescription Opioid Drug Overdose Deaths

The state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) collects annual data on accidental drug overdose deaths, including those involving prescription and non-prescription opioid drugs.

Table 1 provides data on accidental drug related deaths over the last seven years. According to this data, there were 1,017 accidental drug overdose deaths in 2018, of which 93% involved opioid drugs. This represents a 218% increase in opioid-related drug overdose deaths from 2012 to 2018. Over 75% of these 2018 deaths (760) involved the prescription opioid drug, fentanyl, which represents a 12% increase from 2017 and approximately 5300% increase from 2012.



While the total number of accidental drug overdose deaths declined 2% from 2017 to 2018, OCME projects that this number will increase 7% by the end of 2019. As in prior years, the office projects that fentanyl will be the most common opioid drug causing deaths. Specifically, there are projected to be 846 fentanyl-related deaths by the end of 2019, representing an 11% increase from 2018.

Table 1: Connecticut Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths From 2012-2019

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (January to June)	2019 (Projected Year)
TOTAL ACCIDENTAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS	357	495	568	729	917	1,038	1,017	544	1,088
Opioids in Any Death	298	419	513	663	861	961	948	511	1,022
Heroin in Any Death	174	258	327	417	508	474	391	193	386
Cocaine in Any Death	105	147	126	177	274	347	345	195	390
Oxycodone in Any Death	71	75	107	95	110	95	62	44	88
Methadone in Any Death	33	48	51	71	84	99	88	40	80
Hydrocodone in Any Death	15	19	15	20	20	15	14	7	14
Fentanyl in Any Death	14	37	75	189	483	677	760	423	846

Source: OCME [website](#)

In addition to aggregate data, OCME collects data on accidental drug overdose deaths by town. Between 2012 and 2018, Hartford had the highest number of accidental drug overdose deaths with 563, followed by New Haven with 375, Waterbury with 368, Bridgeport with 341, and New Britain with 227 deaths. Town-by town data is available on the OCME [website](#).

For information on Connecticut’s opioid drug abuse laws, see OLR Report [2019-R-0288](#).

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