



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Fatal Unintentional Drug Overdose Report

Quick Overview of Drug Overdose Decedents in 2019

- 1,200 unintentional drug overdose related deaths.
- Overall, 94% of deaths involved ‘any opioid’ and 82% of the deaths were due to the presence of the synthetic opioid fentanyl and/or its analogs.
- Drug overdose deaths increased in 2019, compared to 2018.
- New and emerging lethal combinations of Xylazine (animal tranquilizer) with fentanyl were identified in 2019.

Monthly Overview of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths (January – December 2019)

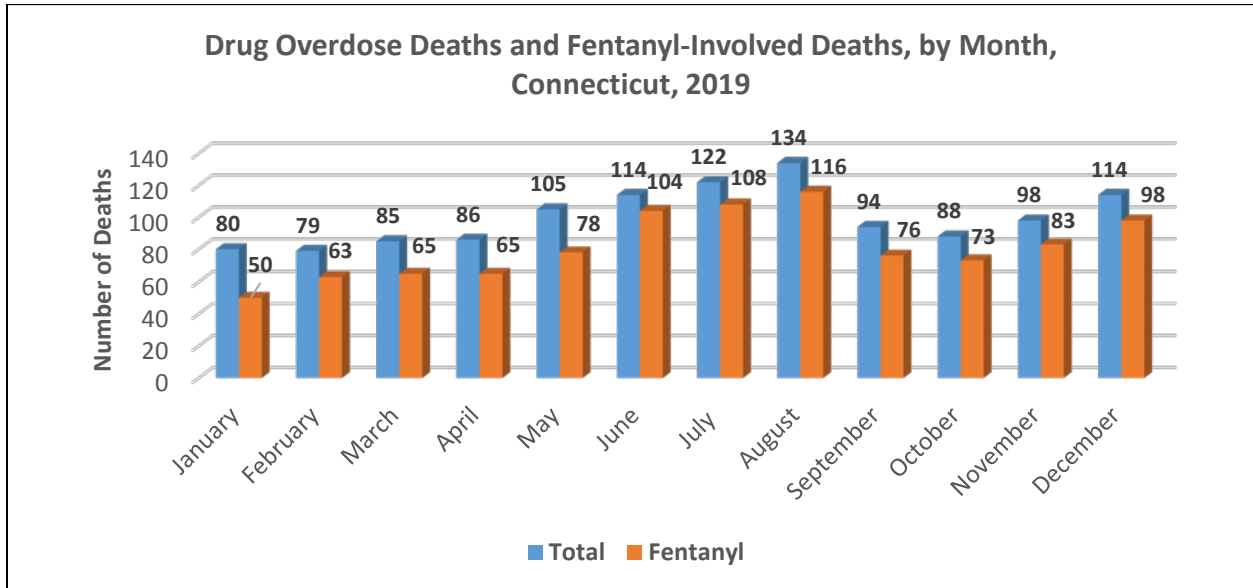
Unintentional drug overdose deaths were higher in the 2 nd half of 2019 (July to December), compared to the first six months of 2019 (January to June).	A total of 549 drug overdose-related deaths were reported from January to June, whereas in the 2 nd half (July –December), the number increased to 651, totaling 1,200 deaths in 2019.
For the first time in 2019, an animal tranquilizer Xylazine was involved in overdose deaths.	In March of 2019, the first Xylazine-involved drug overdose death was identified. Thereafter, an average of 7-8 Xylazine-involved deaths were identified per month through December, totaling 70 deaths.
The percentage of fentanyl involved deaths were higher in 2019, compared to 2018.	On average, fentanyl was involved in 82% of the drug overdose deaths in 2019, compared to 75% in 2018. The second half of 2019 had consistently higher percentages of fentanyl-involved deaths, with a range from 88.5% to 86.1% between July and December.

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

For substance use disorder information visit: <https://www.drugfreect.org/>

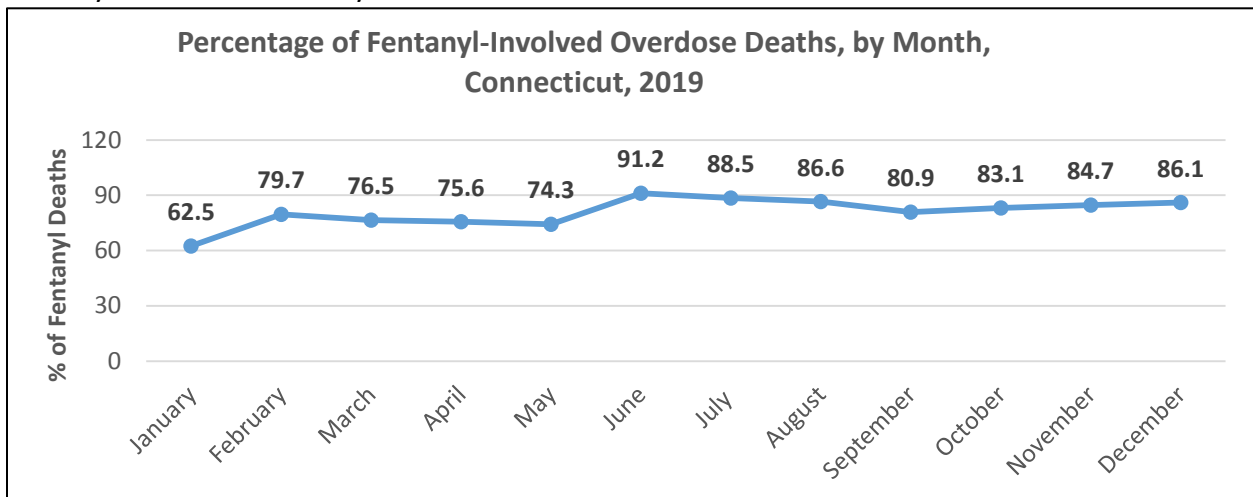
Unintentional drug overdose deaths increased from January through August 2019:

In 2019, 1,200 people died from an unintentional drug overdose in Connecticut, an increase of 18% compared to last year. Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs were involved in 82% of the deaths. On average, CT had approximately 100 deaths per month. The chart below represents the monthly count of drug and fentanyl-involved overdose deaths in 2019.



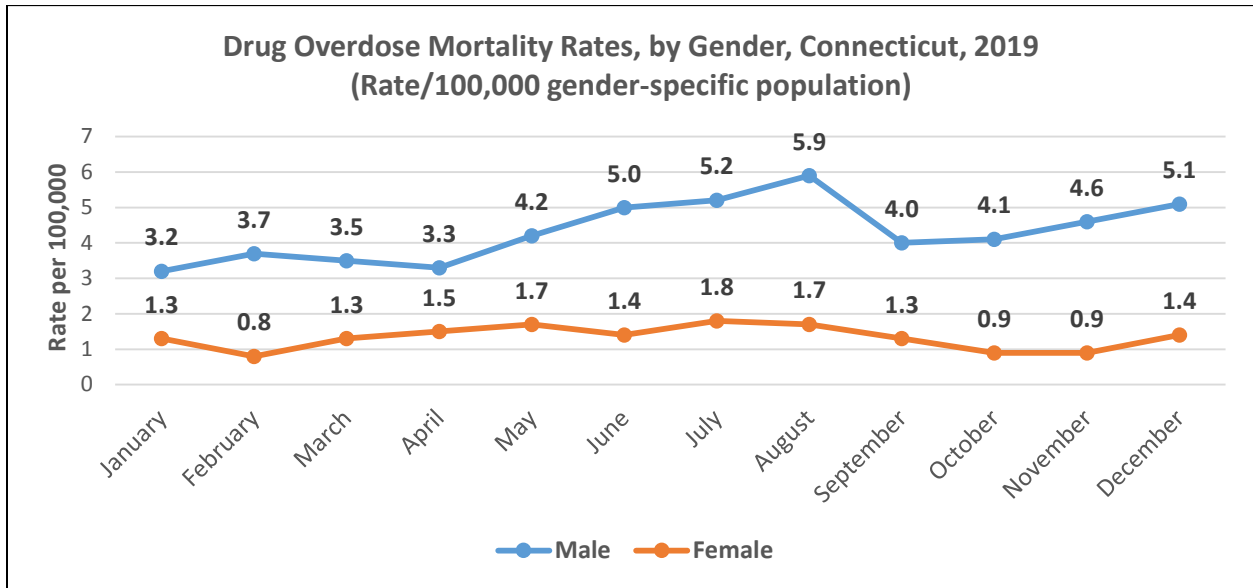
The percentage of fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased from January to December 2019:

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid, and drugs are often mixed with illicitly manufactured fentanyl to cause an enhanced effect. Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased significantly in 2019, compared to previous years. In 2019, fentanyl-involved deaths increased to 82%, compared to 3.9% in 2012. The chart below represents the percentage of fentanyl-involved deaths by month in 2019.

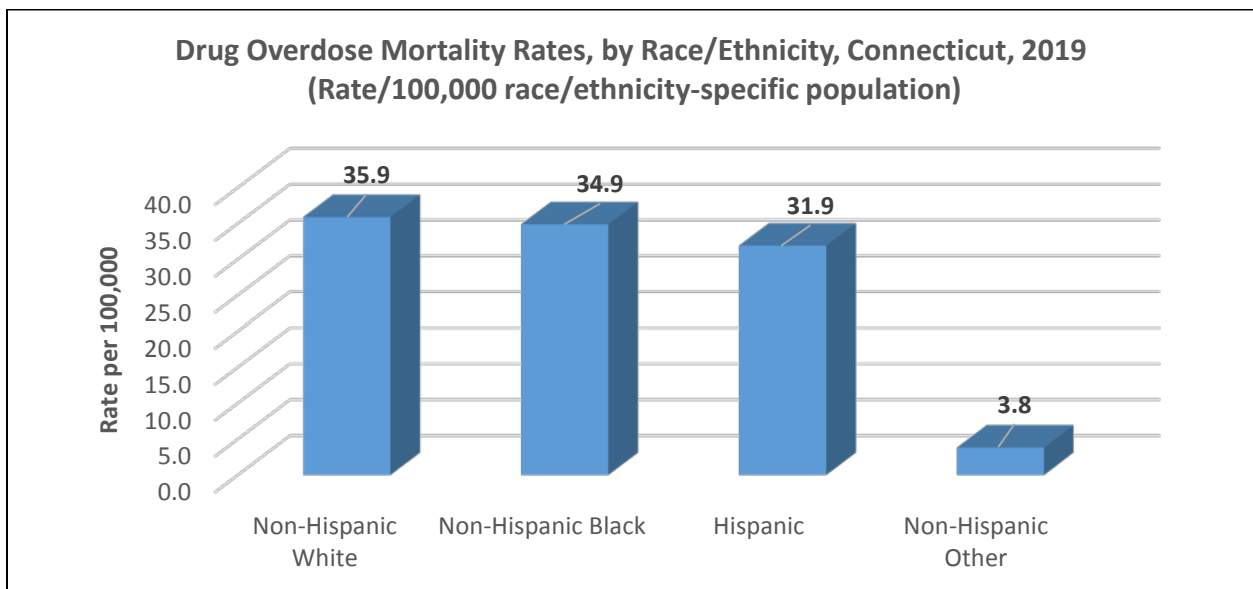


Drug overdose death rates were higher in males compared to females:

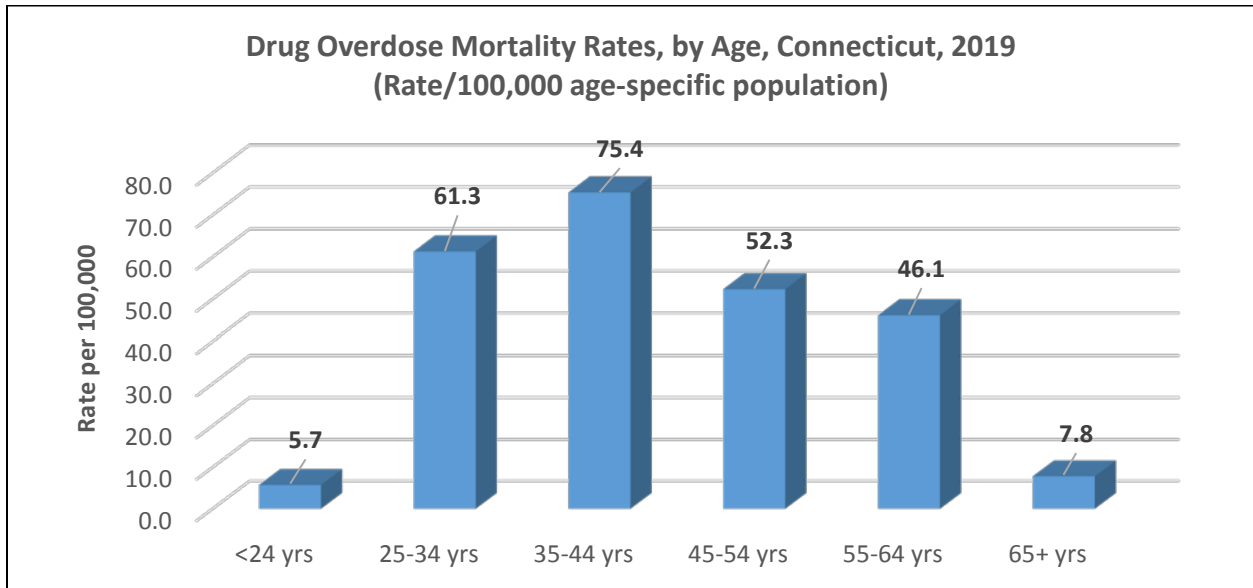
Throughout 2019, rates of unintentional drug overdose-related death were consistently higher among males when compared to females, in Connecticut. The line graph below represents rates of unintentional drug overdose death by gender (rate per 100,000 gender-specific population) in 2019.



Drug overdose death rates were higher in the non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black populations compared to the Hispanic population:



Drug overdose death rates were highest in the 35-44 year old age group:



Drug overdose death rates were highest for residents of Litchfield and Windham counties:

