

# OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

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## Situational Alert: Fatal Overdose Spike—May 16 to June 6, 2025

Connecticut Overdose Response Strategy (CT ORS)

June 6, 2025

Connecticut is experiencing a surge in fatal and non-fatal overdoses across the state. Between May 16 and June 6, 2025, there have been 61 suspected fatal overdoses statewide, with noticeable clustering along the I-91 and I-95 corridors, as well as within the cities of New Haven and Hartford. This situational alert provides a summary of current trends, substance testing insights and public health and safety recommendations.

### Overdose Data Highlights:

- 61 suspected fatal overdoses statewide from 5/16/2025 to 6/6/2025.
- 27 suspected fatal overdoses in New Haven County during the same period.
  - One suspected fatal overdose per day from 6/3/2025 to 6/6/2025 in the City of New Haven.
  - 21% of reported overdoses in CT occurred in New Haven in June 2025, 16% in May 2025, compared to 18.76% from July to December 2024.
- 17 suspected fatal overdoses in Hartford County, including a spike of three in a single day on 6/1/2025.
  - 19% of reported overdoses in CT occurred in Hartford in June 2025, 19% in May 2025, compared to 13.3% from July to December 2024.
- Increased overdose activity along the I-91 and I-95 corridors continues to elevate concern.

### EMS-Reported Highlights:

- On June 2, there were 44 EMS-reported overdoses statewide, which is the highest single-day total since July 2024.
- On June 3, there were 37 reported overdoses, making it the third-highest overdose day.
- On June 4, there were 26 reported overdoses, with potential for increase as late entries are submitted.
- The month of May 2025 averaged over 23 overdoses per day, marking the highest monthly average since July 2024.

This level of overdose activity reported by EMS reflects a significant public health concern occurring across multiple regions in Connecticut.

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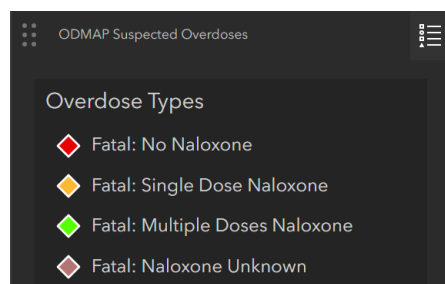
## Substance Composition and Toxicology Insights

In a unique collaboration between law enforcement and harm reduction partners, testing on overdose-related evidence revealed a combination of illicitly manufactured fentanyl (an illicit synthetic opioid), medetomidine (a veterinary anesthetic and sedative) and procaine (a local anesthetic and common adulterant in the drug supply) in samples collected on May 25, 2025 in New Haven. Additional testing conducted on June 3, 2025 in New Haven, showed fentanyl concentrations significantly higher than previously seen within the past 6 to 8 months. These findings suggest that polysubstance combinations and higher concentrations of fentanyl may be contributing factors to the current spike in overdoses.

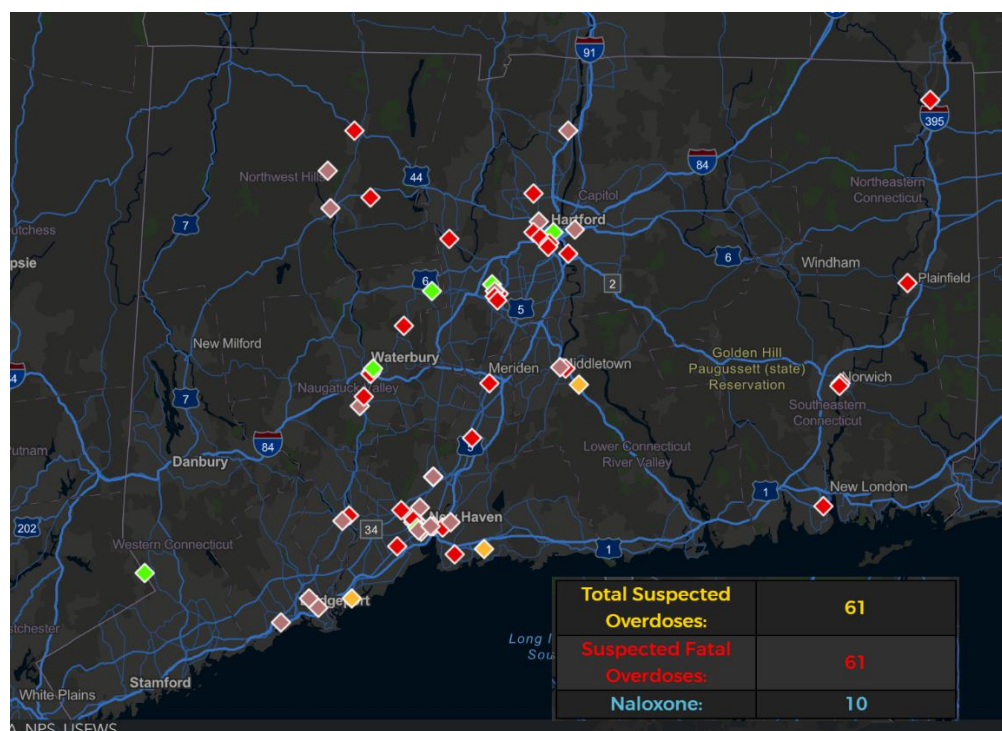
## Geographic Concentration of Overdose Activity

The following ODMAP maps visualize geographic clustering of suspected fatal overdoses:

### Legend:



### Statewide Fatal Overdoses from 5/16/2025 to 6/6/2025:



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## New Haven County Fatal Overdoses 5/16/2025 to 6/6/2025:



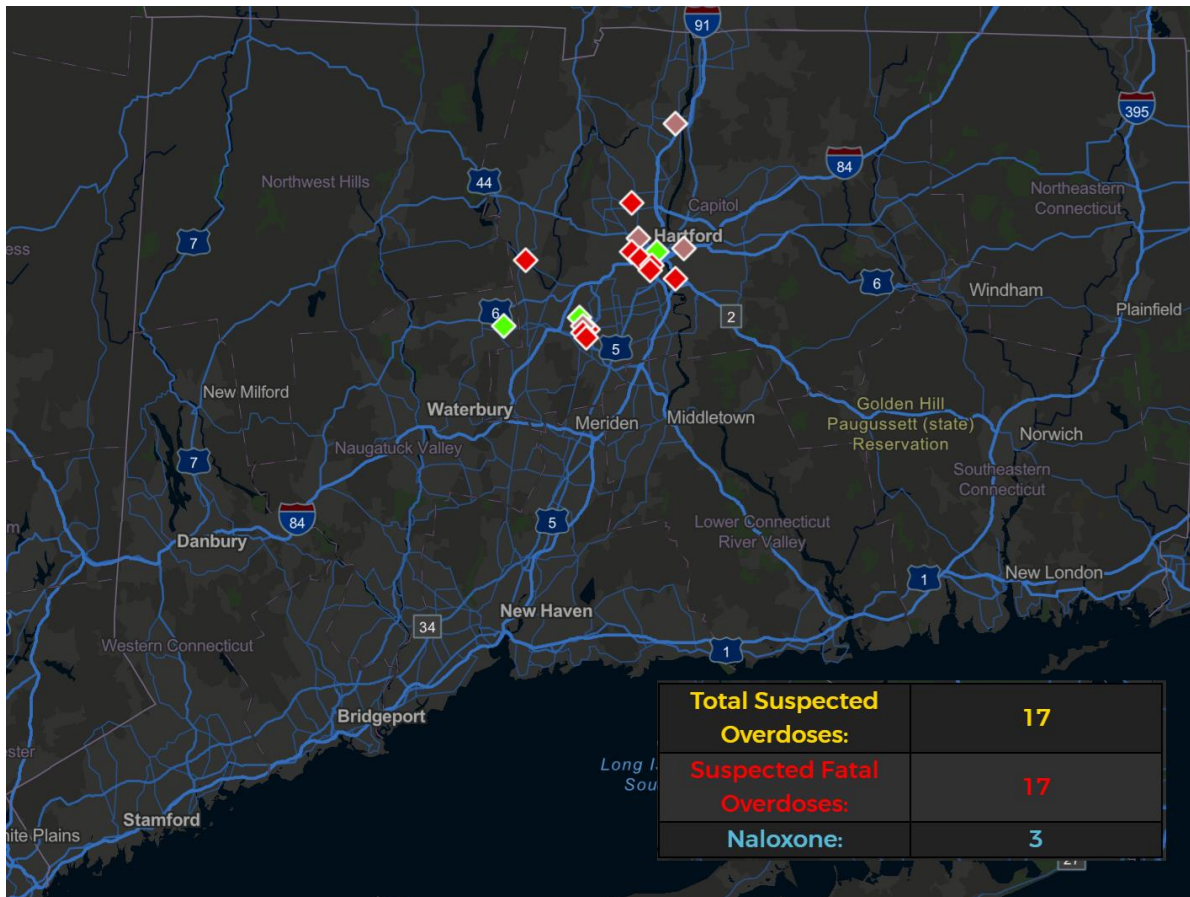


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## Hartford County Fatal Overdoses 5/16/2025 to 6/6/2025:

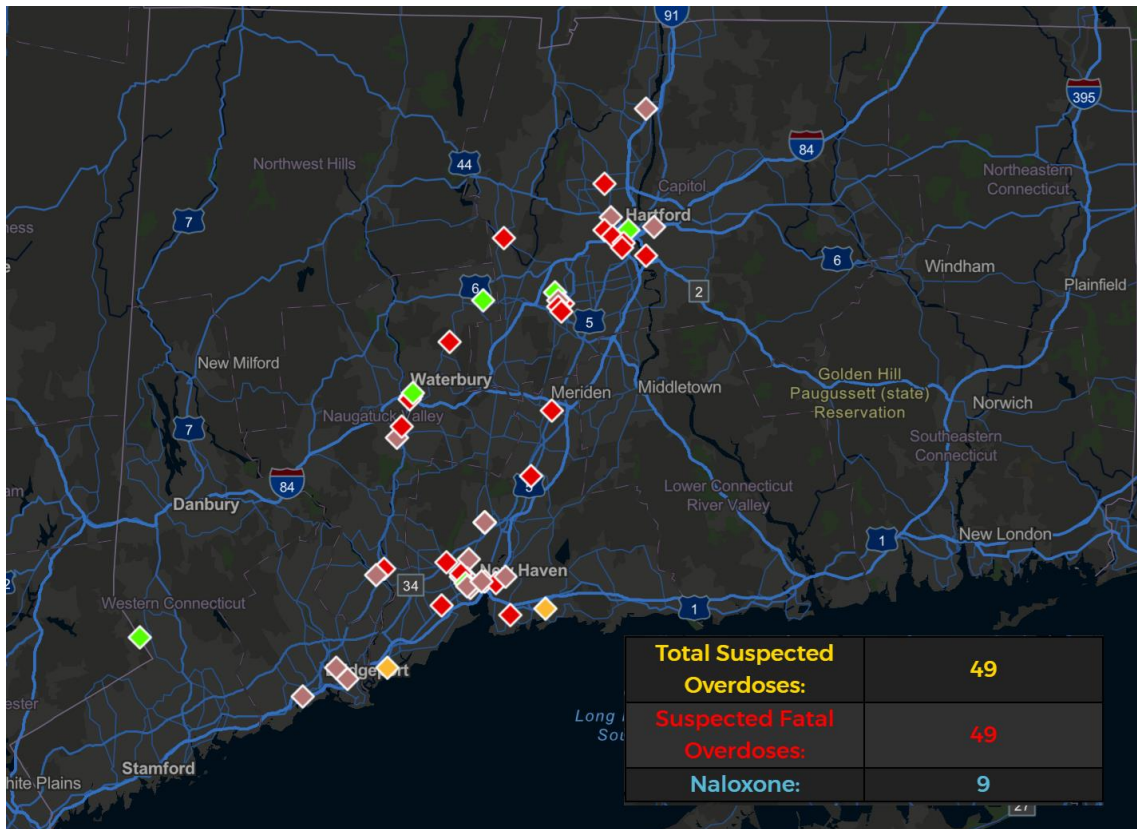


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## I-91 and I-95 Corridor Fatal Overdoses 5/16/2025 to 6/6/2025:



## Updates and Recommendations for Overdose Prevention and Response

State and local public health and first responders are collaborating to enhance response efforts and share real-time data. Local public health departments and coalitions are working together to deliver appropriate resources to impacted communities. While harm reduction organizations lead drug checking and outreach efforts, law enforcement partners are providing critical intelligence and support in impacted areas.

With the ongoing naloxone leave-behind program coordinated through the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Regional Behavioral Action Organizations (RBHAOs), it is strongly recommended that outreach to Fire/EMS and Police departments in impacted areas be prioritized. Distribution of naloxone kits in affected towns, particularly along I-91 and I-95 corridors, should be expedited where possible. To request naloxone leave behind kits, [contact your RBHAO](#). Additional situational awareness updates will be shared as testing and trends evolve.

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## Harm Reduction Messaging for People Who Use Drugs

- Do not use alone, use in the presence of someone who can call 911 for help.
- Start slow, use a small amount of your substance to test potency.
- Always have naloxone nearby and accessible.
- Know what's in your supply, use drug checking services at your local harm reduction site to stay safe.
- Connecticut's Good Samaritan Law protects those who seek medical help, call 911 immediately if someone is in distress.
- The current drug supply is highly volatile, rapid medical attention saves lives.

Community organizations, coalitions and public health partners are encouraged to share harm reduction messages and services available in your area on social media.

## Resources

Harm Reduction services are community-based programs that traditionally support persons using substances and are available to assist first responders after an overdose occurs. They can provide and link individuals who experienced an overdose to other important services, programs and outreach. Please refer to the following link for harm reduction services available in your area:

[syringeservicesprogram.pdf \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/hidta/files/2021/05/syringeservicesprogram.pdf)

Confidential Drug Checking Services at:

- New Haven SSP: 270 Congress Ave, New Haven, CT
- The Hub: 28 Grand Street, Hartford, CT
- Liberation Programs: 399 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport, CT
- Harm Reduction Center at Alliance for Living: 154 Broad Street, New London, CT
- McCall Behavioral Health Network: 58 High Street, Torrington, CT

## Stash ID Alert Sign Up:



## CT ORS Team Contact

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For more information about the ORS program, visit the website: [www.ORSprogram.org](http://www.ORSprogram.org).



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Connecticut Office of Chief Medical Examiner (2025) unpublished data on suspected fatal overdoses, May – June 2025. Provided to the CT ORS team for situational analysis and public health and safety response.

Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD)/ODMAP. (2025). *Data on suspected fatal overdoses, May–June 2025*. Visualizations include a combination of Connecticut DPH produced materials and original graphics created by the CT ORS.

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