

Learn about the dangers of counterfeit drugs.

[#YouThinkYouKnow](#)

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE IN SOUTHWESTERN CT



Prescription Drugs in Southwestern CT

According to the CT Department of Consumer Protection, **over 6.3 million Schedule II prescriptions were dispensed in 2021**. 37.23% were distributed in SW CT, despite making up 20% of the state population. The 2022 SW Community Readiness survey highlighted **the highest rate of concern for prescription drug misuse among individuals aged 65 and older** at 35.4%.

Most Common Controlled Substances

- Medical Marijuana
- Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium)
- Opiate agonists (Oxycodone, Heroin)
- Stimulants (cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDMA)

Most Misused Prescription Drugs

- Painkillers (opioids)
- Central Nervous System depressants (tranquilizers, sedatives, benzodiazepines)
- Stimulants



Accidental overdose deaths in CT continuously rose between 2012-2021, peaking at 1524. **2022 saw the first decrease in a decade.**



CT has **shifted from prescription drugs to heroin and fentanyl** as the primary substances involved in overdose deaths.

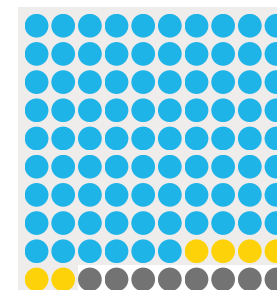


Between 2019 and 2021, overdose deaths in SW CT increased by 40%, from 171 deaths to 239.



In 2021, SW CT saw the **highest number of overdose deaths** in Bridgeport (96), Stamford (27), Norwalk (20), and Stratford (17).

In 2022, there were a total of 1452 accidental drug overdose deaths.



- 86% of accidental drug overdose deaths involve the opioid Fentanyl
- 6% of accidental drug overdose deaths involve a non-Fentanyl opioid
- 8% of accidental drug overdose deaths do not involve any opioids

759 accidental overdose deaths involved simulants.

246 accidental overdose deaths involved a combination of opioids and benzodiazepines.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE IN SOUTHWESTERN CT



In 2021, 14% of young adults aged 18-25 had **engaged in prescription drugs in the past month**—6% in their lifetime.



In 2021, 8.5% of CT high school students reported **taking prescription drugs without a prescription**.



In 2021, 30% of local high school students obtained prescription drugs by **someone giving them or taking them from their home or someone else's**.

For More Info

Find resources and more thehubct.org/opioids-other-drugs or scan the QR code below.



EMERGING TRENDS

- **Fentanyl continues to be deadly.** 2019 saw 82% of overdose deaths involving fentanyl, rising to 86% in 2021 and 2022.
- **The combination of fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, increased overdose deaths by 249%.** We saw a rise to 351 deaths in 2022 from 301 in 2021 and 141 in 2021.
- Key informants say **counterfeit prescription drugs are a significant concern in Southwestern CT** and a high priority among young adults.
- CT Department of Public Health identified **gabapentin, used to treat seizures and pain, as an emerging concern.** 11.87% of overdose deaths in 2021 involved this prescription drug.

RESOURCES

- [You Think You Know CT](#)
- [Live Loud](#)
- [Change the Script](#)
- [Nora](#)

Local Prevention Councils are dedicated coalitions in preventing substance misuse, especially among youth and young adults. **Find an LPC near you** and get involved!