

# Analysis of Connecticut Drug Related Deaths (2012-2023)

Candace DeWitt  
02/24/2025

Sources: DATA.GOV, 02/06/2025  
CT.GOV, 03/03/2025

# Data Overview

**Data source:** <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/accidental-drug-related-deaths-2012-2018>

This is a reliable source because it's the official open data portal of the U.S. federal government. This means the data comes directly from government agencies, which are generally considered authoritative sources for information related to their respective domains.

## **Data Description:**

This dataset details accidental drug overdose deaths in Connecticut from 2012 to 2023, compiled by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. It lists each death, specifying the year and indicating which substances were detected in the deceased's system. A "Y" in a substance column signifies its presence. The data is comprehensive, drawing from toxicity reports, death certificates, and scene investigations. A key nuance is the distinction between "Morphine (Not Heroin)" and regular morphine. This arises because heroin metabolizes into morphine. If heroin use is evident from the scene investigation (e.g., needles present), but the toxicity report only shows morphine, it's classified as "Morphine (Not Heroin)." If the medical examiner can't definitively determine if the morphine is from heroin or a prescription, and scene investigation doesn't clarify the source, "Any Opioid" may be marked. This distinction is crucial for accurate analysis of opioid-related deaths.

# Data Overview

**Data source:** <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/register-manual/section-vii/population-of-connecticut-by-counties>

The Connecticut Office of the Secretary of State is considered a reliable source for several key reasons, including legal mandate, oversight, and public accountability, primarily due to its official governmental function and the nature of the information it manages.

## **Data Description:**

This data set includes population data by city, county, and (or) town for the State of Connecticut as of 07/01/2021.

# Variable Definitions

<b>Injury County</b>	The county where the injury occurred (text field)
<b>Age</b>	The age of the individual at the time of the injury (whole number)
<b>Age (bins)</b>	Age categorized into ranges (12-23,24-35,36-47,48-59,60-71,72-83,84-87) (text field)
<b>Any Opioid</b>	A binary (Yes/No) variable indicating whether any opioid was involved in the injury or death (text field)
<b>Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)</b>	A binary variable indicating whether benzodiazepines (specifically Valium or Xanax, or potentially others) were involved (text field)
<b>Cause(s) of Death</b>	The reported cause of death (text field)
<b>City of Death</b>	The city where the death occurred. This may or may not be the same as the injury location (text field)
<b>Cocaine</b>	A binary variable indicating whether cocaine was involved (text field)
<b>CustomCity</b>	A user-defined or grouped city. This allows you to aggregate smaller cities or create custom regions for analysis (text field)
<b>CustomDeathCity</b>	A user-defined or grouped city where the death occurred (text field)
<b>CustomInjuryCity</b>	A user-defined or grouped city where the injury occurred (text field)
<b>CustomInjuryState</b>	A user-defined or grouped state where the injury occurred (text field)
<b>CustomState</b>	A user-defined or grouped state (text field)
<b>Description of Injury</b>	A textual description of the injury sustained (text field)
<b>Drug Type</b>	A more detailed classification of the drugs involved (text field)

# Variable Definitions (cont)

<b>Ethanol</b>	A binary variable indicating whether ethanol (alcohol) was involved in the injury or death (text field)
<b>Fentanyl</b>	A binary variable indicating whether fentanyl was involved (text field)
<b>Gabapentin (Seizure Medication)</b>	A binary variable indicating whether gabapentin was involved. Note that while it's a seizure medication, it's also sometimes misused (text field)
<b>Heroin</b>	A binary variable indicating whether heroin was involved (text field)
<b>Heroin Death Certificate</b>	This variable likely indicates whether heroin was specifically mentioned on the death certificate (text field)
<b>Heroin/Morph/Codeine</b>	A binary variable indicating the involvement of any of these three substances. This groups them together (text field)
<b>Hydrocodone</b>	A binary variable indicating whether hydrocodone was involved (text field)
<b>Hydromorphone</b>	A binary variable indicating whether hydromorphone was involved (text field)
<b>Injury City</b>	The city where the injury occurred (text field)
<b>Injury Place</b>	A more detailed description of the location of the injury (e.g., "residence," "street," "workplace") (text field)
<b>Injury State</b>	The state where the injury occurred (text field)
<b>Manner of Death</b>	The official classification of how the death occurred (e.g., "Accident," "Suicide," "Homicide," "Undetermined") (text field)
<b>Meth/Amphetamine</b>	A binary variable indicating the involvement of methamphetamine or other amphetamines (text)
<b>Methadone</b>	A binary variable indicating whether methadone was involved. Methadone is often used in addiction treatment, so its presence might have different implications than other opioids (text field)
<b>Morphine (Not Heroin)</b>	A binary variable indicating the involvement of morphine excluding cases where heroin was also involved (text)

# Variable Definitions (cont)

<b>Opiate NOS</b>	"Opiate NOS" likely refers to "Opiate, Not Otherwise Specified," meaning a general opiate was involved, but the specific type wasn't recorded (text field)
<b>Other</b>	A catch-all category for substances not specifically listed (text field)
<b>Other Opioid</b>	A category for opioids other than those specifically listed (text field)
<b>Oxycodone</b>	A binary variable indicating whether oxycodone was involved (text field)
<b>Oxymorphone</b>	A binary variable indicating whether oxymorphone was involved (text field)
<b>Place of Death</b>	The specific location where the death occurred (text field)
<b>Race</b>	The race of the individual (text field)
<b>Residence City</b>	The city where the individual resided (text field)
<b>Residence State</b>	The state where the individual resided (text field)
<b>Sex</b>	The sex of the individual (Male/Female/Other/Unknown) (text field)
<b>State of Death</b>	The state where the death occurred (text field)
<b>Tramadol</b>	A binary variable indicating whether tramadol was involved (text field)
<b>Xylazine (Tranq)</b>	A binary variable indicating whether xylazine was involved. This is a veterinary tranquilizer increasingly found in the illicit drug supply (text field)
<b>Year of Death</b>	The year in which the death occurred (text field)

# Data Acquisition/Extraction Tools

- Power BI's (Get Data) - CSV to PBI

# ETL Process

ETL stands for **Extract, Transform, Load**. It's the process of getting data ready for analysis. First, we **Extract** data from various sources, like files or databases. Then, we **Transform** it by cleaning, shaping, and preparing it for analysis. Finally, we **Load** the transformed data into a destination, like a data warehouse or Power BI, where it can be used for reporting and visualization.

## Get Data

All

File

Database

Microsoft Fabric

Power Platform

Azure

Online Services

Other

Excel Workbook

Text/CSV

XML

JSON

Folder

PDF

Parquet

SharePoint folder

SQL Server database

Access database

SQL Server Analysis Services database

Oracle database

IBM Db2 database

IBM Informix database (Beta)

IBM Netezza

MySQL database

## Accidental\_Drug\_Related\_Deaths\_2012-2023.csv

File Origin: 1252: Western European (Windows) Delimiter: Comma Data Type Detection: Based on first 200 rows

Date	Date Type	Age	Sex	Race	Ethnicity	Residence City	Residence County	Residence State	Injury City	Injury County
5/29/2012	Date of death	37	Male	Black		STAMFORD	FAIRFIELD		STAMFORD	
6/27/2012	Date of death	37	Male	White		NORWICH	NEW LONDON		NORWICH	
3/24/2014	Date of death	28	Male	White		HEBRON			HEBRON	
12/31/2014	Date of death	26	Female	White		BALTIC				
1/16/2016	Date of death	41	Male	White		SHELTON	FAIRFIELD	CT	SHELTON	
6/13/2017	Date reported	57	Male	White		BLANDFORD	HAMPDEN	MA	ENFIELD	HARTFORD
10/20/2015	Date reported	26	Male	White		DANBURY	FAIRFIELD	CT	DANBURY	
2/2/2017	Date reported	64	Male	White		MILFORD	NEW HAVEN	CT	MILFORD	NEW HAVEN
7/3/2018	Date of death	33	Male						HARTFORD	HARTFORD
5/8/2013	Date of death	23	Male	White		BETHEL	FAIRFIELD		BETHEL	
1/14/2017	Date reported	54	Male	White		MERIDEN	NEW HAVEN	CT	UNKNOWN	
8/17/2012	Date of death	45	Female	White		MANSFIELD	TOLLAND		MANSFIELD	
11/10/2015	Date reported	64	Male	White		IVORYTON	MIDDLESEX	CT	IVORYTON	
8/23/2015	Date reported	21	Male	White		BETHANY	NEW HAVEN	CT	UNKNOWN	
6/21/2014	Date of death	41	Male	White		ENFIELD			ENFIELD	
4/21/2012	Date of death	48	Male	White	Hispanic	MERIDEN	NEW HAVEN		MERIDEN	
3/13/2016	Date of death	30	Female	White		SANDY HOOK	FAIRFIELD	CT	UNKNOWN	
5/1/2012	Date of death	49	Male	White		BRISTOL	HARTFORD		BRISTOL	
2/7/2013	Date of death	26	Female	White		WATERFORD	NEW LONDON		WATERFORD	
12/26/2019	Date of death	39	Male	White	Hispanic				HARTFORD	HARTFORD

## Data

- Accidental\_Drug\_Related\_Deaths\_2012-2023
- Accidental\_Drug\_Related\_Deaths\_2012-2023 (2)
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Age (bins)
- ☐ Any Opioid
- ☐ Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)
- ☐ Cause(s) of Death
- ☐ City of Death
- ☐ Cocaine
- ☐ CustomCity
- ☐ CustomDeathCity
- ☐ CustomInjuryCity
- ☐ CustomInjuryState
- ☐ CustomState
- ☐ Deaths
- ☐ Description of Injury
- ☐ Drug Type
- ☐ Drug-Benzo
- ☐ Drug-Cocaine
- ☐ Drug-Ethanol
- ☐ Drug-Fentanyl
- ☐ Drug-Gabapentin
- ☐ Drug-Heroin
- ☐ Drug-Heroin-Morph-Codeine
- ☐ Drug-Hydrocodone
- ☐ Drug-Hydromorphone
- ☐ Drug-Meth
- ☐ Drug-Methadone
- ☐ Drug-Morphine
- ☐ Drug-Opioid
- ☐ Drug-Other
- ☐ Drug-Other-Opioid

[Extract Table Using Examples](#)[Load](#)[Transform Data](#)[Cancel](#)



# Power Query Transformations

Power Query transformation is the process of manipulating and reshaping data within the Power Query Editor before it's loaded into the Power BI data model. Basically, it's about getting your data into the right format for analysis.

## Filter Rows

Apply one or more filter conditions to the rows in this table.

☒ Basic ☐ Advanced

Keep rows where 'Age'

does not equal

0

☒ And ☐ Or

Enter or select a valu...

OK

Cancel

## Replace Values

Replace one value with another in the selected columns.

Value To Find

CONNECTICUT

Replace With

CT

Advanced options

OK

Cancel

# Power Query Transformations(cont)

## Add Conditional Column

Add a conditional column that is computed from the other columns or values.

New column name

Drug Type

	Column Name	Operator	Value ①		Output ①
If	Xylazine (Tranq) ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Xylazine (Tranq)
Else If	Heroin ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Heroin
Else If	Cocaine ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Cocaine
Else If	Fentanyl ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Fentanyl
Else If	Fentanyl Analogue ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Fentanyl Analogue
Else If	Oxycodone ▾	equals ▾	ABC 123 ▾ Y	Then	ABC 123 ▾ Oxycodone

Add Clause

Else ①

ABC 123 ▾ Other

OK

Cancel

# Queries

```
Source = Csv.Document(File.Contents("C:\Users\mypril\Downloads\Accidental_Drug_Related_Deaths_2012-2023.csv"),[Delimiter=";", Columns=48, Encoding=1252, QuoteStyle=QuoteStyle.Csv]),
```

```
#"Removed Columns" = Table.RemoveColumns(#"Changed Type",{Injury County", "Residence County", "Ethnicity"}),
```

```
#"Merged Columns" = Table.CombineColumns(#"Removed Columns",{Location", "Location if Other"},Combiner.CombineTextByDelimiter(" ", QuoteStyle.None),"Merged"),
```

```
#"Replaced Value" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Merged Columns",,"Not Listed",Replacer.ReplaceValue,{Injury Place}),
```

```
#"Replaced Value1" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Replaced Value",,"Not Listed",Replacer.ReplaceValue,{Description of Injury}),
```

```
#"Removed Columns1" = Table.RemoveColumns(#"Replaced Value1",{Death County}),
```

```
#"Renamed Columns" = Table.RenameColumns(#"Removed Columns1",{{"Merged", "Place of Death"}}),
```

```
#"Replaced Value2" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Renamed Columns",," ",Replacer.ReplaceText,{Place of Death}),
```

```
#"Replaced Value3" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Replaced Value2",,"Not Listed",Replacer.ReplaceValue,{Place of Death}),
```

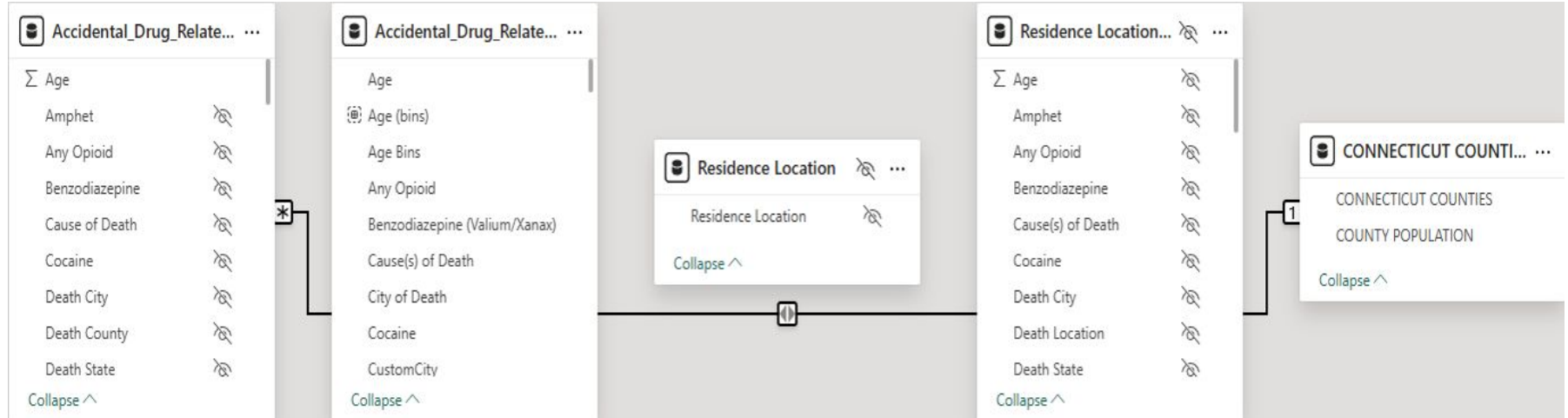
```
#"Replaced Value4" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Replaced Value3",," ",Replacer.ReplaceText,{Other Significant Conditions "}),
```

```
#"Replaced Value5" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Replaced Value4","HypertensiveandAtheroscleroticCardiovascularDisease","-HypertensiveandAtheroscleroticCardiovascularDisease",Replacer.ReplaceText,{Other Significant Conditions "}),
```

```
#"Replaced Value6" = Table.ReplaceValue(#"Replaced Value5","AtheroscleroticandHypertensiveCardiovascularDisease,Diabetes","-AtheroscleroticandHypertensiveCardiovascularDisease,Diabetes",Replacer.ReplaceText,{Other Significant Conditions "}).
```

# Entity Relationship Diagram

The root of my data model is the **Accidental\_Drug\_Related\_Deaths** table. This table contains detailed information about each drug-related death, including the deceased's age, the substances involved (like fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin), the cause of death, and the location of death. Here you can see how these tables are connected.



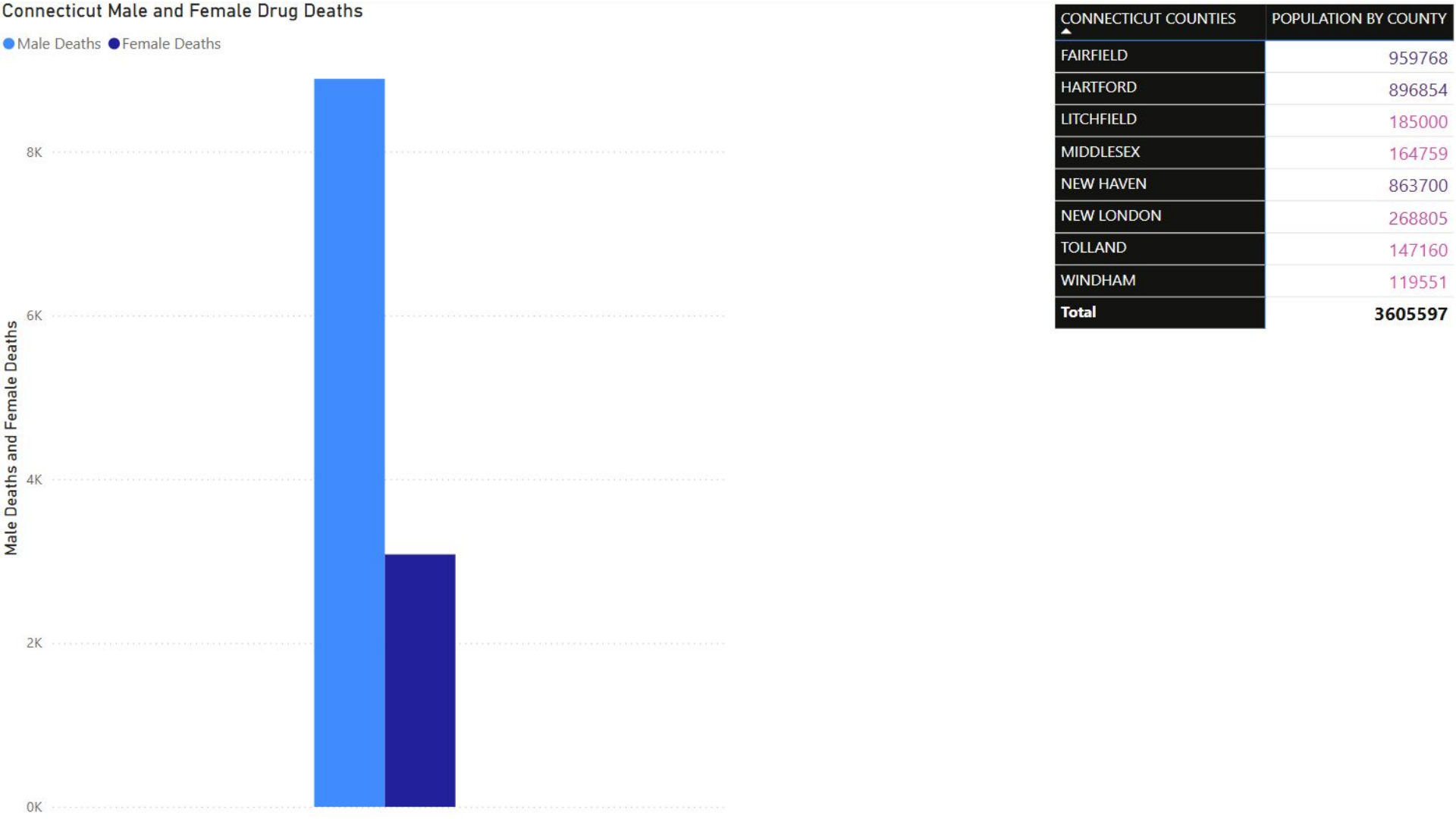
DEMO

POWER BI

# Connecticut Male and Female Drug Deaths

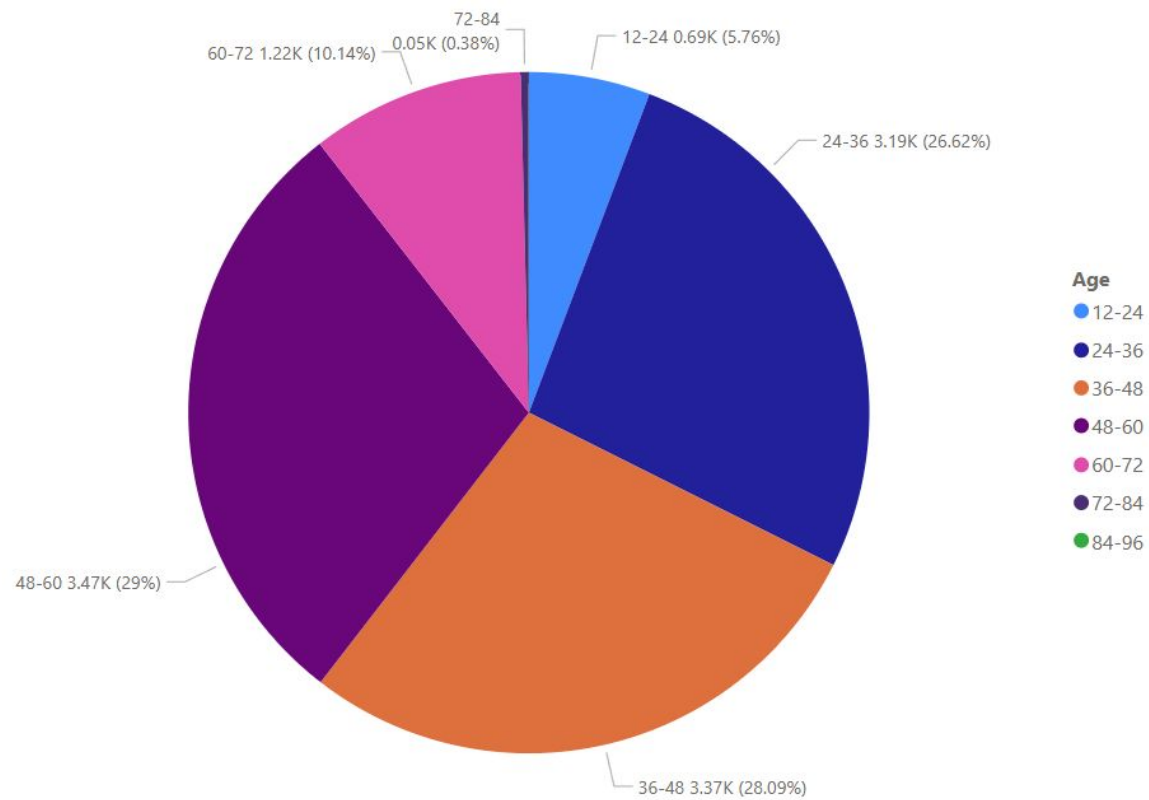
● Male Deaths ● Female Deaths

Male Deaths and Female Deaths



CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
FAIRFIELD	959768
HARTFORD	896854
LITCHFIELD	185000
MIDDLESEX	164759
NEW HAVEN	863700
NEW LONDON	268805
TOLLAND	147160
WINDHAM	119551
Total	3605597

# Connecticut Drug Deaths by Age and Year



CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
WINDHAM	119551
TOLLAND	147160
MIDDLESEX	164759
LITCHFIELD	185000
NEW LONDON	268805
NEW HAVEN	863700
HARTFORD	896854
FAIRFIELD	959768
Total	3605597

Year of Death

☐ 2012

☐ 2013

☐ 2014

☐ 2015

☐ 2016

☐ 2017

☐ 2018

☐ 2019

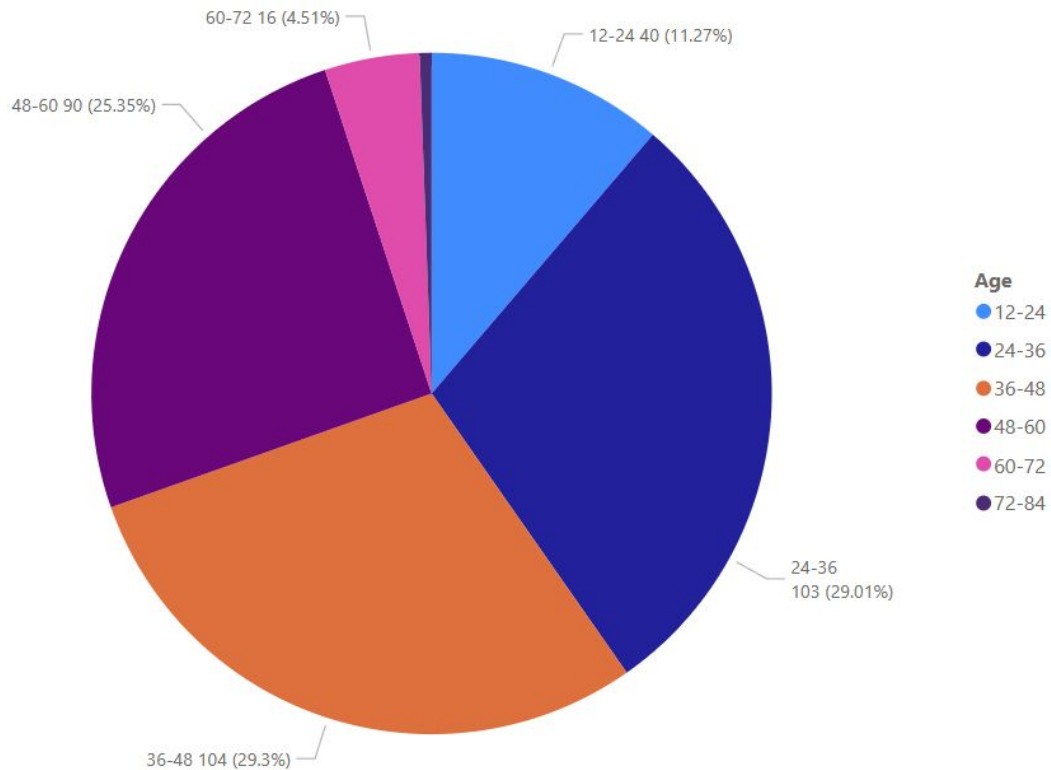
☐ 2020

☐ 2021

☐ 2022

☐ 2023

# Connecticut Drug Deaths by Age and Year



CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
WINDHAM	119551
TOLLAND	147160
MIDDLESEX	164759
LITCHFIELD	185000
NEW LONDON	268805
NEW HAVEN	863700
HARTFORD	896854
FAIRFIELD	959768
Total	3605597

## Year of Death

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

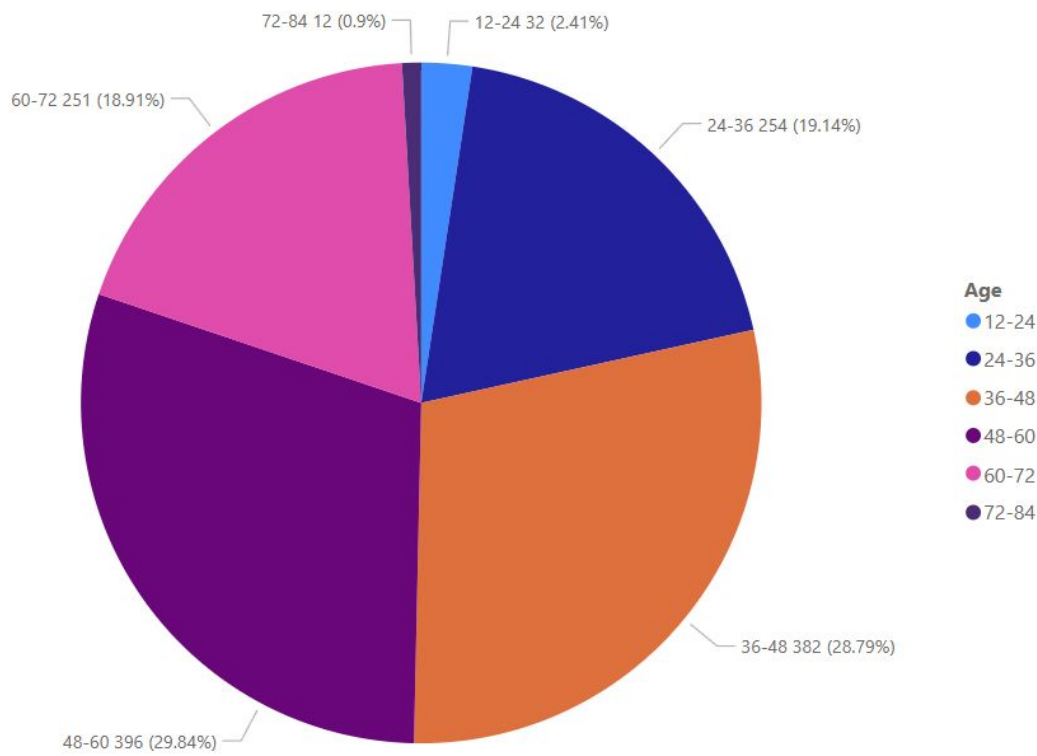
2021

2022

2023



# Connecticut Drug Deaths by Age and Year

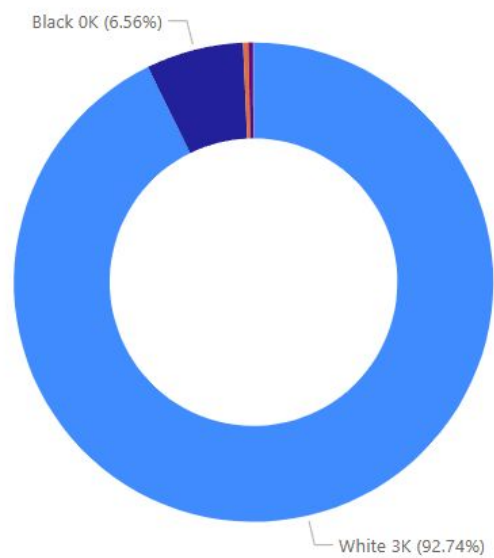


CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
WINDHAM	119551
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NEW HAVEN	863700
HARTFORD	896854
FAIRFIELD	959768
Total	3605597

## Year of Death

- ☐ 2012
- ☐ 2013
- ☐ 2014
- ☐ 2015
- ☐ 2016
- ☐ 2017
- ☐ 2018
- ☐ 2019
- ☐ 2020
- ☐ 2021
- ☐ 2022
- ☒ 2023

# Drug Deaths by Race and Age Range



- White
- Black
- Unknown
- Other
- Chinese
- Asian
- Hawaiian
- Black Native American-Lenni Lenape
- Korean
- Native
- Haitian
- Portuguese
- Puerto Rican

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Age

36 48

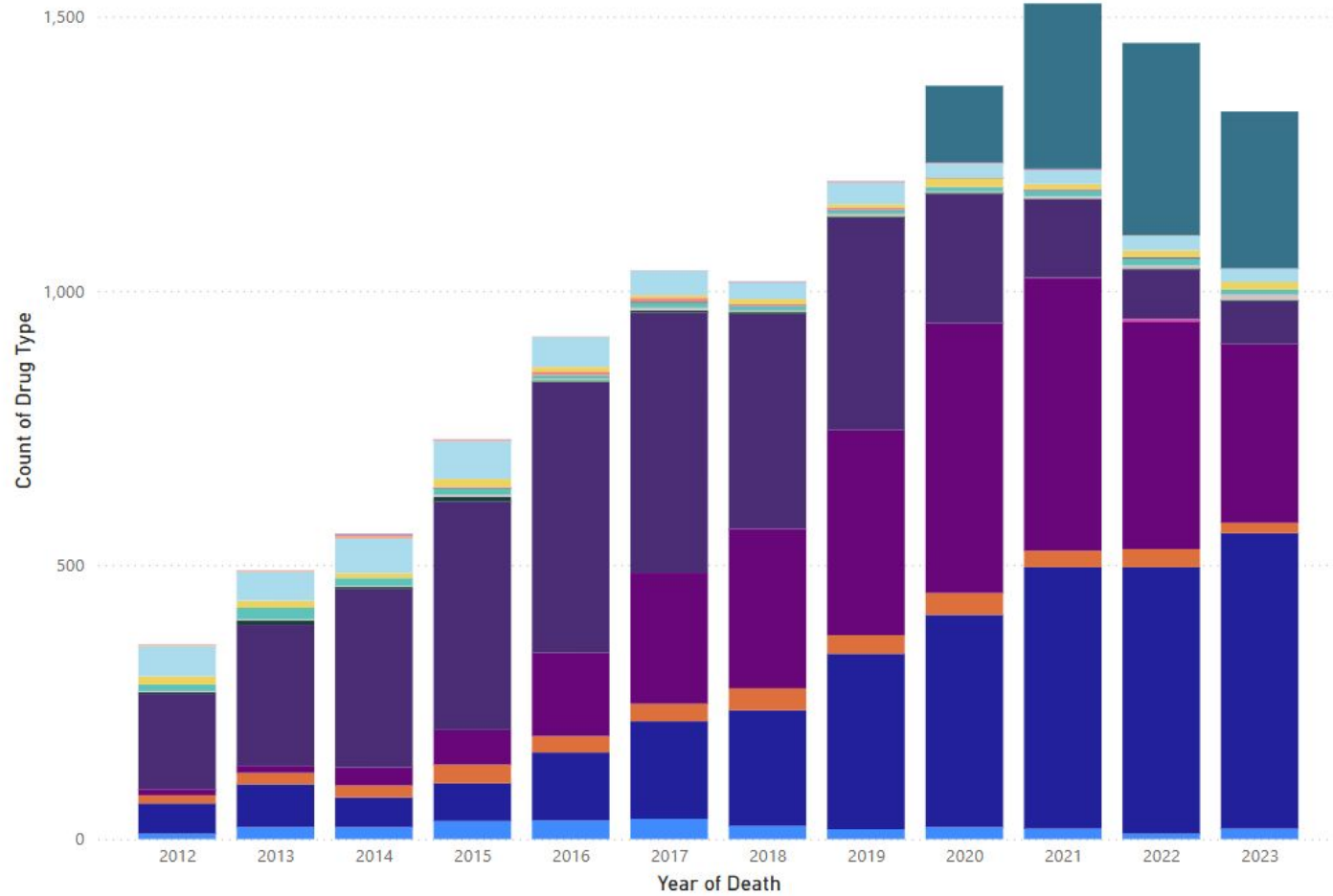
Age range slider with markers at 36 and 48.

## Drug Type

- ☐ Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)
- ☐ Cocaine
- ☐ Ethanol
- ☐ Fentanyl
- ☐ Gabapentin (Seizure Medication)
- ☐ Heroin
- ☐ Heroin/Morph/Codeine
- ☐ Hydrocodone
- ☐ Hydromorphone
- ☐ Meth/Amphetamine
- ☐ Methadone
- ☐ Morphine (Not Heroin)
- ☐ Opiate NOS
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Other Opiod
- ☐ Oxycodone
- ☐ Oxymorphone
- ☐ Tramadol
- ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)

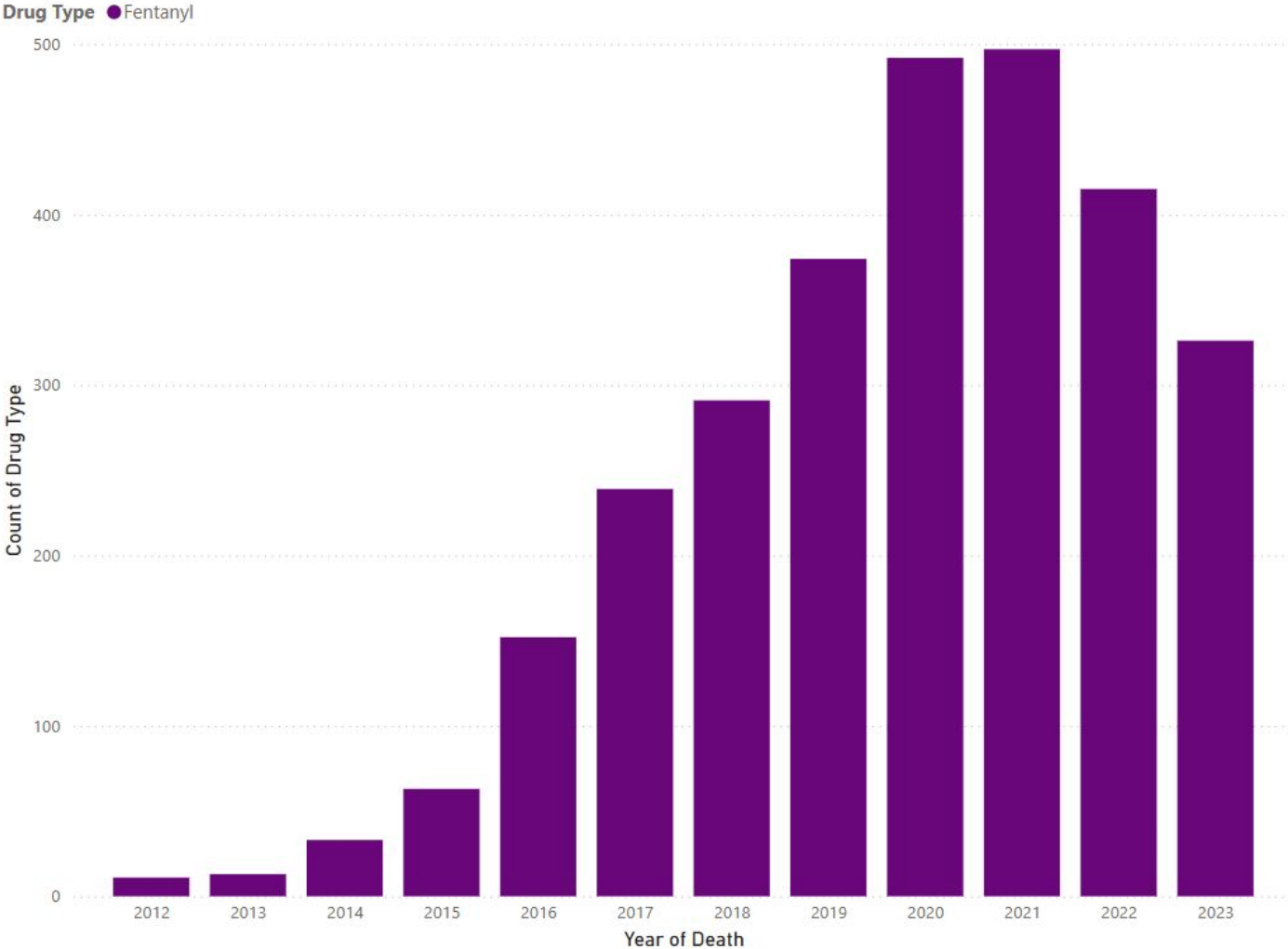
### Count of Drug Type by Year of Death (State of CT 2012-2023)

**Drug Type** ● Benzodi... ● Cocaine ● Ethanol ● Fentanyl ● Gabape... ● Heroin ● Heroin/... ● Hydroco... ● Hydrom... ● Meth/A... ● Methad...



- Drug Type
- ☐ Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)
  - ☐ Cocaine
  - ☐ Ethanol
  - ☒ Fentanyl
  - ☐ Gabapentin (Seizure Medication)
  - ☐ Heroin
  - ☐ Heroin/Morph/Codeine
  - ☐ Hydrocodone
  - ☐ Hydromorphone
  - ☐ Meth/Amphetamine
  - ☐ Methadone
  - ☐ Morphine (Not Heroin)
  - ☐ Opiate NOS
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Other Opiod
  - ☐ Oxycodone
  - ☐ Oxymorphone
  - ☐ Tramadol
  - ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)

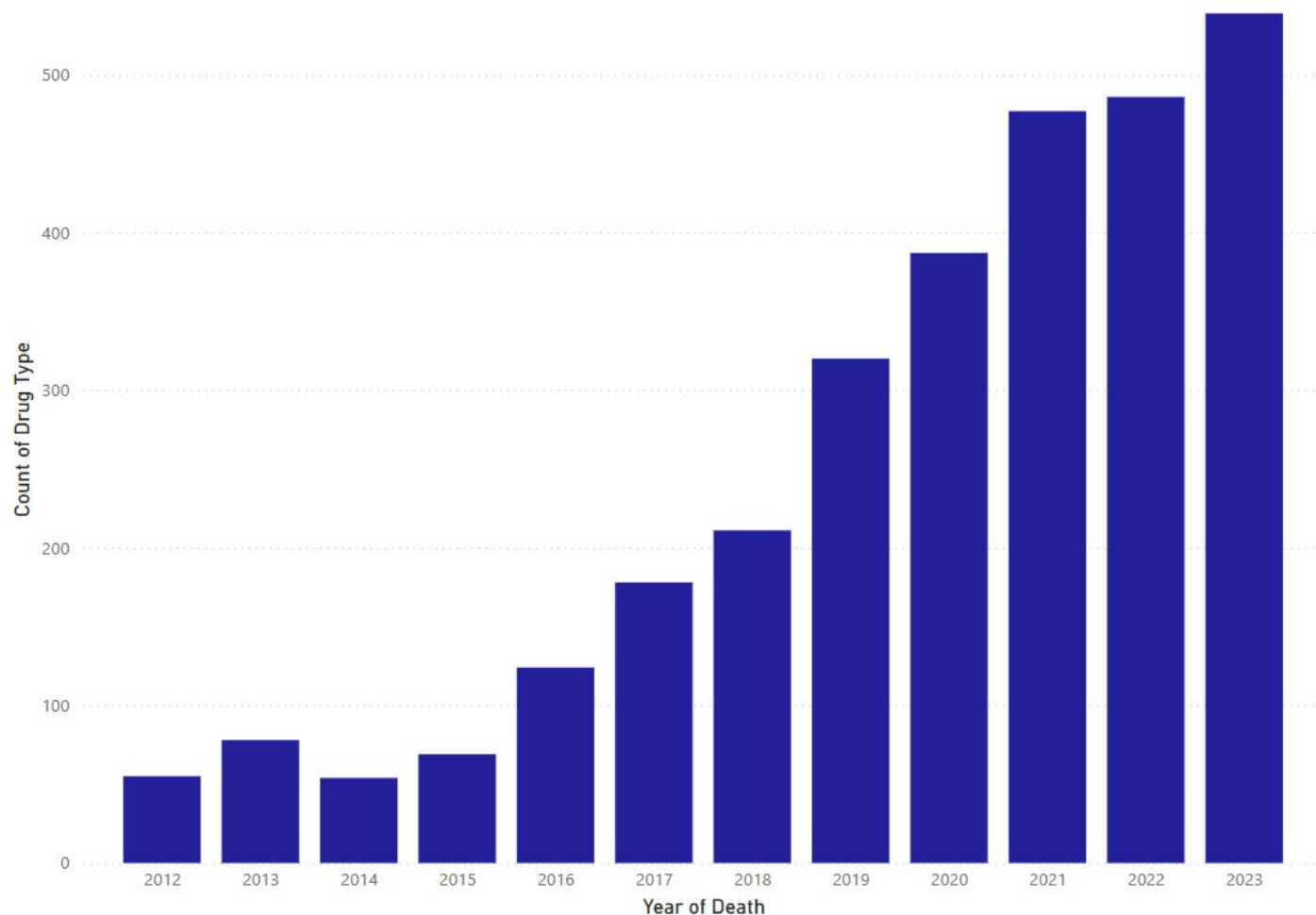
Count of Drug Type by Year of Death (State of CT 2012-2023)



- Drug Type
- ☐ Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)
  - ☒ Cocaine
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  - ☐ Fentanyl
  - ☐ Gabapentin (Seizure Medication)
  - ☐ Heroin
  - ☐ Heroin/Morph/Codeine
  - ☐ Hydrocodone
  - ☐ Hydromorphone
  - ☐ Meth/Amphetamine
  - ☐ Methadone
  - ☐ Morphine (Not Heroin)
  - ☐ Opiate NOS
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Other Opiod
  - ☐ Oxycodone
  - ☐ Oxymorphone
  - ☐ Tramadol
  - ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)

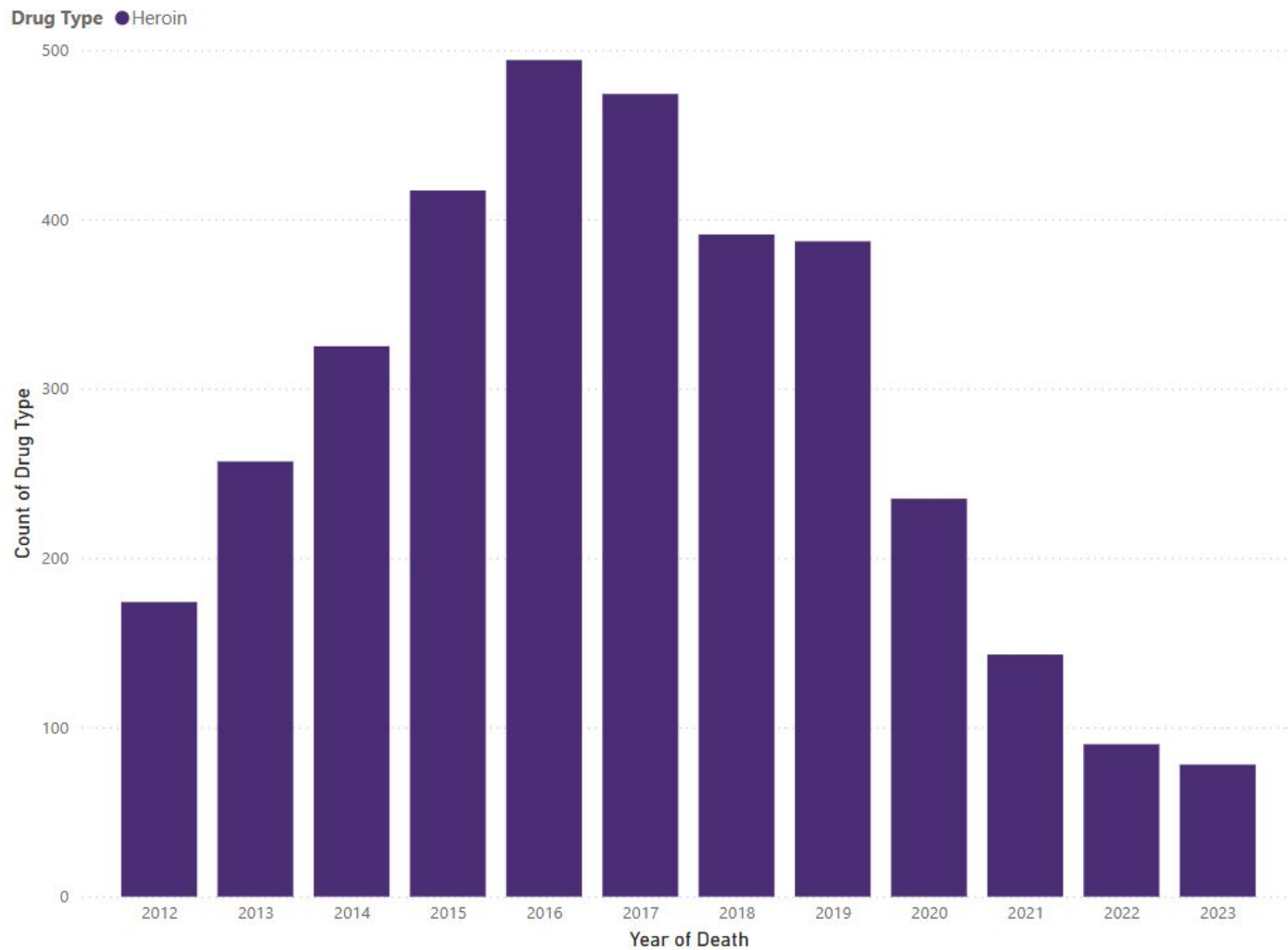
Count of Drug Type by Year of Death (State of CT 2012-2023)

Drug Type ● Cocaine



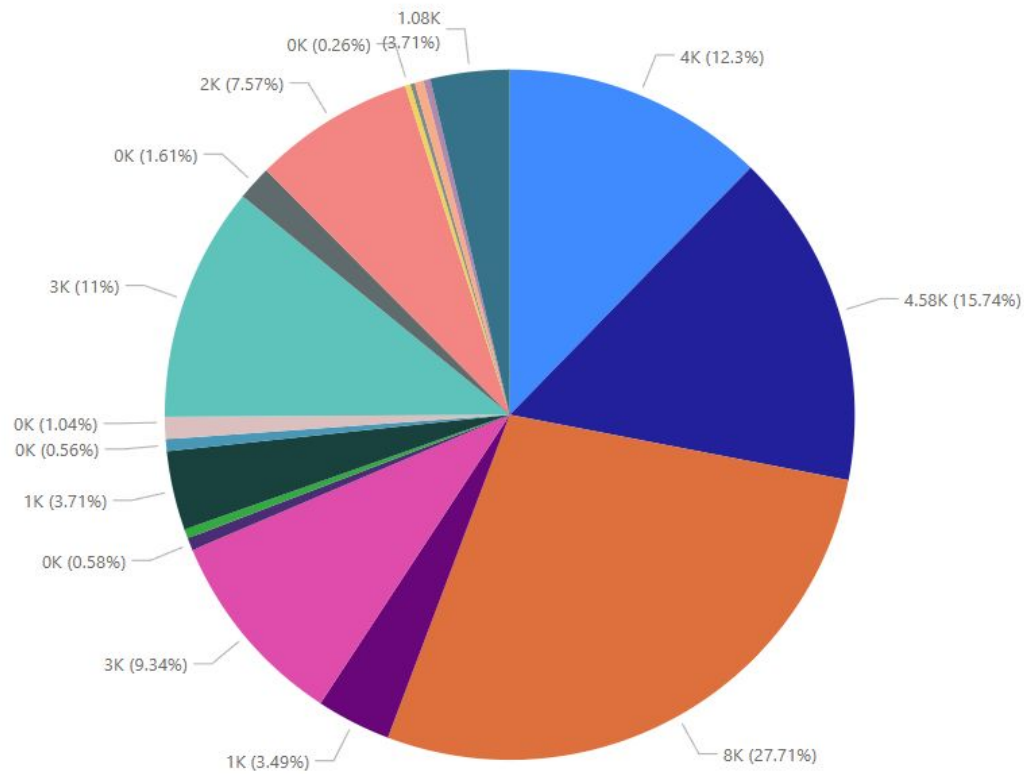
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  - ☐ Opiate NOS
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Other Opiod
  - ☐ Oxycodone
  - ☐ Oxymorphone
  - ☐ Tramadol
  - ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)

Count of Drug Type by Year of Death (State of CT 2012-2023)



# Drug Deaths by Drug Type

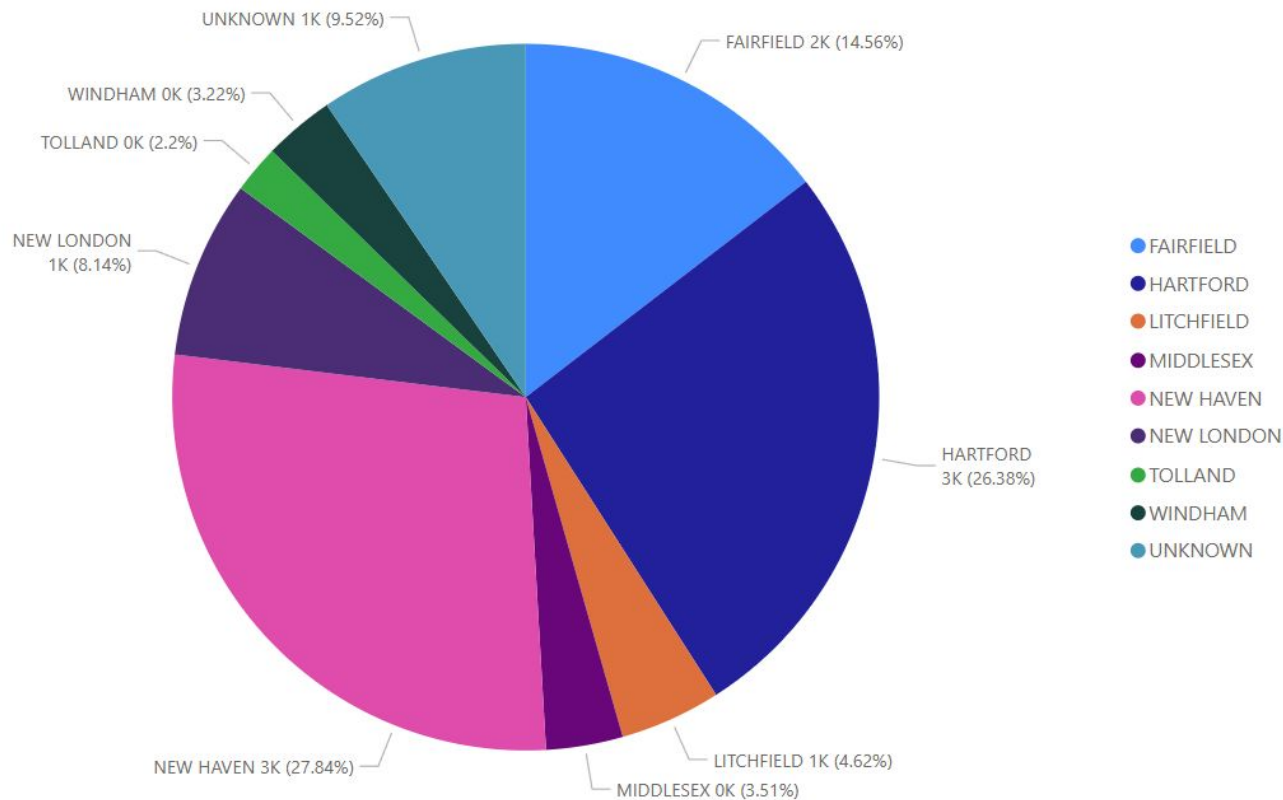
Heroin, Cocaine, Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Benzos (Valium), Hydrocodone, Meth, Methadone, Oxymorphone, Tramadol, Ethanol, Gabapentin (Seizure), Heroin/Morph/Codeine, Hydromorphone, Morphine (Not Heroin), Other, Opioid NOS (Nitrous Oxide), Other-Opioid and Drug-Xylazine



- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Fentanyl
- Oxycodone
- Benzos (Valium)
- Hydrocodone
- Meth
- Methadone
- Oxymorphone
- Tramadol
- Ethanol
- Gabapentin (Seizure)
- Heroin/Morph/Codeine
- Hydromorphone
- Morphine (Not Heroin)
- Other
- Opioid NOS (Nitrous Oxide)
- Other-Opioid
- Drug-Xylazine

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Connecticut Drug Deaths by County and Race (2012-2023)



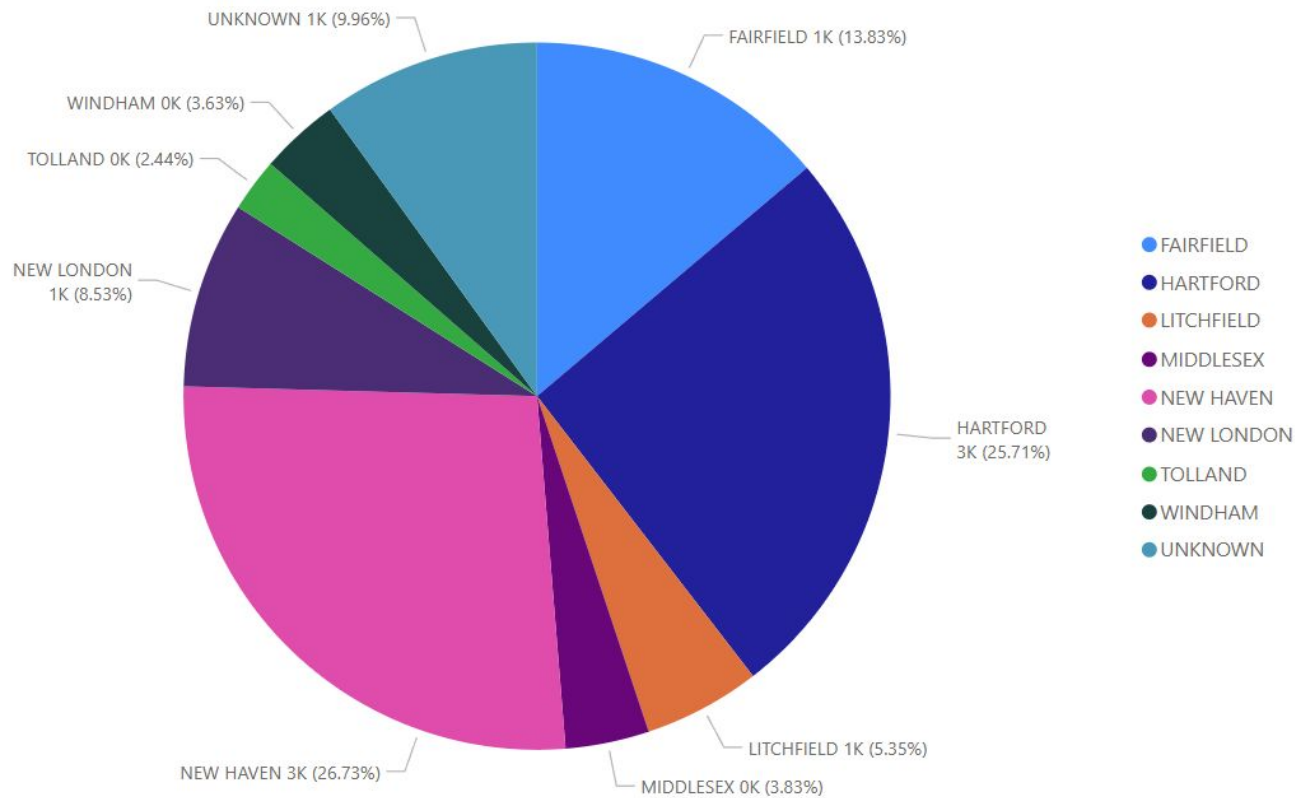
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Race

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Hawaiian
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ White



Connecticut Drug Deaths by County and Race (2012-2023)

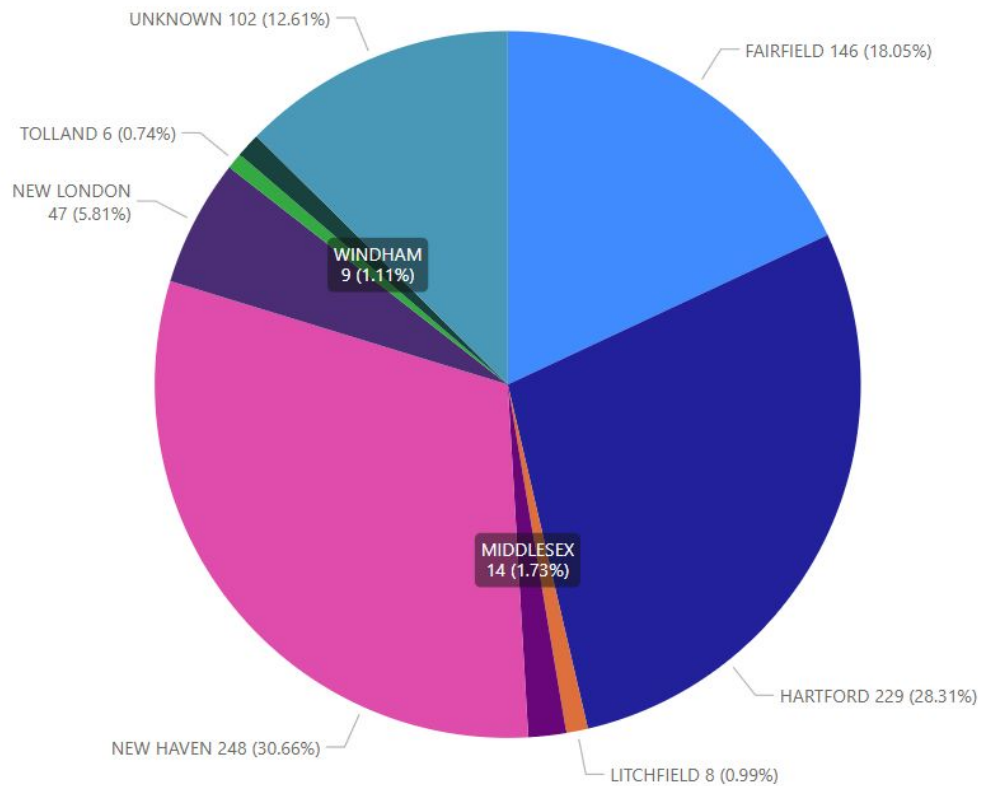


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Race

- Asian
- Black
- Chinese
- Hawaiian
- Korean
- Other
- Unknown
- White

Connecticut Drug Deaths by County and Race (2012-2023)



- FAIRFIELD
- HARTFORD
- LITCHFIELD
- MIDDLESEX
- NEW HAVEN
- NEW LONDON
- TOLLAND
- WINDHAM
- UNKNOWN

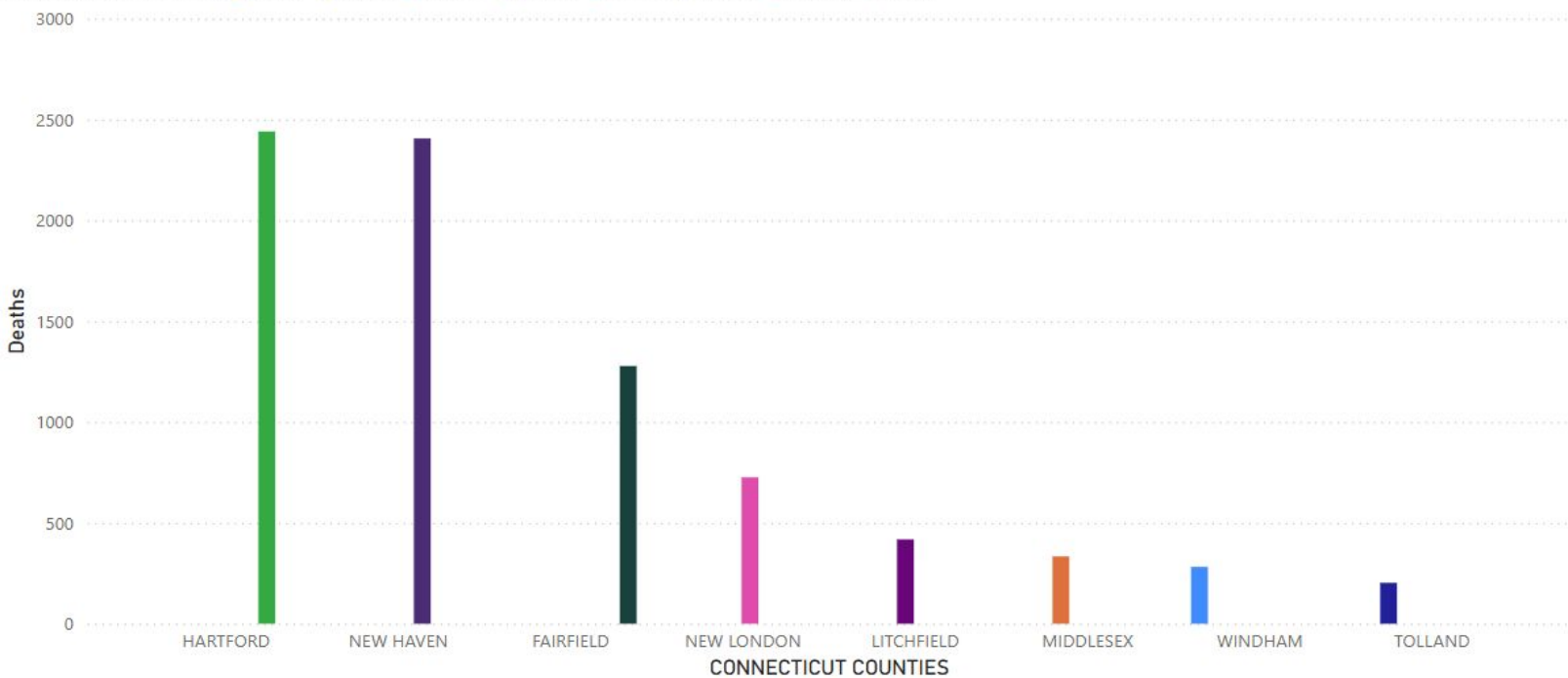
CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
WINDHAM	119551
TOLLAND	147160
MIDDLESEX	164759
LITCHFIELD	185000
NEW LONDON	268805
NEW HAVEN	863700
HARTFORD	896854
FAIRFIELD	959768
Total	3605597

Race

- Asian
- Black
- Chinese
- Hawaiian
- Korean
- Other
- Unknown
- White

# Deaths by CONNECTICUT COUNTIES and COUNTY POPULATION

COUNTY POPULATION 119551 147160 164759 185000 268805 863700 896854 959768



12K

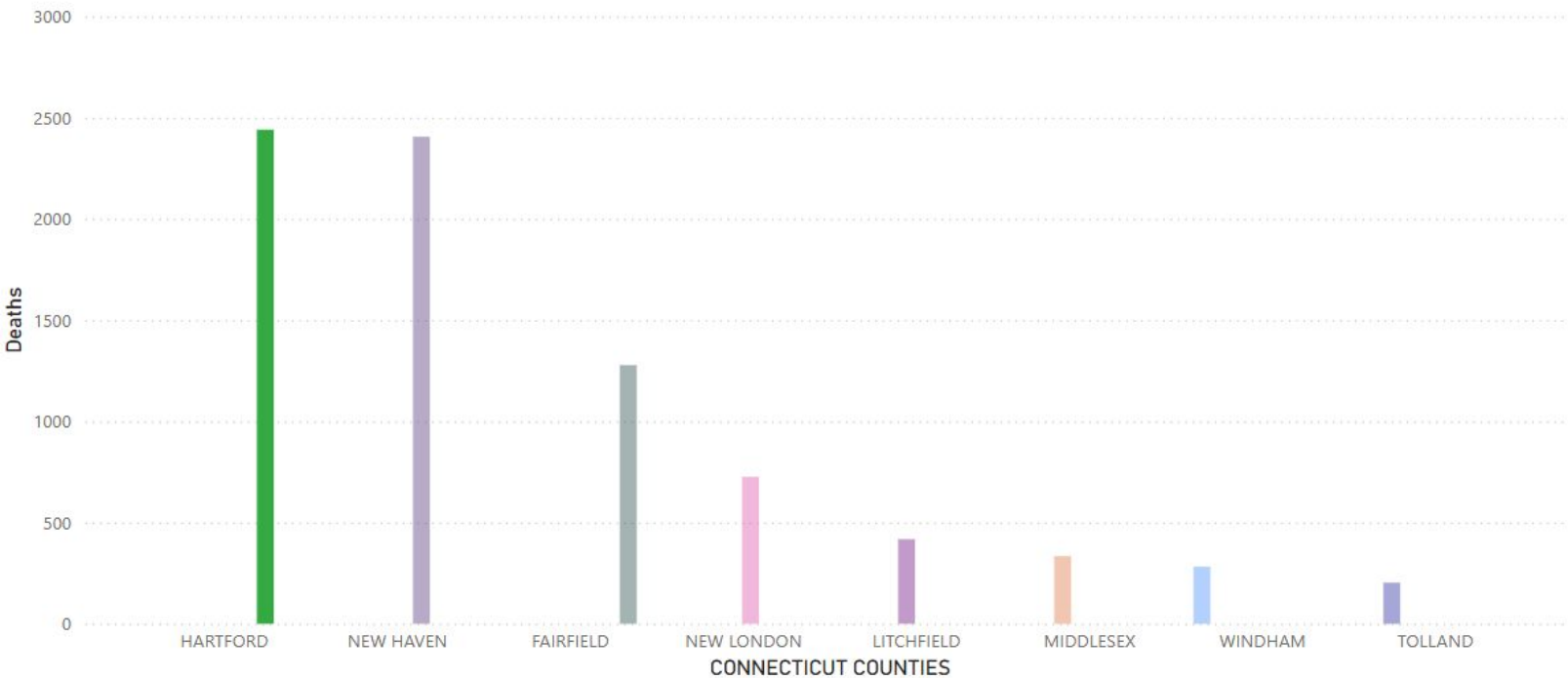
Deaths

4M

POPULATION

## Deaths by CONNECTICUT COUNTIES and COUNTY POPULATION

COUNTY POPULATION ● 119551 ● 147160 ● 164759 ● 185000 ● 268805 ● 863700 ● 896854 ● 959768

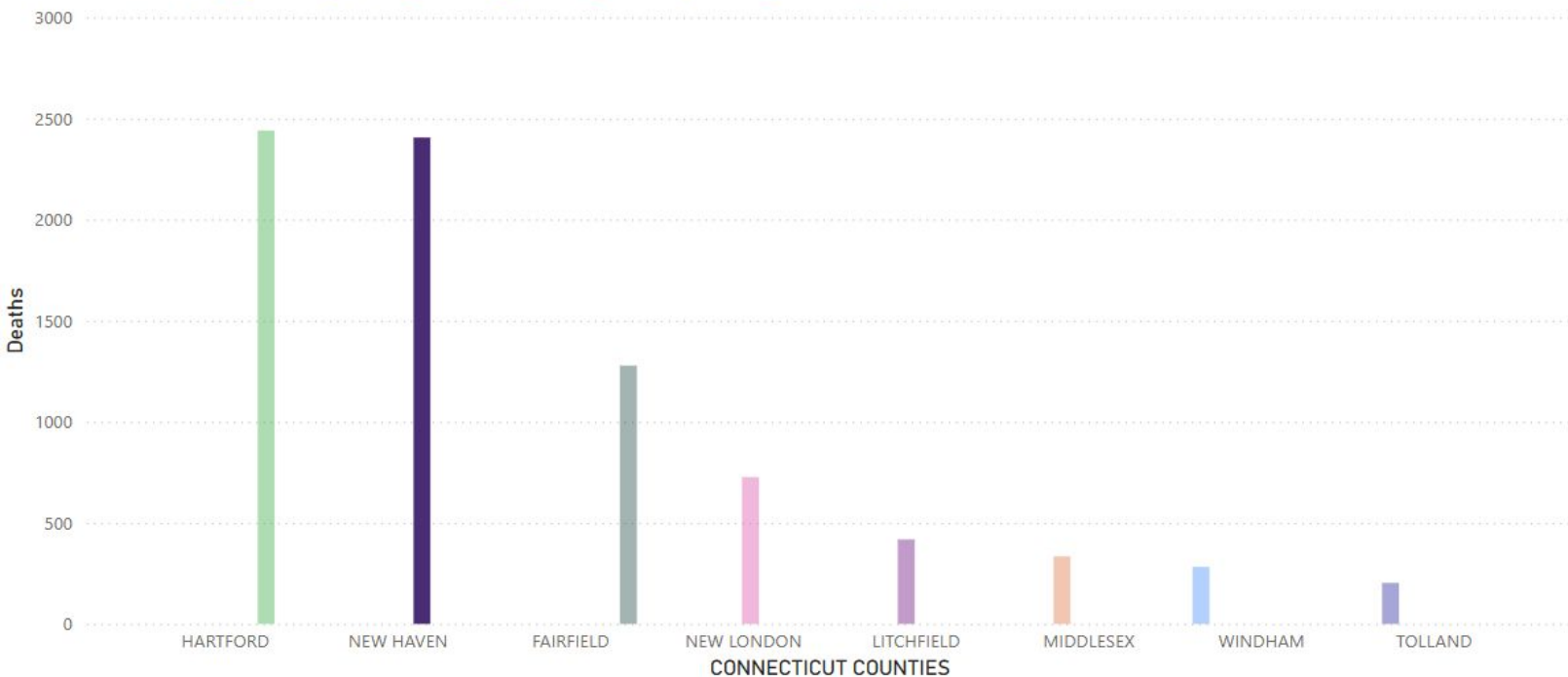


2441  
Deaths

897K  
POPULATION

# Deaths by CONNECTICUT COUNTIES and COUNTY POPULATION

COUNTY POPULATION 119551 147160 164759 185000 268805 863700 896854 959768



2406

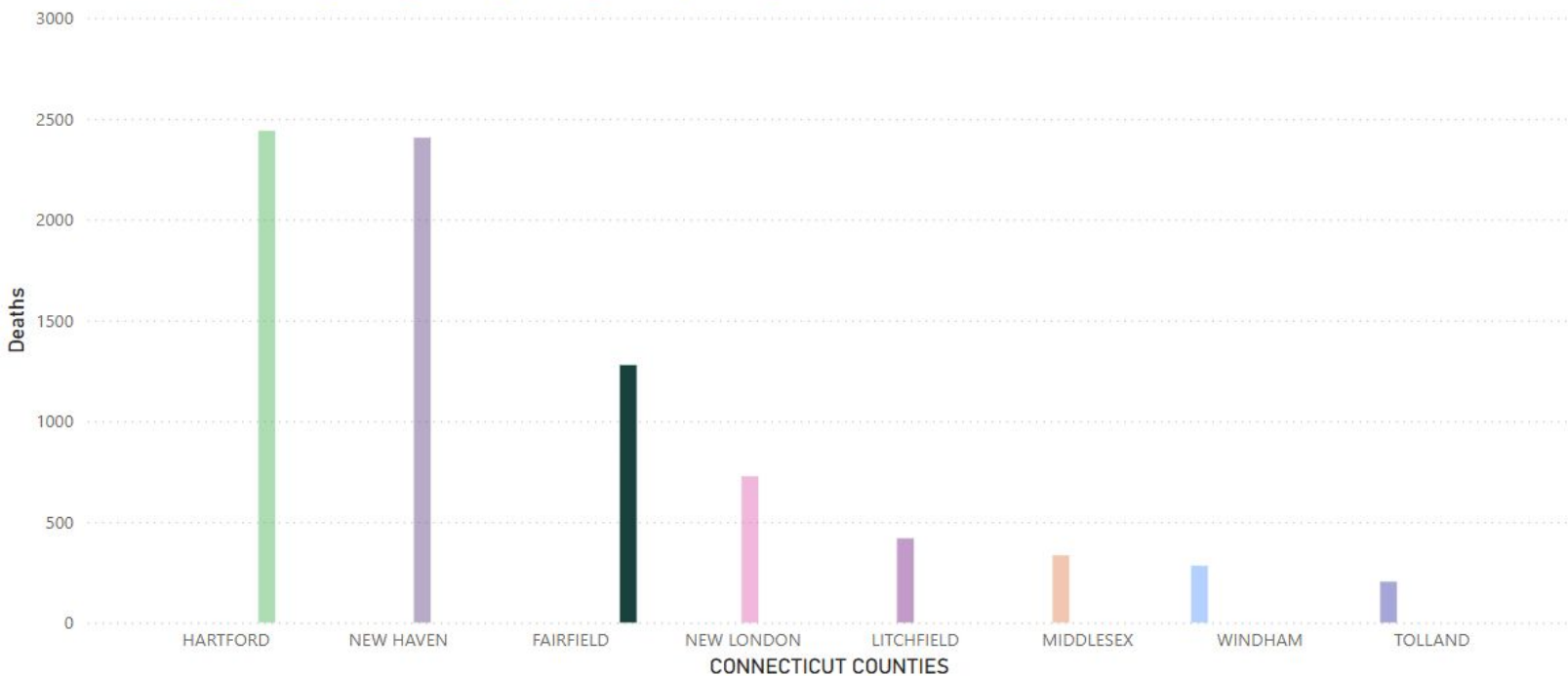
Deaths

864K

POPULATION

# Deaths by CONNECTICUT COUNTIES and COUNTY POPULATION

COUNTY POPULATION ● 119551 ● 147160 ● 164759 ● 185000 ● 268805 ● 863700 ● 896854 ● 959768

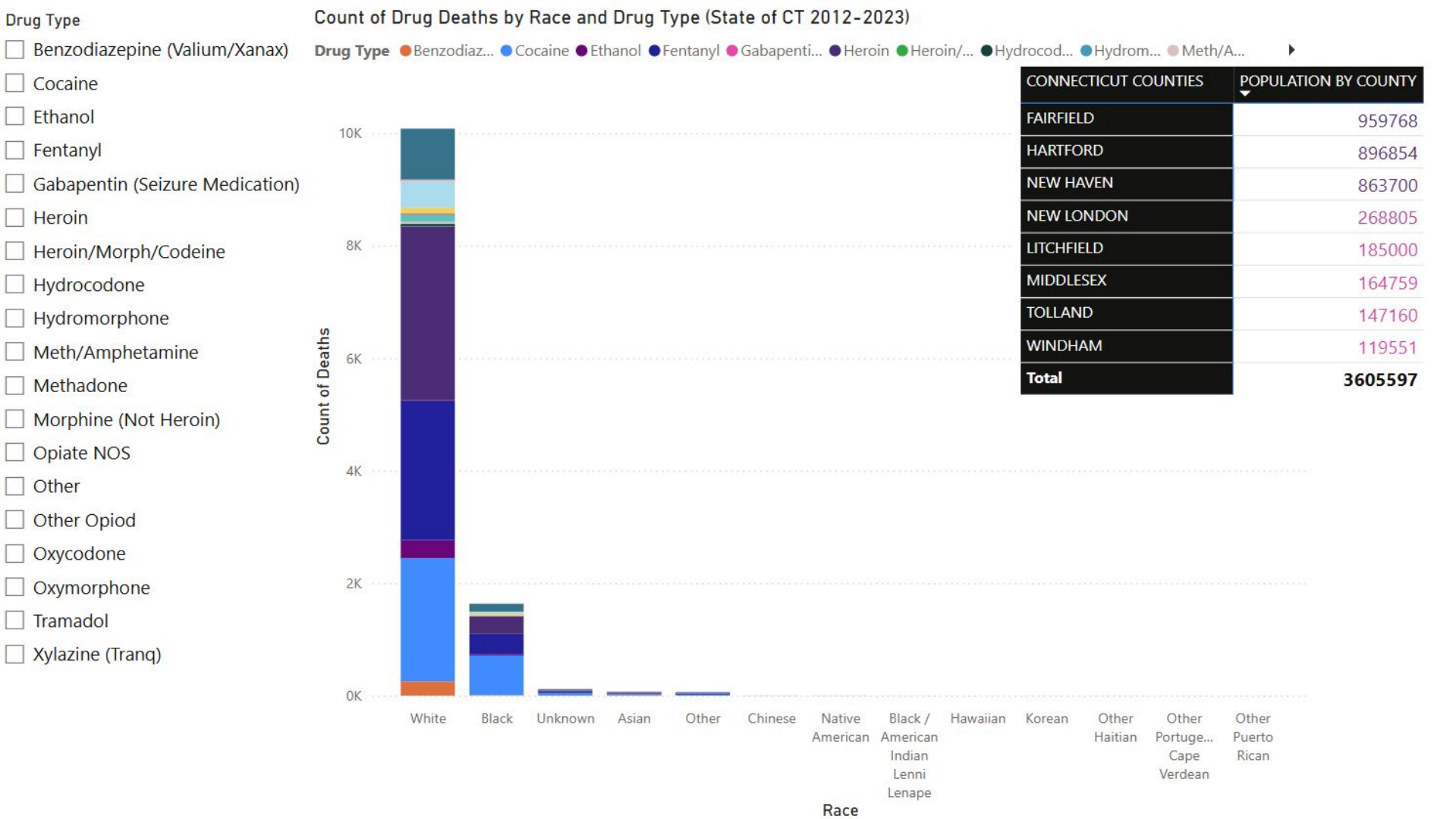


1278

Deaths

960K

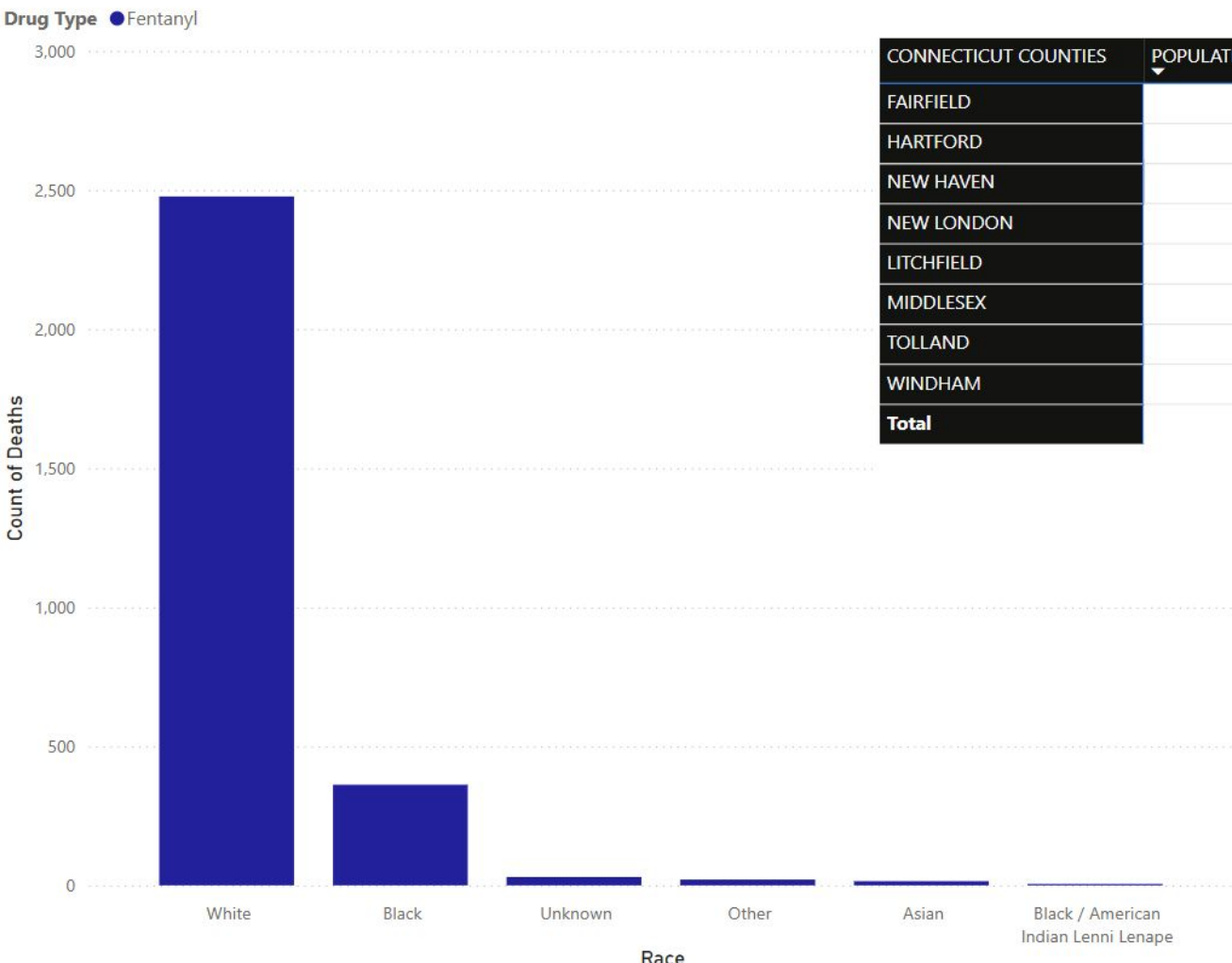
POPULATION



Drug Type

Count of Drug Deaths by Race and Drug Type (State of CT 2012-2023)

- ☐ Benzodiazepine (Valium/Xanax)
- ☐ Cocaine
- ☐ Ethanol
- ☒ Fentanyl
- ☐ Gabapentin (Seizure Medication)
- ☐ Heroin
- ☐ Heroin/Morph/Codeine
- ☐ Hydrocodone
- ☐ Hydromorphone
- ☐ Meth/Amphetamine
- ☐ Methadone
- ☐ Morphine (Not Heroin)
- ☐ Opiate NOS
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Other Opiod
- ☐ Oxycodone
- ☐ Oxymorphone
- ☐ Tramadol
- ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)



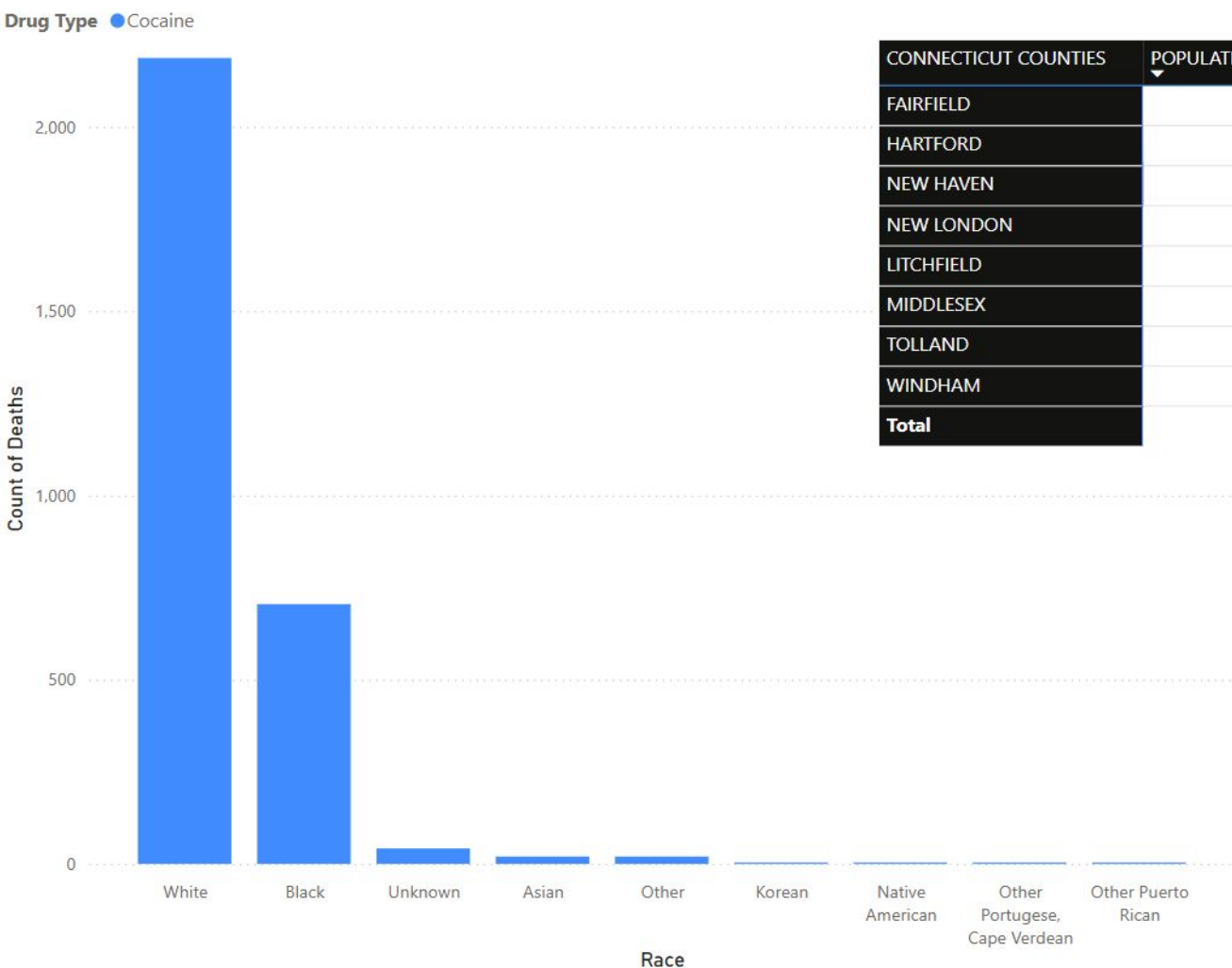
CONNECTICUT COUNTIES	POPULATION BY COUNTY
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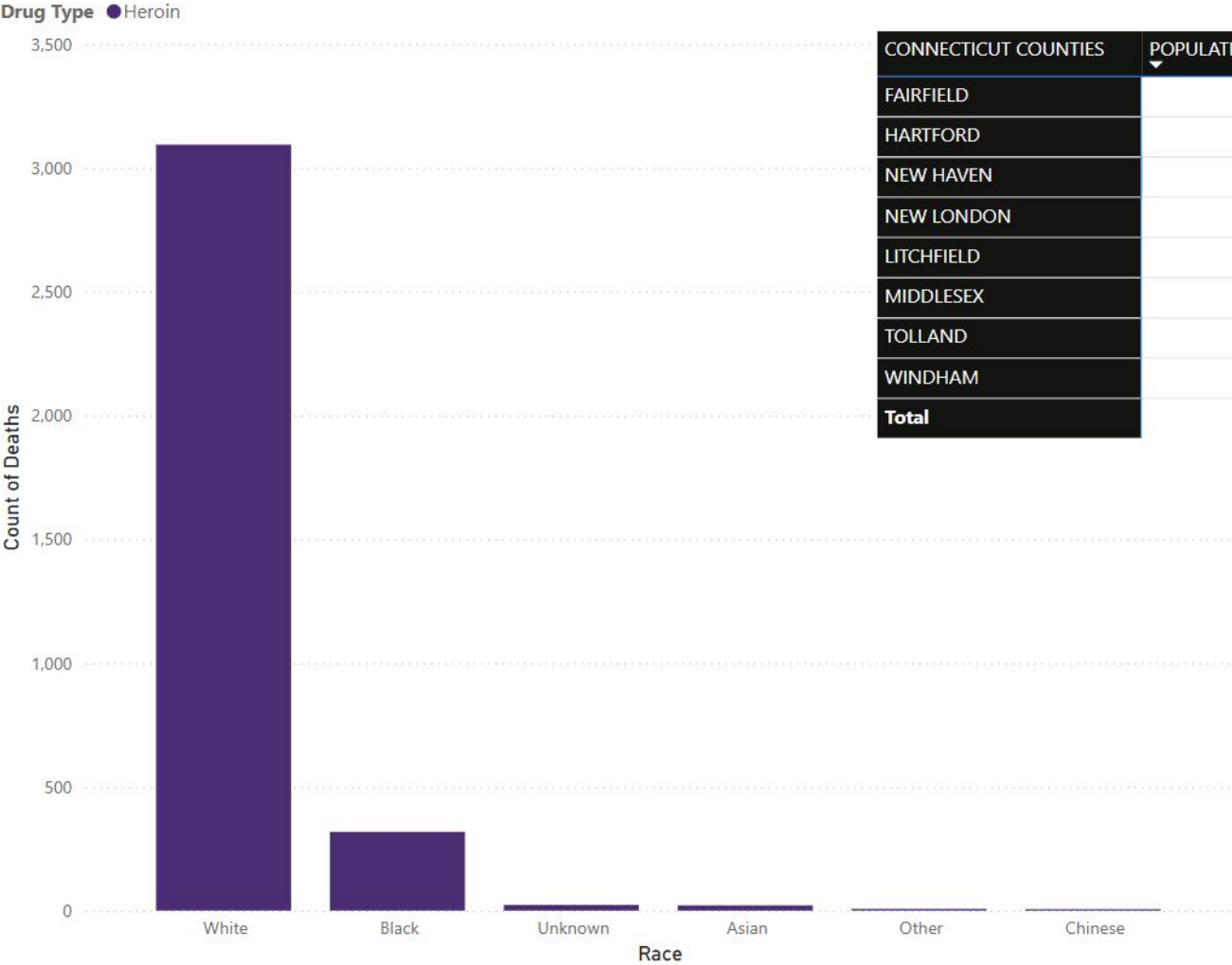
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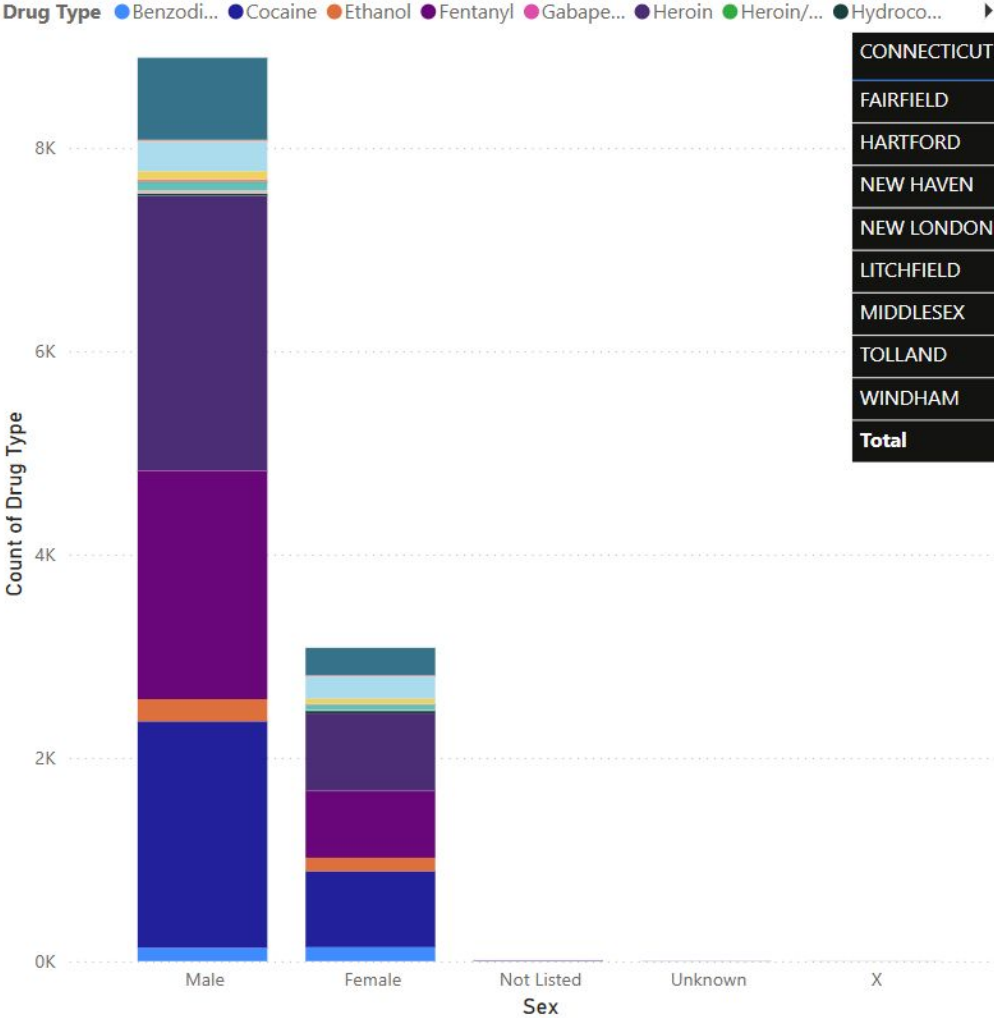
Count of Drug Deaths by Race and Drug Type (State of CT 2012-2023)



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Count of Drug Type by Sex (State of CT 2012-2023)

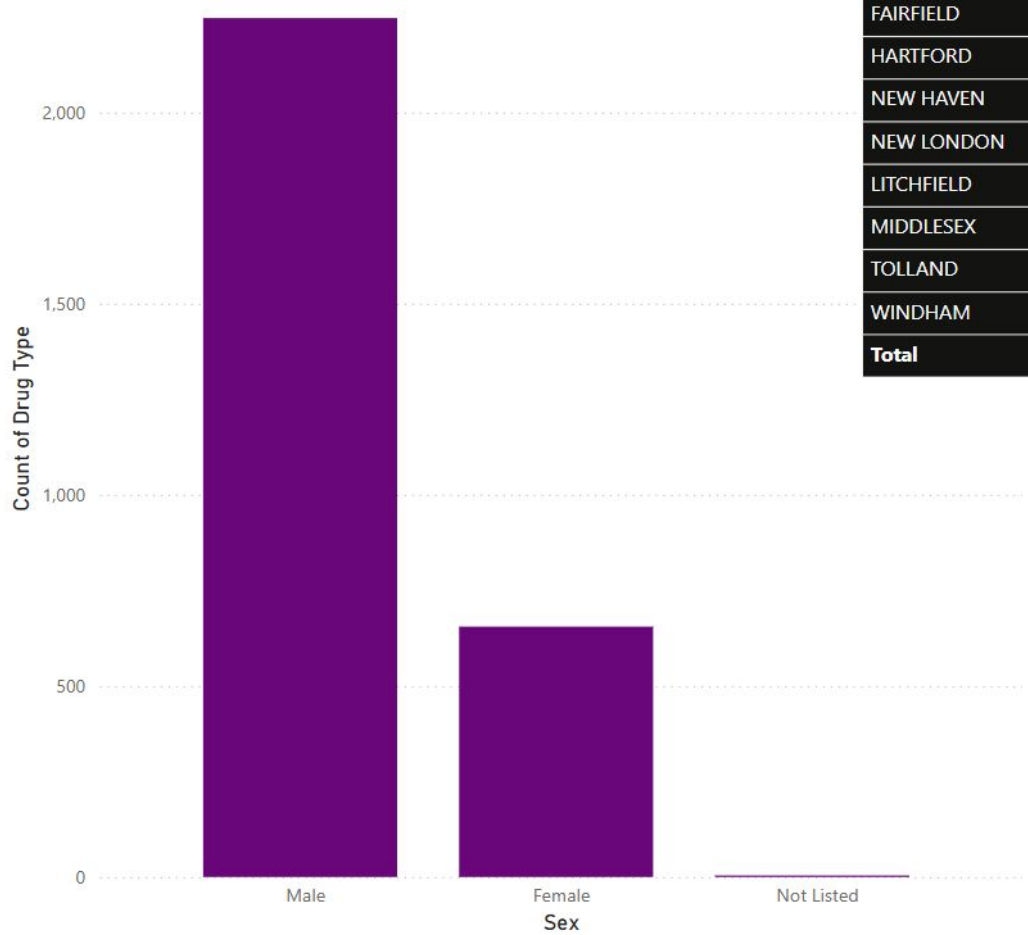


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  - ☐ Xylazine (Tranq)

Count of Drug Type by Sex (State of CT 2012-2023)

Drug Type ● Fentanyl

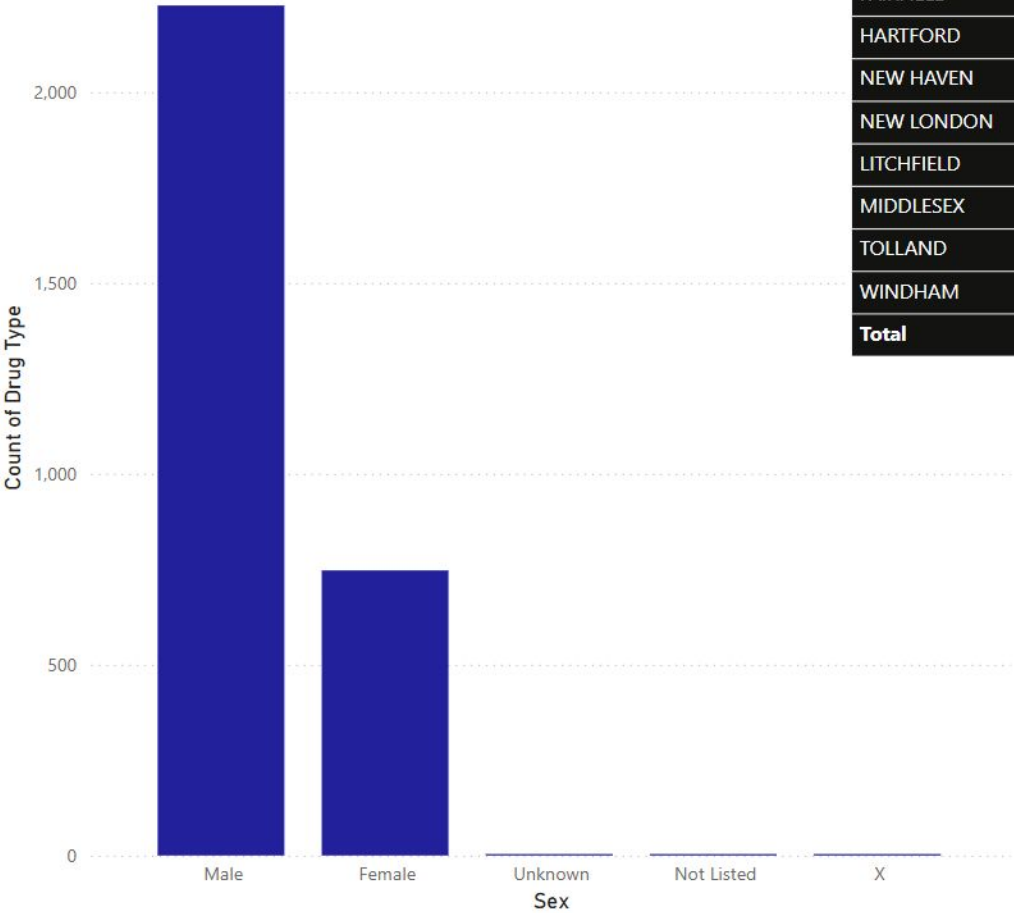


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Count of Drug Type by Sex (State of CT 2012-2023)

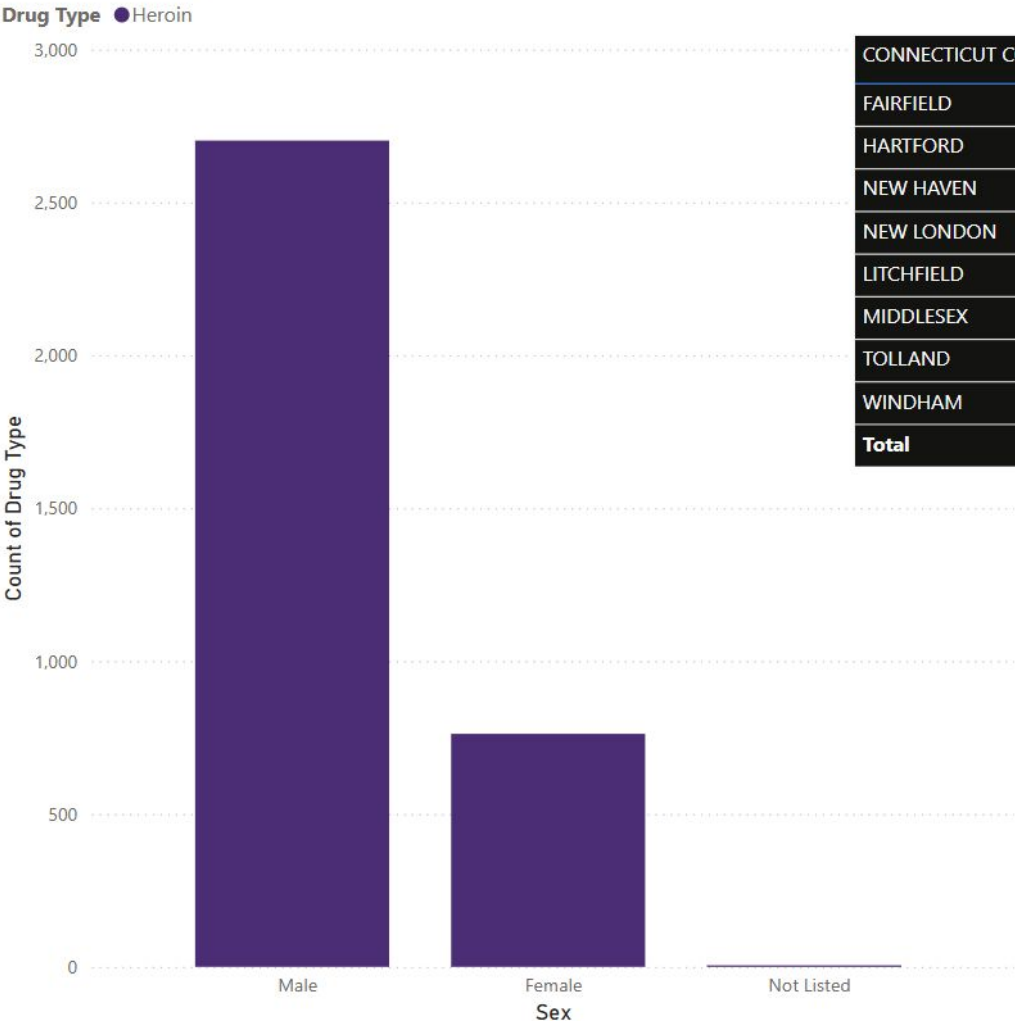
Drug Type ● Cocaine



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Count of Drug Type by Sex (State of CT 2012-2023)



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The degree of skewness varies somewhat between counties. For example, some counties (like New Haven and Hartford, both urban counties) show a more pronounced peak and a more gradual decline to the right, suggesting a more noticeable right skew compared to others.





# Conclusion

In conclusion the most significant portion of drug deaths consistently involved white males and fentanyl overdoses. I observed a shift in the age range most affected. In 2012, the age range most affected was between 36 and 48 years. By 2023, this range had increased to between 48 and 60 years.

Fentanyl was the deadliest drug in Connecticut, accounting for 8,061 deaths between 2012 and 2023. There were a total of 11,969 drug deaths in CT between 2012 and 2023. There was a slight decline in Fentanyl deaths in 2022 and 2023.

A key factor that may have contributed to the decline in fentanyl overdoses in 2022 and 2023 includes:

- Increased access to treatment and harm reduction services (e.g., Narcan distribution) In 2019, a generic version of the nasal spray was approved, but it didn't go on the market until 2021, which would explain the drop in fentanyl drug deaths in 2022 and 2023

Connecticut experienced a dramatic increase in drug-related fatalities from 2012 to 2023. In 2012, there were 315 drug deaths, compared to 1,327 in 2023.

New Haven, CT, an urban county, consistently showed a high concentration of drug-related deaths, with white males between 48 and 60 years, being the most affected group.

These findings underscore the severity and evolving nature of the drug crisis in Connecticut.