

In 2022, Vermont recorded the second most overdose deaths per 100,000 in New England and ranked the 8th highest in drug overdose fatalities per capita nationwide.<sup>1</sup> Public health laboratories are now being called upon to support overdose prevention strategies by providing near real-time drug use data via biosurveillance initiatives.



The Number and Rate per 100,000 of Fatal Overdoses in Vermont <sup>2</sup>

## Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

- The Vermont Department of Health Laboratory is testing remnant urine samples from **non-fatal overdose patients** presenting to Vermont emergency departments.
- We have successfully developed and validated an overdose biosurveillance method that identifies the presence of more than 40 drugs in non-fatal overdose patient specimens – with plans to add 25 more drug compounds over the next few months.
- We aim to enhance current drug overdose prevention policies and programs through understanding local drug use trends and non-fatal overdoses characteristics.

## Vermont Needs Your Help!

- **We need more hospital partners to join our efforts** which will help Vermont more effectively prevent drug overdoses and save lives.
- Partnerships between the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory and local hospitals are key in identifying high burden geographic areas and populations disproportionately affected by the overdose epidemic.
- For more information, contact our Biomonitoring Coordinator:  
Suzy Stanton, MS, at [suzanne.stanton@vermont.gov](mailto:suzanne.stanton@vermont.gov) or 802-338-4714

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug\\_poisoning\\_mortality/drug\\_poisoning.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug_poisoning_mortality/drug_poisoning.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/dsu-monthly-opioid-report.pdf>