

# THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN DELAWARE

## DELAWARE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS



**401**  
deaths in 2018\*



**2<sup>ND</sup> HIGHEST**  
overdose death rate in the nation\*\*



**88%**  
of overdose deaths  
involved opioids\*\*\*\*

## DELAWARE PRESCRIBING RATES



**#1** in the nation for  
high-dose opioids\*\*\*

**#1** in the nation for  
long-acting opioids\*\*\*



**61** OPIOID  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
*are written for*  
**EVERY 100 DELAWARE  
RESIDENTS\*\*\*\***

## NATIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

**2 MILLION**  
**PEOPLE ABUSE**  
**OPIOIDS OR ARE**  
**OPIOID DEPENDENT**



**80%**

of heroin users began opioid use  
with prescription opioids



**25%**

of chronic pain patients treated with  
opioids develop Opioid Use Disorder

A prescription for change in Delaware starts with the new regulations — and with you. Making your patients aware of the risks, monitoring prescription-drug activity and rates, and offering alternatives to opioids to treat and manage chronic pain are just a few of the ways we're beginning to make change possible in Delaware.

\* National Center for Health Statistics,  
National Vital Statistics System

\*\* CDC Wonder

\*\*\* Annual Surveillance Report of Drug-Related  
Risks and Outcomes (2019)

\*\*\*\* NIDA Opioid Summaries by State



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

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