

# OVERDOSE DEATHS

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# OVERDOSE DEATHS IN DELAWARE

- In Delaware, from 2000 to 2019, the drug overdose death rate increased from 6.7 per 100,000 people to 48.4 per 100,000 people (DHSS, 2021).
- Causes:
  - The rise of fentanyl in US drug markets
  - The over-prescription of drugs
  - International cartels
  - Generational addiction
  - Lackluster drug education programs
  - Mental health issues

# OVERDOSE DEATHS

- Consequences
  - Loss of statewide productivity
  - Families with lost loved ones
  - High economic expenditures involving healthcare, policing, etc.
  - Unemployment
  - Financial burden on the healthcare system

# CURRENT POLICIES

- Current policies:
  - Education for symptoms of overdoses (Understanding)
  - The delivery of Narcan (Narcan)
  - The Good Samaritan Law (Legislature)
  - The Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)
  - Hotlines
  - Addiction centers

## SOLUTION #1

- Supervised Injection Sites
  - Supervised injection sites provide:
    - safe environments for those in need to obtain clean injection supplies
    - learn safe injection techniques
    - obtain instant medical attention if necessary.
  - These supervised injection sites would use state-funded grants given to overdose prevention nonprofits.
    - These funds would be used to both build and operate sites 24/7

## SOLUTION #2

- Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
  - Educational training programs for all health professionals relating to PDMPs
  - Funded and executed by the Delaware Division of Professional Regulation (DELPROS).
  - Training classes will be free for all health professionals who attend.
    - Teach how to use and interpret prescription drug monitoring programs
    - Goal - decrease the overprescribing of opioids

## SOLUTION #3

- State-Provided Subsidy
  - Funds the development and building of mental health / drug addiction treatment facilities
    - Mental health problems are linked to drug addiction
  - Access to subsidies would require an application and governmental approval

## WORKS CITED

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