

# THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN DELAWARE

## DELAWARE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS



**345**  
deaths in 2017\*



**6<sup>TH</sup> HIGHEST**  
overdose death rate in the nation\*\*



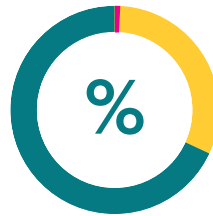
**HIGHER**  
than the national rate

## DELAWARE PRESCRIBING RATES



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

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



**32% OF OPIOID  
PRESCRIPTIONS**  
*are written by*  
**1% OF DELAWARE  
PRESCRIBERS**

## 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.

\* As reported by the Delaware Division of Forensic Sciences, 2017

\*\* CDC Wonder

\*\*\* Annual Surveillance Report of Drug-Related Risks and Outcomes (2017)



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

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