Getting Help

Treatment works, but it can be a lengthy process. Recovery takes at least 90 days, and for many people takes over a year. Relapses are common, so be patient and supportive.

Medication-assisted treatments (Suboxone, buprenorphine, methadone, Naltrexone) are often best; they reduce fatal overdoses by 50-75%.

To find a treatment provider near you, call, 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or visit, www.pa.gov/guides/opioid-epidemic.

Report Drug Activity

- Call our drug tip line at 800-442-8006
- Email us at info@attorneygeneral.gov
- Via anonymous text message. Text “PADRUGS”, followed by your tip, to 847411 (TIP411)
- On our website at www.attorneygeneral.gov

What We Are Doing

1,382 drug dealer arrests in 2018

72% more diversion arrests in 2017 vs. 2016 (ex: doctors, nurses diverting medications for illegal use)

Expanding access to treatment and working with insurance industry to reduce barriers

300,000 drug disposal pouches distributed in 17 counties

Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General

August 2017 - Surrounded by law enforcement and parents who have lost children to overdoses, Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced the investigation of manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids. The investigation involves 41 Attorneys General.
Drug overdose is PA’s #1 ACCIDENTAL KILLER

Addiction touches 1 in 4 PENNSYLVANIANS

4 in 5 heroin users start with prescription opioids

35% of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription

In 2017, 5,456 PENNSYLVANIANS died from heroin and opioid overdoses 15/day

Drug addiction is a DISEASE, not a crime.”
– Josh Shapiro, Attorney General

Health effects of prolonged opioid use:
- Depression
- Liver disease
- Heart disease
- Hepatitis C (through shared needles)
- HIV/AIDS (through shared needles)
- Brain damage
- Death (by overdose)

How are Abused Opioids Obtained?

Opioids are often stolen from someone with a legitimate prescription. Seventy percent of people that illegally use prescription drugs admit getting them from family and friends. The number one source of drugs for teenagers is home medicine cabinets.

Opioids can also be obtained when a person is legally prescribed a drug and then abuses it, prescriptions are forged and altered, or the medications are purchased from a dealer illegally selling prescription drugs.

4 out of 5 heroin users reported they started with legal prescription opioids

If you have unused medications of any type, please dispose of them properly. You can find a takeback box near you at www.attorneygeneral.gov.

Drug effects of prolonged opioid use:
- OxyContin
- Vicodin
- Percocet
- Codeine
- Morphine
- Heroin
- Hydrocodone

Disposing of Drugs

Each year, the OAG helps dispose prescription drugs in drug takebacks.

50 tons destroyed in 2018

4 out of 5 heroin users reported they started with legal prescription opioids

“Prescription opioids are just as ADDICTIVE as heroin.”
– Centers for Disease Control