

## Substance Abuse Facts and Statistics

The rise in deaths from substance abuse has become a national crisis, due in large part to the opioid epidemic. The opioid epidemic is being fueled by the abuse of prescription drugs, heroin, and synthetic opioids. Opioids are broken down into three categories: natural, ex. codeine or morphine; semi-synthetic, ex. heroin or oxycodone; and synthetic, ex. Fentanyl and Methadone.

Consider these facts and statistics:

- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced in a report released in December 2017 that life expectancy for citizens of the United States dropped for the second year in a row due to the opioid epidemic.
- In June 2017, the National Institute of Health reported that 90 Americans overdose on opioids a day.
- CDC Data on drug-induced deaths for 2016:
  - Total deaths attributed to drug overdose: 63,632
  - Deaths involving any opioid: 42,249
  - Deaths involving heroin: 15,469
  - Deaths involving natural and semi-synthetic opioids: 14,487
  - Deaths involving Methadone: 3,373
  - Deaths involving synthetic Opioids other than Methadone: 19,413
- According to the CDC, teen opioid deaths rose in 2015 after years of decline to a level of 3.7 per 100,000 individuals between the ages of 15-19. Most deaths were accidental and were mainly caused by heroin, according to researchers.
- Thirteen Pennsylvanians overdosed a day in 2016, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration; 2016 saw a 37% increase in fatal overdoses from the prior year.
- The Center for Disease Control noted a 20.1% increase in overdose deaths in Pennsylvania between 2014 and 2015.
- The Kaiser Family Foundation reported a 24% increase in opioid overdoses in 2015 in Pennsylvania.
- In Lehigh County, opioid deaths increased from 88 in 2014 to an estimated 190 in 2017.
- The total number of drug-related DUI's processed through the Lehigh County DUI Center in 2016 was 421. In 2017, the total was 577, a 37% increase from the prior year.