Delaware Opioid Overdose Deaths Doubled in Four Years, Adults Being Affected at Stark Level

Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50, and deaths are rising faster than ever, primarily due to opioids. Delaware is paying a heavy death toll from opioid overdose, as seen from the latest data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Delaware opioid overdose deaths doubled from 2012 to 2015, jumping from 82 to 198 (Chart 1). Among three adult age groups, the highest increase is present among adults aged 25-34 years, with the count rising from 21 in 2012 to 43 in 2015 (Chart 2). The number of deaths among adults aged 45-54 years climbed to 33 in 2015, surpassing adults aged 35-44 years. The results indicate age responsive prevention policies may deserve substantial efforts, which could address the needs and concerns among adults in different phases of life. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is committed to helping people who seek treatment for addiction and recovery services. Individuals and families can visit DHSS’ website, www.HelpIsHereDE.com, for detailed information.

![Chart 1. Total Delaware Opioid Overdose Deaths (all ages): 2012 to 2015](chart1.png)

![Chart 2. Opioid Overdose Deaths by Adult Age Groups](chart2.png)