2019 DELAWARE STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE

SUBSTANCE USE AND RELATED ISSUES

CHAPTER 7: Substance-Exposed Infants

prepared for

Director Elizabeth Romero and the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health & The Delaware State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

with funding from the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success Program

Sponsored by Award SP020704 to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Delaware Health and Social Services, from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Please address all inquiries to Laura Rapp, PhD, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Health Studies, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice: lrapp@udel.edu.
Introduction:
The Role of the Delaware State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup and the Purpose of the Epidemiological Profile

All states, including Delaware, have received support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) to establish a Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). Some SEOWs, including Delaware’s, are incorporated as part of a SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) or Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) in the Delaware Health and Social Services has been the recipient of an SPF-SIG grant and, more recently, of a SPF-PFS grant. The SEOW is a group of people and organizations in the state that have and use analytical data concerning drug and alcohol use and abuse and related behaviors and consequences; this information can be used to establish and monitor indicators related to substance abuse prevention. Formerly known as the Delaware Drug and Alcohol Tracking Alliance (DDATA), Delaware’s SEOW mission is to bring data on substance abuse and related behavioral problems to the forefront of the prevention planning process by pursuing the following goals:

- To build monitoring and surveillance systems to identify, analyze, and profile data from state and local sources
- To provide current benchmarks, trends, and patterns of substance abuse consumption and consequences
- To create data-guided products that inform prevention planning and policies
- To train agencies and communities in understanding, using, and presenting data effectively

This report, the Delaware State Epidemiological Profile, was developed by the SEOW to disseminate data for strategic planning, decision-making, and evaluation. Using indicators that are available on an ongoing basis, the report briefly describes Delaware-specific patterns of consumption, context, consequences, and trends of substance use, especially among young people.

Chapter 7 describes the rate of substance-exposed infants in Delaware. To review the complete Delaware Epidemiological Profile, other chapters, or SEOW data products, please visit the UD Center for Drug and Health Studies Delaware Epidemiological Reports page.
Thank you for your participation and commitment to data-driven prevention planning, practice, and evaluation! We are especially grateful for the support from Director Elizabeth Romero and the team at the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health for their guidance and collaboration.

atTAcK Addiction

Christiana Care Health System

Delaware Academy of Medicine

Delaware Afterschool Network

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Delaware Council on Gambling Problems

Delaware Courts - Office of the Child Advocate

Delaware Criminal Justice Information System

Delaware Department of Education

Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families

Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services

Delaware Health and Social Services

Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance

Division of Public Health

Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Delaware Information and Analysis Center

Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization

Delaware Prevention Coalition

Delaware State Police

Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement

Division of Forensic Science
KIDS COUNT in Delaware, University of Delaware Center for Community Research & Service
La Esperanza Community Center
Latin American Community Center
Mental Health Association in Delaware
Nemours Health and Prevention Services
Office of Controlled Substances
  Delaware Division of Professional Regulation
  Delaware Prescription Monitoring Program
Open Door Inc.
Wesley College
West End Neighborhood House
University of Delaware
  Student Health & Wellness Promotion

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Delaware State Epidemiological Profile Overview

Each year, the Center for Drug and Health Studies at the University of Delaware, the facilitator of the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), releases the Delaware State Epidemiological Profile, a project funded under the federal Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success initiative. This report (2019) highlights the most recently available data on substance use among various populations across both Delaware and nationwide. Its information is intended to help decision-makers and stakeholders across the state accomplish goals related to needs assessments, strategic planning, and evaluation.

In its entirety, this report includes the following chapters:

1. State Demographic Background
2. Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes
3. Alcohol
4. Marijuana
5. Opioid Use and Other Trends
6. Other Illegal Drugs
7. Substance-Exposed Infants
8. Gambling
9. Mental Health
10. Persons with Disabilities (new to the report this year)
11. Adverse Childhood Experiences
12. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth
13. Transgender Youth
14. Protective Factors
Chapter 7: Substance-Exposed Infants

National Overview

Infants who are born exposed to opioids and other illicit substances (substance-exposed infants, or SEI) are at increased risk for a host of challenges to healthy development. In addition to physical health risks related to direct substance exposure, continued substance use by the parent or caregiver may likely contribute to an unstable home life for the infant. Substance use is often identified among child abuse and neglect cases within child welfare systems (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014). Such traumas, in turn, are associated with increases in risk behaviors and negative health outcomes throughout the child’s lifespan.

Delaware Overview

Just as the rates of SEI births are increasing throughout the United States, more cases are coming to light in Delaware. In 2017, 450 notifications of prenatally exposed infants were reported to the Delaware Division of Family Services (Delaware Office of the Child Advocate, 2018). The number of SEI notifications increased in 2018 to 612 (State of Delaware Child Death Review Commission [CDRC], 2019). While marijuana is the most common substance among infants who have been exposed to a single substance, opioids are the most common identified substance among cases where the infant is exposed to two or more substances.

The Office of the Child Advocate has been tracking notifications of SEI and examining the characteristics associated with these births. Among the more dramatic findings is that 40% of the mothers who gave birth to prenatally exposed infants reported a history of involvement with the Delaware Division of Family Services as youths themselves. Early intervention and family support are critical to ameliorating negative impacts.

Recent developments at the state level hold promise for more effectively dealing with this issue. In October 2016, Delaware received a Substance-Exposed Infants In-Depth Technical Assistance (SEI-IDTA) grant from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. Governor Carney’s “Action Plan for Delaware,” published in January 2017, included the reduction in number of children born exposed to substances as one of his administration’s primary policy objectives (Transition Team Report, 2017). In Spring 2018, the Delaware General Assembly passed “Aiden’s Law,” which requires healthcare professionals to notify the Division of Family Services of substance-exposed births and to provide for a collaborative, coordinated, and multidisciplinary plan of safe care (POSC) for the infant and their affected family or caregivers. As of August 2018, all six Delaware birthing hospitals had implemented POSCs (CDRC, 2019).
2017 Substance-Exposed Infants
Notifications to Division of Family Services = 450

Notifications by County

- NCC: 118 (26%)
- KC: 224 (50%)
- SC: 108 (24%)

Maternal Race/Ethnicity

- White: 254 (56%)
- Black: 178 (40%)
- Hispanic: 16 (4%)
- Unknown: 2 (0%)

Figure 123: Substance-exposed infants by county and by maternal race/ethnicity, 2017
Source: Delaware, Investigation Coordinator Data, 2017

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Substance Exposed Infants

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In addition to the data sources for the figures and tables in the 2019 report, the following data sources are also cited throughout the narrative:

- America’s Health Rankings
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Delaware Health Tracker
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- PolicyMap
- Prescription Behavior Surveillance System at Brandeis University
- Tobacco21.org
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Census Bureau