Opioids in Delaware

Prescribing Trends

The rate of people in Delaware with an opioid prescription has declined since 2015, decreasing from 204 to 120 people per 1000 residents by 2020.

Painkiller Misuse

After peaking in the mid-2000s, prescription painkiller misuse among Delaware 8th graders is at its lowest point in 2020, with an annual prevalence of 3% according to the Delaware School Survey.

National Comparison

In 2019, Delaware had the second-highest overdose fatality rate of the 50 states and District of Columbia. Only West Virginia ranked higher.

Pain reliever misuse* in past year, by age group (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Misuse Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26+</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescription pain reliever misuse among 18 to 25 year olds is double the rate of misuse of 12 to 17 year olds.

*Misuse is defined in the NSDUH as: "use in any way not directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one's own; use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told; or use in any other way not directed by a doctor."

Source(s):
"Drug Overdose Mortality by State." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.