

**Data for Disparities Impact Statement
November 2016**

The data below show disparities in the misuse and abuse of prescription drug use by youth subpopulations, delineated by demographics, adverse life circumstances, and geography. Also provided is a brief snapshot of the prevalence of the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs by age group. Finally, data are presented from Delaware’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to highlight how prescribing practices varies by age in Delaware and Drug Overdose data.

Youth – Subpopulations

There are youth subpopulations that are more vulnerable to misusing and abusing prescription drugs.

| Table 1. High School Students Current (Past Month) Prescription Drug Use: Stimulants, Sedatives and Painkillers Without a Doctor’s Prescription Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015 | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------------|------------|
| | Total N | Number of current Rx users | Percentage |
| Delaware Average | 2,645 | 173 | 7% |
| LGB (i.e., homosexual, bisexual, unsure) | 318 | 47 | 15% |
| Military (i.e., parent or adult family member in active military) | 307 | 34 | 11% |
| Incarcerated (i.e., parent or adult family member in jail or prison past 12 months) | 740 | 76 | 10% |
| Disability (i.e., physical or learning disabilities, and long-term emotional problems) | 360 | 48 | 13% |

As noted in Table 1, LGB high school students’ past month prevalence of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs is double the Delaware student average (15% vs. 7%, respectively). Compared to the general Delaware student population (7%), students that have an emotional, learning or physical disability (13%), students who have a parent or family member that is incarcerated (10%) or in active military (11%), are at higher risk for the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

The data in Table 2 represents approximately 7% of 8th graders reporting prescription drug abuse in the past year while the number almost doubles to approximately 12% for 11th graders. Similar to the data presented above that there is higher risk for prescription drug use among those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, children of the military, children of the incarcerated, and students with disabilities, the table below shows that children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, and those whose parents lost work and are unable to find a job are also at

higher risk of past year prescription drug use. Interestingly, rates of use by gender and race do not vary greatly.

| Table 2. Past Year Prescription Drug Misuse of 8 th and 11 th Grade students. Data Source: Delaware School Survey, 2016 | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <u>8th grade</u> | <u>Past year misuse of Rx Drugs</u> | <u>11th grade</u> | <u>Past year misuse of Rx Drugs</u> |
| Overall | | | |
| State (n=4548) | 7% | State (n=4320) | 12% |
| Gender | | | |
| Male (n=2164; 49%) | 6% | Male (n=2017; 48%) | 13% |
| Female (n=2283; 51%) | 8% | Female (n=2194; 52%) | 12% |
| Race/Ethnicity¹ | | | |
| Hispanic (n=783; 18%) | 8% | Hispanic (n=730; 17%) | 12% |
| Black (n=797; 20%) | 8% | Black (n=810; 20%) | 12% |
| White (n=2,057, 51%) | 6% | White (n=2,096; 52%) | 12% |
| Native American or Alaskan Native ² (n=35; 1%) | 6% | Native American or Alaskan Native ² (n=24; 1%) | 4% |
| Mixed (n=837, 21%) | 10% | Mixed (n=668; 17%) | 15% |
| Other ³ (n=292, 7%) | 8% | Other ³ (n=397; 10%) | 11% |
| Adverse Experiences | | | |
| Parent lost job and unable to find work (n=584; 13%) | 11% | Parent lost job and unable to find work (n=588; 14%) | 17% |
| Heard/Saw Domestic Violence in the Past Year (n=365; 8%) | 15% | Heard/Saw Domestic Violence in the Past Year (n=321; 7%) | 27% |

Youth - Geography

The Delaware School Survey collects data on the zip codes of the students that take the survey. Data are then [mapped](#) to show the areas difference in misuse and abuse. The below maps use 2016 Delaware School Survey combined 8th and 11th grade data.

¹ For race/ethnicity, if a respondent selected more than one category (even though the question asked for what “best” describes and there was also an option for “mixed”) they were put into the “mixed” category, this decision may have resulted in a higher percentage of respondents that identified as “mixed” than in previous years or if different recoding decisions were made (such as to exclude any respondent that selected more than one category)

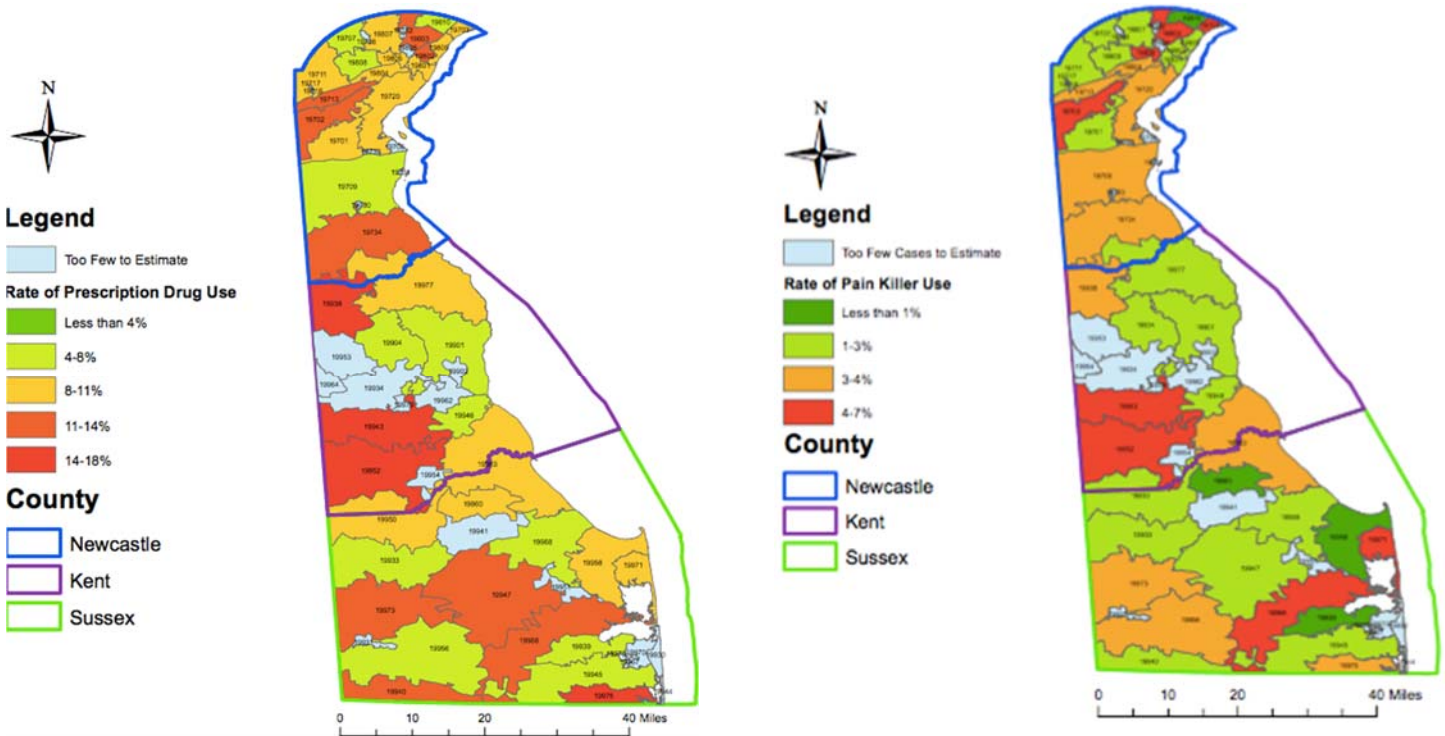
² This cell has less than 30 cases; please interpret with extreme caution.

³ Other also includes those that identify as Asian.

Among 8th and 11th graders, in 2016, the zipcodes with the highest prevalence (between 14-18 percent) of past year prescription drug use (i.e., painkillers, stimulants, and depressants) without a doctor's prescription were mostly located in Kent County: 19938, 19943, and 19952. However, the zipcode 19975 in Sussex County also had a high prevalence of prescription drug use.

The zipcodes with the highest prevalence (between 4-6 percent) of past year prescription painkiller use without a doctor's prescription were 19702, 19805, 19803, 19703, 19943, 19952, 19966, and 19971. While there were more zipcodes in New Castle County with the highest percentages of use, the areas covered by the zipcodes in Sussex and Kent Counties with the highest percentage of prescription painkiller use are larger.

Figure 1 and 2: Past Year Delaware Youth Prescription Drug Misuse/Abuse & Pain Killer Misuse/Abuse Hotspots, DSS 2016.



Although it is possible to denote hotspots with the highest prevalence of misuse within each county, the average prevalence of each county does not vary greatly or deviate greatly from the state's average (Table 3).

| 8th grade | Past year misuse of Rx Drugs | 11th grade | Past year misuse of Rx Drugs |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| State (n=4548) | 7% | State (n=4320) | 12% |
| NC County (n=2942, 64.7%) | 7% | NC County (n=2436, 56.4%) | 13% |
| Kent County (n=578; 12.7%) | 8% | Kent County (n=800, 18.5%) | 12% |
| Sussex County (n=1028; 22.6%) | 8% | Sussex County (n=1084; 25.1%) | 12% |

Prevalence of the Misuse and Abuse of Prescription Drugs by Age

The National Study on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides substance use data by state. Table 4 highlights the prevalence of nonmedical past year pain reliever use by age group. Ages 18-25 report misusing and abusing pain relievers more often than those aged 12-17 or 26 and older.

| Year | Ages 12-17 | Ages 18-25 | Ages 26+ |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2013-2014 | 4.6% | 9.5% | 3.4% |

Delaware Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data (PDMP)

In regards to other demographics, there are prescribing differences based on age and drug type. For example, in Table 5 below, across all age groups, out of all the prescription drugs (i.e., opioid, stimulant, depressants, and other), the drug type with the highest prevalence were opioids.

| | Opioids | | Stimulants | | Depressants | | Other | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Under age 40 | 210,869 | 39.4 | 207,452 | 38.8 | 81,338 | 15.2 | 35,511 | 6.6 |
| Age 40-50 | 186,478 | 53.5 | 31,714 | 9.1 | 77,550 | 22.2 | 53,036 | 15.2 |
| Over age 50 | 441,208 | 52.1 | 32,270 | 3.8 | 230,576 | 27.2 | 142,225 | 16.8 |

⁴ Full Data Source Citation: 2014 Delaware Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Division of Professional Regulation, Office of Controlled Substances, Funded by BJA Harold Rogers Program FY2014 Award #2014-PM-BX-0002

Drug Overdose Deaths in Delaware

| Table 6. Drug Overdose Deaths ⁵ in Delaware 2013-2015 by Selected Demographic Characteristics | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2013-2015 Total | |
| Total | 188 | (29%) | 225 | (35%) | 234 | (36%) | 647 | (100%) |
| Kent | 38 | (20%) | 40 | (18%) | 38 | (16%) | 116 | (18%) |
| New Castle | 103 | (55%) | 127 | (56%) | 137 | (59%) | 367 | (57%) |
| Sussex | 34 | (18%) | 41 | (18%) | 43 | (13%) | 118 | (18%) |
| Other ⁶ | 13 | (7%) | 17 | (8%) | 16 | (7%) | 46 | (7%) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 114 | (61%) | 144 | (64%) | 143 | (61%) | 401 | (62%) |
| Female | 74 | (39%) | 81 | (36%) | 91 | (39%) | 246 | (38%) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| White | 156 | (83%) | 191 | (85%) | 194 | (83%) | 541 | (84%) |
| Black | 27 | (14%) | 26 | (12%) | 30 | (13%) | 83 | (13%) |
| Hispanic | 5 | (3%) | 7 | (3%) | 8 | (3%) | 20 | (3%) |
| Other | 0 | (0%) | 1 | (1%) | 2 | (<1%) | 3 | (<1%) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <40 years old | 81 | (43%) | 101 | (45%) | 113 | (48%) | 295 | (46%) |
| 40-50 years old | 51 | (27%) | 63 | (28%) | 49 | (21%) | 163 | (25%) |
| 51 and older | 56 | (30%) | 61 | (27%) | 71 | (30%) | 188 | (29%) |

⁵ Data provided by the office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Medicine, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, State of Delaware.

⁶ County determined by decedent's home address at time of death. "Other" are those with addresses outside of Delaware.