

THE PHOENIX

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS



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The Start of Summer and the Finish of the State Budget

Thanks to all those who reached out after the first edition of our new newsletter went out. We appreciate your support and your comments, and will work hard to respond to your requests.

June is budget month in Harrisburg and we are very busy responding to requests for information about our department. As you know, Governor Wolf is proposing a unification of the four health and human service agencies, including Aging, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Health and Human Services, to create a new Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This proposal would have to be approved by the General Assembly at the same time as the budget is approved. We are waiting to see the outcomes of both the budget and this unification proposal.

Another legislative issue important to you are the recovery house oversight bills. It is not clear yet whether the bills will include a certification process run through DDAP or an independent licensure run by a third party. We want recovery houses to be regulated, so that those who need these residential services have a way of reviewing them and making educated choices.

Please continue to let us know about the activities you have planned to celebrate National Recovery Month in September. We hope you will join us at a kick-off event in Harrisburg to celebrate the faces of recovery. Please **save the date of Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m.** to attend this event in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg – invite others and reserve buses to bring groups. We have invited Governor Tom Wolf to attend. Details are being finalized, and it’s likely to include additional speakers, events, and vendors and information tables.

Have a safe and happy start to summer!

Jennifer Smith, Acting Secretary

The Phoenix is a monthly newsletter produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. To submit story ideas, comments, or feedback, please contact Carol Gifford, the editor, at caqifford@pa.gov

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DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEM?

1-800-662-HELP



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State News

Naloxone Reversals Climbing

With an increasing number of municipal police forces carrying and using naloxone, the number of overdose reversals continues to climb. In 2016, there were 2,029 opioid overdose reversals with naloxone, including 1,976 by local law enforcement and 53 by the Pennsylvania State Police. That number is part of the total 3,561 overdose reversals since late 2014, when David's Law was passed, providing immunity to local law enforcement who use naloxone. An estimated 74 percent of the state's population now has coverage by local police carrying naloxone, an important first step toward keeping people who overdose alive to give them a chance to enter treatment and begin the road to recovery.

Increasing Need for Naloxone

With the climbing number of overdose deaths, the need to get naloxone in the hands of law enforcement, other first responders, and the families of those suffering with substance use disorders (SUDs).

You may have seen the preliminary numbers of 2016 overdose deaths released recently. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's recently released report, 4,642 people in Pennsylvania died from heroin and opioid overdoses in 2016. The Pennsylvania Coroners Association reported a preliminary figure of 4,812 overdose deaths in 2016, with numbers likely to increase pending toxicology tests. Both numbers represent a 37 percent increase over 2015 deaths.

The presence of fentanyl and carfentanil, two very dangerous synthetic opioids that are often mixed with heroin, accounts for overdoses that happen quickly and may need several doses of naloxone to reverse. According to the

DEA Philadelphia office, fentanyl and fentanyl related substances (analogues) were responsible for 52 percent of the 4,642 deaths across the state in 2016.

Just minute amounts of fentanyl and carfentanil, which is used as an elephant sedative, are deadly. It would take only 2-3 milligrams of fentanyl – the size of a few grains of table salt – to possibly cause death. First responders have been affected by doing something as simple as brushing a speck off a shirt. Police dogs, sniffing for drugs, could also be affected, and die.

It is essential that naloxone is carried by law enforcement officers and first responders to deal with any accidental contacts with fentanyl and carfentanil. Governor Tom Wolf is proposing an additional \$5-10 million for naloxone in next year's budget.

Read more about DDAP Acting Secretary Jennifer Smith's recent comments on the need to adequately provide naloxone for opioid reversals in next year's budget (http://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DDAP_details.aspx?newsid=64).

Naloxone Reversals By Police Officers In Opioid Overdose Events

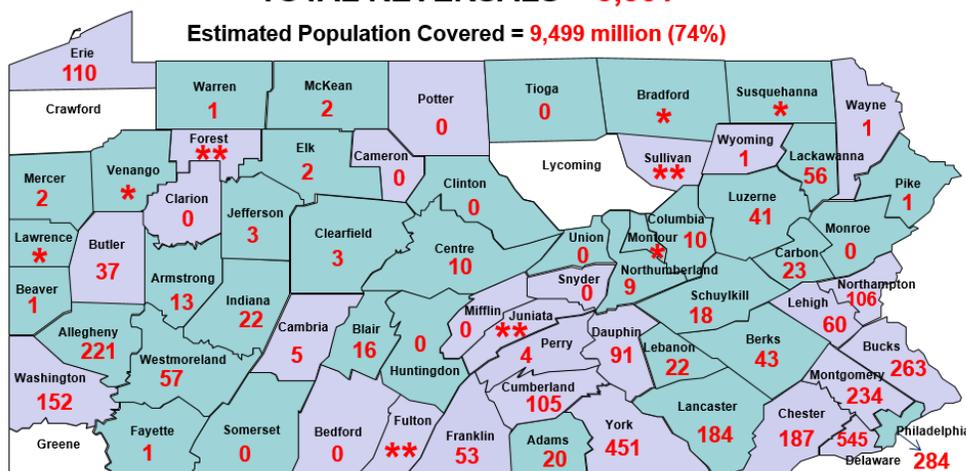
Number of successful overdose reversals per county

■ = Full County Coverage ■ = Partial Coverage or Preparing to Launch

Municipal Police Reversals = 3,474 PA State Police Reversals = 87

TOTAL REVERSALS = 3,561

Estimated Population Covered = 9,499 million (74%)





DDAP News

Pa. Helpline - Call 1-800-662-HELP (4397) is Working

The Pa. Helpline is providing immediate help for those who need treatment for drug and alcohol problems. Since the state's opioid/SUD hotline began in November 2016, it has logged 11,362 calls, including 5,739 of those callers who were referred to a "warmline" connection directly into treatment.

Beginning in June, for the first time in six months more than 50 percent of callers are being connected directly to treatment.

The Pa. Helpline works like this: call the toll-free number, 1-800-662-HELP (4397), 24/7 to be connected to a helpline agent. The helpline agents provide crisis counseling, assess the level of treatment necessary and match callers with a needed resource. Helpline agents stay on the call with both the provider and caller until an appointment is scheduled. Follow-ups may be provided.

There is also a chatline feature, available online (<https://m2.icarol.com/ConsumerRegistration.aspx?org=72331&pid=125&cc=en-US>) and on a smart phone for those who would prefer to type questions rather than talk to someone.

The service is staffed by First Choice Services, a group of experienced human services professionals in West Virginia.

New Compulsive Gambling Chatline Help

Pennsylvania's Council on Compulsive and Problem Gambling has added a 24-hour chatline,



available at: 1-800-522-4700, or online at:

<https://www.pacouncil.com/chatline/>. People who need help with a gambling problem or addiction can find help here including referrals to counseling, support groups, self-exclusion, and online resources.

This service is also available on DDAP's home page, www.ddap.pa.gov, under Get Help Now.

Other help available for compulsive and problem gambling includes:

- A 24-hour hotline for Pennsylvania Gambling Addiction at 1-877-565-2112
- A list of [Gambling Addiction Participating Provider](#)
- Resources about problem gambling at PAProblemGambling.com
- Information on voluntary self-exclusion from gaming activities
 - [Self-Exclusion Request and Instructions](#) (PDF)
 - [Brochure on Self-Exclusion](#) (PDF)

U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

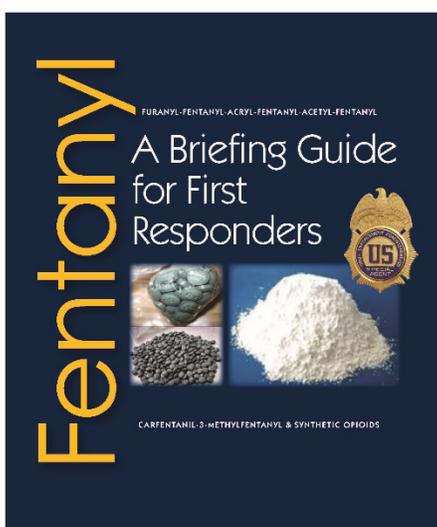


A Briefing Guide for First Responders

An increase in overdoses in Pennsylvania likely means that there is an influx of fentanyl or other synthetic opioids being mixed with heroin. Recently in Tioga, Lycoming, and Clinton Counties there was a cluster of more than 50 overdoses in a 48-hour period.

To help first responders, the Drug Enforcement Administration released a guide this month, [Fentanyl: A Briefing Guide for First Responders](#).

Please share this information.





County News

Thanks Marvin Levine for Your Service to Philadelphia

Congratulations to Marvin Levine, director of the Office of Addiction Services (OAS), in the city of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services, who is scheduled to retire soon. His service to the city was recognized recently when he was presented with a citation from Governor Tom Wolf at the Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Commission 20th Annual Making a Difference Recognition Dinner in Philadelphia.

Levine served as director of the OAS predecessor agency, the Coordinating Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs. Both OAS and its predecessor agency serve as the Single County Authority (SCA) for Philadelphia responsible for the planning, administrative management and monitoring of city-wide prevention, treatment, case management and recovery programs.

In his role, Levine directed the Philadelphia Target Cities Treatment Improvement Project, a federal demonstration program designed to improve treatment programs within the local service system. He has also managed two Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) projects which expanded case management services and linked individuals across addictions and related systems of care. In addition, he has managed grant programs funded by the Administration on Aging, the National Institute of Mental Health and most recently SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

Levine received his bachelor of arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been married 38 years to his wife, Norma, and is the father of two sons, Daniel and Levi, and the grandfather of three.



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FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES



National
Recovery Month
Prevention Works - Treatment is Effective - People Recover
SEPTEMBER 2017

Coming up ...

SAVE THE DATE! Sept. 6 in Harrisburg

The statewide kick-off event for National Recovery Month is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6, in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building in Harrisburg. Governor Tom Wolf and other guests are scheduled to speak.

You are invited to attend – please plan now to organize shared rides and invite all Pennsylvanians who are living in recovery, and all those who are striving for recovery to attend.

Lots of activities are planned and we will provide more notice as they are confirmed.

What activities are you planning? Please contact Carol Gifford at cagifford@pa.gov to share your events.

Faces of Recovery

The theme for this year's national recovery day celebration month in September is **Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities.**

DDAP wants to spread the message that treatment works and the recovery community in the commonwealth includes many people who are there to lend help to those on the road to recovery.

Who are the faces of recovery and what are their stories? We want to people to share their recovery stories. Coming soon ... please check the DDAP home page for information on how to write and submit your recovery story.