

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: State and National Opioid-Involved Deaths

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), data shows that every day, approximately 128 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl continues to be a serious national crisis that affects public health with devastating consequences from increases in opioid misuse and related overdoses, as well as the rising incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during pregnancy.

The increase in injection drug use has also contributed to the spread of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C. As seen throughout the history of medicine, science can be an important part of the solution in resolving such a public health crisis. Additionally, Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) has had devastating social and economic effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement.

In New York, drug overdose deaths involving opioids totaled 2,991 (a rate of 15.1) in 2018—a decline compared to the 2,166 (a rate of 10.8) in 2015.

- Deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone (mainly fentanyl and fentanyl analogs) remained steady with 2,195 (a rate of 11.2) reported in 2018
- Deaths involving heroin or prescription opioids also remained stable with a respective 1,243 (a rate of 6.3) and 998 (a rate of 4.9) deaths in 2018.

In 2018, New York providers wrote 34.0 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons. One of the lowest rates in the country. The average U.S. rate in the same year was 51.4 prescriptions per 100 persons.

In the U.S., there were 67,367 drug overdose deaths reported in 2018, 4.1% fewer deaths than in 2017.

- The age-adjusted rate declined by 4.6% to 20.7 per 100,000 standard population. The decline follows an increasing trend in the rate from 6.1 in 1999 to 21.7 in 2017.
- Opioids were involved in 46,802 (a rate of 14.6) overdose deaths in 2018—nearly 70% of all overdose deaths.
- Deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone (including fentanyl and fentanyl analogs) continued to rise with more than 28,400 (a rate of 9.9) overdose deaths in 2018.
- The number of deaths involving prescription opioids declined to 14,975 (a rate of 4.6) in 2018 and those involving heroin dropped to 14,996 (a rate of 4.7).

In response to the opioid crisis, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to focus its efforts on five major priorities: Improving access to treatment and recovery services; Promoting use of overdose-reversing drugs; Strengthening our understanding of the epidemic through better public health surveillance; Providing support for cutting-edge research on pain and addiction; Advancing better practices for pain management.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is a United States federal-government research institute whose mission is to "lead the Nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction". For more information please visit www.drugabuse.gov.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a component of HHS, is the nation's leading medical research agency helping solve the opioid crisis via discovering new and better ways to prevent opioid misuse, treat opioid use disorders, and manage pain. For more information please visit www.nih.gov.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org.