



## PENNSYLVANIA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

*This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of Pennsylvania.*

### Pennsylvania At-a-Glance:

- Approximately 7 percent of Pennsylvania residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8 percent.
- The rate of drug-induced deaths in Pennsylvania is higher than the national average.
- Heroin is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Pennsylvania.

## Drug Use Trends in Pennsylvania

**Drug Use in Pennsylvania:** The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 6.57 percent of Pennsylvania residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.02 percent. Additionally, 3.11 percent of Pennsylvania residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.58 percent).

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2007–2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8state/Cover.pdf>

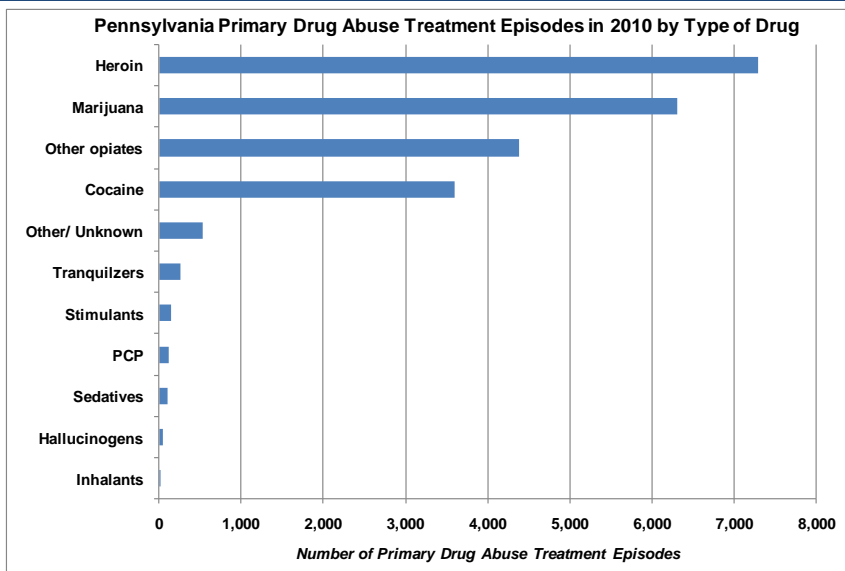
**Drug-Induced Deaths:** As a direct consequence of drug use, 1,812 persons died in Pennsylvania in 2007. This is compared to the number of persons in Pennsylvania who died from motor vehicle accidents (1,604) and firearms (1,325) in the same year. Pennsylvania drug-induced deaths (14.6 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.7 per 100,000).

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 58, Number 19 for 2007: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58\\_19.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_19.pdf)

## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

**Pennsylvania primary treatment admissions:** The graph at right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Pennsylvania in 2010. The data show heroin is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state, followed by marijuana.

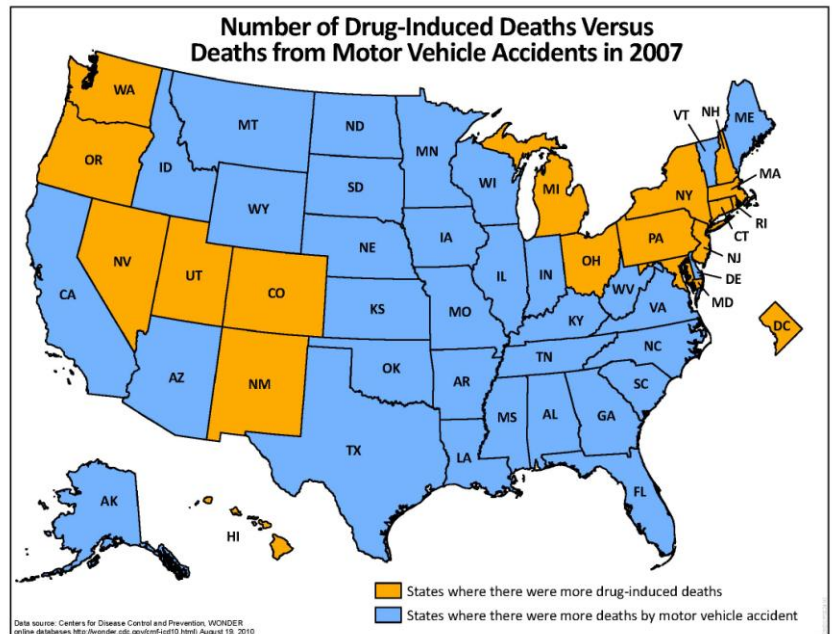
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration : <http://oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm>



## Prescription Drug Abuse

## ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, entitled, **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



### ***State-Level Action:* Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)**

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Thirty-five states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 13 states have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

**Pennsylvania's Prescription Monitoring Program** collects data from approximately 3,000 pharmacies on prescriptions of Schedule II controlled substances. The program, which became operational circa 1973, is managed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. Requests for patient information are limited to law enforcement.

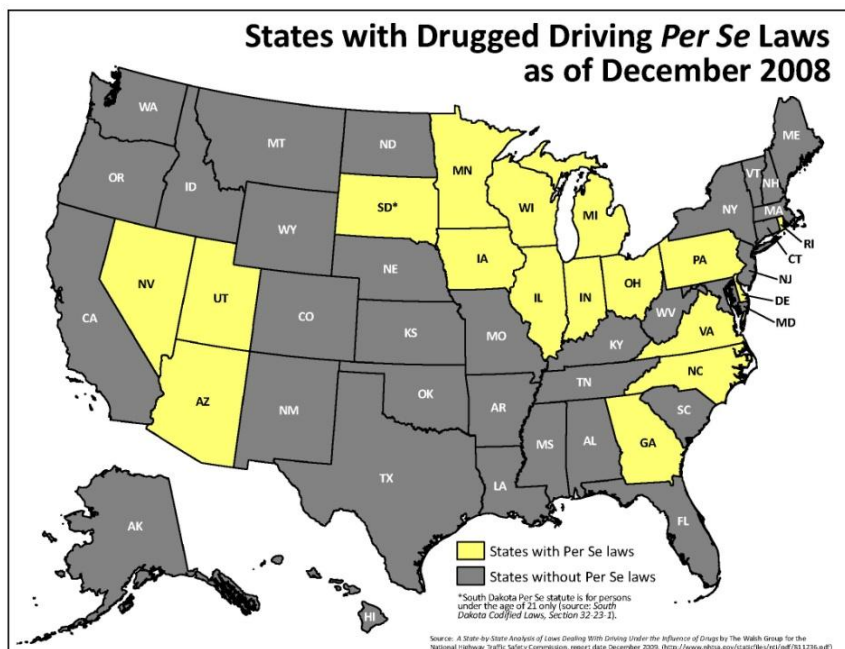
### ***State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs***

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

## Drugged Driving

### ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.



### State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards for impairment that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

Pennsylvania has a *Per Se* standard for drugged driving. Under **Pennsylvania law** (Section 3802), an individual may not drive, operate, or be in actual physical control of the movement of a vehicle if:

- Any amount of a Schedule I, II, or III controlled substance or its metabolite is found in the individual's blood, and if the substance has not been medically prescribed for the individual;
- A person is under the influence of drugs to a degree which impairs his or her ability to drive safely or operate a vehicle; or
- The individual is under the influence of a solvent or noxious substance.

Legal entitlement to use the controlled substance is not a defense.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2009.

## ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

### National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug use and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

## The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2011, the following Pennsylvania coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Bedford County Drug and Alcohol Prevention Partnership
- Building a Better Bensalem Together
- Center County Prevention Coalition
- Central Bucks Drug Free Project
- Chester Youth Collaborative
- Clearfield-Jefferson Drug Free Communities Coalition
- Coatesville Youth Initiative
- Collaborating For Youth
- Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Drug Awareness Prevention Partnership
- Elizabethtown Area CTC
- Lower Makefield, Yardley, Falls and Tullytown (LYFT)- A Community of Promise
- Norristown Area Communities That Care For Youth
- Philadelphia Coalition for Drug-Free Coalitions (PCDFC)
- Tioga County Partnership for Community Health
- Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition
- Upper Marion Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow
- Washington Intervention Network (WIN)
- West Chester Area Communities that Care

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee\\_map.html](http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html)

## ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

### HIDTA Counties in Pennsylvania

**Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA:** Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties.

Major initiatives and projects:

- *State-wide Event Deconfliction via RISSafe:* - In partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Mid Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN), the HIDTA offers Event Deconfliction services to law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- *Domestic Highway Enforcement Project:* - Aimed at drug smuggling corridors identified by the National Drug Intelligence Center and recent police interdictions, the project has effected hundreds of traffic stops leading to arrests for drug, money, and weapon smuggling, and other violations.
- *HEADS-UP Prevention Program:* - with support from ONDCP, this Philadelphia Police Department effort works with children of middle and high school age to heighten their awareness of the consequences of drug abuse and gangs with the use of multi-media presentation.
- *Southwest Border Money Laundering Alliance data sharing:* - As a result of a legal settlement between the State of Arizona and Western Union money services, an agreement was reached to share near-real-time information about currency transfers conducted through Western Union and affiliated companies. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA has partnered with the Arizona HIDTA to access this data, which should result in significant inroads in tracing the flow of illegal proceeds from drug sales in Pennsylvania to drug cartels operating in the Southwest border area.



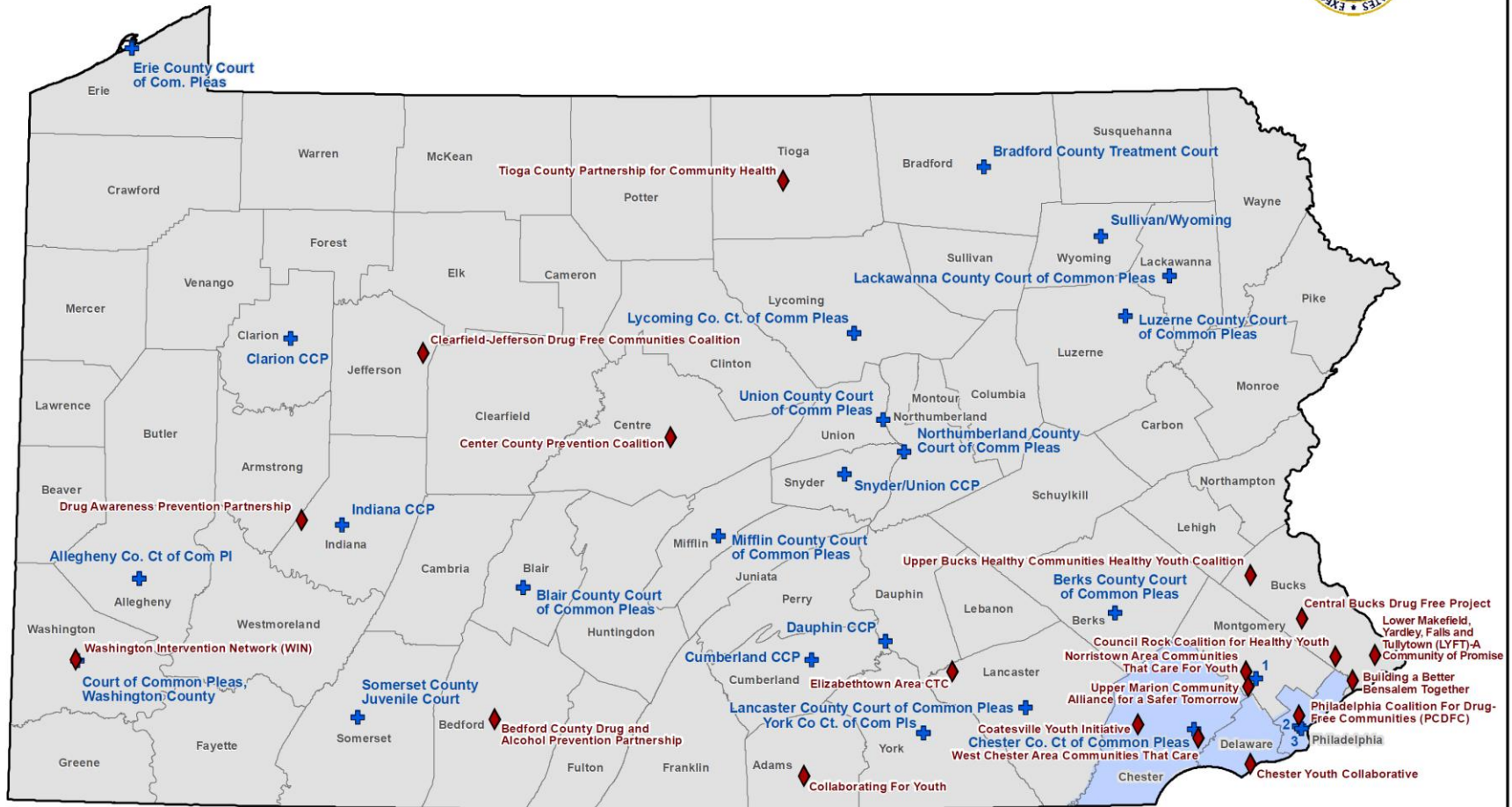
## Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of Pennsylvania

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2010, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2010, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

Federal Grant Awards		2010
<b>Department of Education</b>		
<b>Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_National Programs</b>		<b>2,889,129</b>
Building State And Local Leadership Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use and Violence		162,166
Grants For School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs		302,364
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grants		2,424,599
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>		
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>		<b>16,989,992</b>
Mentoring Children of Prisoners		3,907,672
Promoting Safe and Stable Families		13,082,320
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>		<b>1,324,095</b>
HIV Prevention Activities_Non-Governmental Organization Based		1,324,095
<b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>		<b>8,027,689</b>
Healthy Start Initiative		8,027,689
<b>Immediate Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services</b>		<b>600,000</b>
Family and Community Violence Prevention Program		600,000
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>		<b>81,052,073</b>
Discovery and Applied Research for Technological Innovations to Improve Human Health		16,668,957
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs		64,383,116
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>		<b>80,258,932</b>
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse		59,291,507
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)		2,487,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services_Projects of Regional and National Significance		15,863,224
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services-Access to Recovery		2,617,201
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>		
<b>Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development</b>		<b>8,359,764</b>
Shelter Plus Care		8,359,764
<b>Assistant Secretary for Housing--Federal Housing Commissioner</b>		<b>12,907,256</b>
Shelter Plus Care		12,907,256
<b>Department of Justice</b>		
<b>Office of Justice Programs</b>		<b>65,242,340</b>
Community Capacity Development Office		785,000
Congressionally Recommended Awards		13,952,556
Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program		277,451
Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program		1,199,480
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program		17,889,830
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program		356,400
Gang Resistance Education and Training		50,000
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants		1,473,100
Juvenile Mentoring Program		12,353,583
National Institute of Justice Research Evaluation and Development Project Grants		4,955,874
Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program		11,550
Regional Information Sharing Systems		6,612,560
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners		906,178
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative		2,052,804
Tribal Youth Program		2,042,900
Youth Gang Prevention		323,074
<b>Executive Office of the President</b>		
<b>Office of National Drug Control Policy</b>		<b>3,297,123</b>
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program		3,297,123
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>		<b>2,280,650</b>
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants		2,280,650
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>283,229,043</b>

**Note:** Report as of 11/30/2010. FY 2009 includes additional grant awards under the Recovery Act. The Federal, State and Local Shares of Medicaid and the Federal Medicare Programs are not included above. File updated 06/07/2011.

# Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in Pennsylvania and Drug Court Locations



1-Montgomery County Court of Comm Pleas  
2-Philadelphia Juvenile Treatment Court  
3-Philadelphia Municipal Court

ONDCCP002375

Source: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2011