



# Asking Questions about Drug Overdoses

# Drug Overdoses



## Description:

- In 2017, the US Dept. of Health and Human Services declared the Opioid Crisis as an epidemic and public health emergency due to the skyrocketing number of opioid-related overdoses
- 92,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2020, 75% of which were opioid-related
- Opioid derivative drugs include heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, codeine, OxyCodone, etc.
- Between 2019 and 2020, age-adjusted opioid-related overdose deaths went up 31% !
- Opioids, or opiates, are highly addictive prescription painkillers.

## Potential Research Questions:

- How has PA Governor Tom Wolfe's progressive drug policy affected overdose rates in PA counties?
- How have overdose rates differed in states with progressive treatment-based drug policies and states with punitive, incarceration-focused drug policies?
- Has the development of Narcan and free narcan products curbed opioid deaths?

\*Click on each image to access the link

# Overdose Datasets to Explore



## Opioid Overdose Deaths 1994-2014

- Overdose deaths by State
- Provides state population
- Also provides # of total opioids prescribed per state per year

### How to use:

-Use column 'crude\_rate' to compare state rates of opioid overdoses

-Look at states with high prescription rates since the opioid crisis started with overprescribing



## Drug Induced Deaths 1999-2015

- Drug Induced deaths by State
- Provides state population
- Very similar to dataset on the left

### How to use:

-Use column 'crude\_rate' to compare state rates of drug induced fatalities

\*Click on each image to access the link

# Overdose Datasets to Explore



## PA Drug Overdose Rates 2011-2019

- Dataset gives overdose rates in PA counties
- Data collected from death certificates
- Interesting that Southwestern counties have the highest rates

### How to use:

- Go to Introduction > Download for data
- Alternatively, you can use the [raw death certificate](#) data to gather your own rates

Objective details	
Measure:	Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate per 100,000
Goal:	Less than or equal to 20.7 by 2030
Data years:	2017-2019 for map, 2013-2015 through 2017-2019 for table
Data source:	Pennsylvania Death Certificate, Pennsylvania Department of Health

