

# AUDITING THE OPIOID CRISIS RESPONSE IN PA

“We need to approach the opioid crisis with science as a medical problem. When we do that, we will be able to create a brighter future for thousands of people and be better prepared for any future crisis.” — Auditor General DePasquale

## Nationwide epidemic

Between 1999 and 2014, sales of prescription opioids in the U.S. nearly quadrupled – but there's been no significant change in the amount of pain Americans report.

Comparatively, the U.S. accounts for around 5% of the world's population...and consumes 80% of the global opioid supply.



2013: Ranked 9th in overdose deaths  
2014: Ranked 8th  
2015: Ranked 6th  
with 3,264 deaths

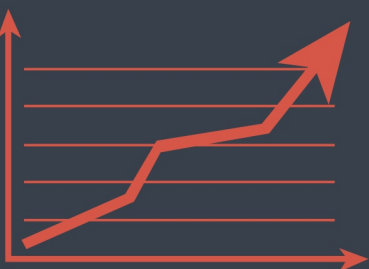
## Closer to home

Pennsylvania has consistently ranked as one of the top 10 states for opioid overdose deaths, rising from 9th to 6th between 2013 and 2015.

Some of the largest increases in drug-related overdose deaths were in rural counties across the commonwealth.

## "Statistically significant"

The CDC listed Pennsylvania's overdose death rate increase as "statistically significant," with a 20.1 percent change from 2014-2015.



## 2016's troubling trend

While 2016 data is still being analyzed, the information available reveals a troubling trend for PA: opioid overdoses increased 37% with 4,642 deaths.

