

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

September 2019

DHSS drug overdose mortality data identifies interaction opportunities

For the first time, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH) has developed a demographic picture of Delawareans who died from drug overdoses. Its new report, [Drug Overdose Mortality Surveillance, Delaware, 2017](#) provides an in-depth look of the individuals who died of drug overdoses in Delaware in 2017 and the types of drugs they used. The report, which came about through the integration of 12 multi-agency datasets, also contains drug overdose mortality trends.

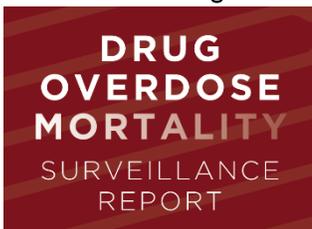
DHSS believes the data within this report will help identify and maximize key touch points for connecting Delawareans with substance use disorder to treatment services. For example, the report includes if, how, and when the decedents interacted with Delaware's health systems, including Emergency Departments, Emergency Medical Services, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the DHSS Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health contractors; and hospital discharges. An expanded analysis includes data on Department of Correction interactions and Medicaid eligibility and claims.

One important result of the data analysis was the identification of top occupational industries of those who died of drug overdoses. Among males, the top

two industries were construction (36 percent) and the install, maintain, and repair industry (9.1 percent, which includes mechanics, HVAC repair, engine repair,

maintenance, and other occupations). The top two occupational industries among females were food service (14.7 percent) and office support (12.8 percent); however, 33 percent were not employed. As a result of this report, DHSS is already working on outreach plans to reach individuals in these identified occupations.

View the report on DPH's website at <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/files/dedrugoverdosemortsurvrpt2017.pdf>.



Breastfeeding resources

The Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) World Breastfeeding Event, sponsored by the Division of Public Health's WIC Program, was held Aug. 1 in Dover. At left, DeSheena McCray of Georgetown holds her 11-month-old daughter, Shanell McCray. Below, representing Christiana Care Health Systems' Offices of Community Health and Health Equity are, from left: Adriana Viveros, Breanna Thomas, Delsy Morales, and Carla Aponte Johnson. Photos by Donna Sharp.



Volunteers needed to help DPH evaluate its emergency response

DPH's Office of Preparedness seeks volunteers to participate in a public health preparedness exercise on September 28, 2019. The 2019 Delaware Medical Countermeasures Distribution/Dispensing Exercise will help the agency evaluate its response capability in the event of a public health emergency.

The exercise will be held at two Delaware Technical Community College sites: the Stanton campus, A-Wing, Main Entrance, 400 Stanton Christiana Road, Newark, DE 19713; and the Terry campus, Education and Technology Building, Del-One Conference Center, 100 Campus Dr., Dover, DE 19904.

Registered volunteers will simulate Delawareans who receive dispensed medication. They will complete forms and process through a line at least five times. Registered volunteers will receive a free lunch.

To register as a volunteer, visit <https://conta.cc/2STTHz1> and register for one or more of these time slots: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., noon to 1:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The entire exercise runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call DPH at 302-223-1720.

In addition to this exercise, DPH is participating in a regional emergency preparedness drill in October.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health