

# **Northumberland County Opioid Community Response Plan**



**Prepared by the  
Northumberland County Opioid Coalition**

*Effective 4/5/2018*

## Introduction

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been experiencing an epidemic of opioid drug abuse and opioid-related overdose deaths. In 2016, more than 4600 Pennsylvanians died as a result of drug abuse and thousands more were affected by addiction, either personally or through loved ones and acquaintances.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the United States has quadrupled since 1999. Health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers in 2012, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills. Eighty percent (80%) of heroin users reported nonmedical use of prescription opioids.

Several key findings listed in a Joint Intelligence Report released July, 2017 by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Philadelphia Division, and the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy, Technical Assistance Center, (*Analysis of Overdose Deaths in Pennsylvania, 2016*), are noted below:

- Pennsylvania coroners reported an increase of 37% more drug-related overdose deaths from 2015 to 2016. In 2016, approximately thirteen (13) people died of a drug-related overdose each day.
- In 2016, 78% of Pennsylvania counties had an overdose death rate higher than the national average. The national average is 16.3 deaths per 100,000 residents. Pennsylvania's average is 36.5 deaths per 100,000.
- Coroners reported Fentanyl and Fentanyl-related substances were the most frequently identified in overdose deaths. Heroin was the second most frequently identified substance, followed by benzodiazepines, cocaine, and prescription opioids.
- In 2016, the largest increase in drug-related overdose deaths occurred in Pennsylvania's rural counties compared to urban counties.
- During 2016, 70% of drug-related overdose decedents were male.
- In 2016, 30% of drug-related overdose deaths occurred in the 25-34 year old age group.
- In the 75+ age group, prescription opioids were the leading cause of drug-related overdose deaths.

Northumberland County has been affected by this epidemic. During 2016, Northumberland ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 67 counties for having the most overdose deaths per 100,000 people in the county. This ranking was a significant increase from 2015 when Northumberland was listed as 41. During 2016, Northumberland’s drug-related overdose death rate was 28.6 per 100,000 residents. Twenty-seven (27) Northumberland County residents died as a result of an overdose during 2016.



## **Programs and Resources**

Northumberland County adheres to the principles of cultural competence, and its agencies and partners deliver services according to these principles. Cultural competence is the understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and similarities within and between groups. It includes a willingness to draw on community-based values, traditions and customs, and a willingness to work with knowledgeable persons from the community to develop prevention strategies. Cultural competence also includes the process of communicating with audiences from diverse geographic, ethnic, racial, cultural, economic, social, and linguistic backgrounds. Becoming culturally competent is a dynamic process that requires cultural knowledge and skill development at all service levels, including policymaking, administration, and practice.

Northumberland County recognizes drug and alcohol-related addiction as a chronic relapsing brain disease. The County has developed and partnered with a network of programs intended to provide a comprehensive array of resources to county residents.

### **❖ *Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Agency***

There are a wide variety of substance and alcohol abuse services available to children and adults in Pennsylvania. Community substance abuse programs are administered through county program offices called Single County Authorities (SCAs.) Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol is Northumberland County's Single County Authority.

Northumberland's SCA is able to link residents with the resources to enhance the process of recovery by lessening the stresses of early recovery and allowing for a deeper and more meaningful aftercare program. All services are confidential.

#### Contact Information:

Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Services  
217 North Center Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2154

❖ **Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Council**

The Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Council meets monthly to draw advice from public members and professionals in the field of drug and alcohol services. Current members of the Advisory Council are:

Martha Milbrand  
Rick Catino  
Dr. John Pagana  
Father Frank Karwacki  
James Gribbon

Leslie Robinson  
Emily Fitzgerald  
Deborah Roughton  
Denise Easton

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Services  
217 North Center Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2154

❖ **Northumberland County Opioid Coalition**

The Northumberland County Opioid Coalition utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to address the opioid epidemic and reduce overdose deaths in the County.

Contact Information:

Dr. Perry Meadows, Chairman  
[pmeadows@geisinger.edu](mailto:pmeadows@geisinger.edu)  
570-271-5192

James Kelley, Vice Chairman  
[james.kelley@norrycopa.net](mailto:james.kelley@norrycopa.net)  
570-648-4149

Maryrose McCarthy, Secretary  
[maryrose.mccarthy@norrycopa.net](mailto:maryrose.mccarthy@norrycopa.net)  
570-495-4437

Dr. John Pagana, Treasurer  
[jppagana@ptd.net](mailto:jppagana@ptd.net)  
570-286-8521

Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way  
<http://www.gsvuw.org/>  
570-988-0993

❖ **Centers of Excellence**

Centers of Excellence help ensure that people with opioid-related substance use disorders stay in treatment to receive follow-up care and are supported within their communities. The Centers coordinate care for people with Medicaid, and treatment is team-based and “whole person” focused, with the explicit goal of integrating behavioral health and primary care.

Contact Information:

Jordan Barbour  
Geisinger Center of Excellence  
100 North Academy Avenue  
Danville, PA 17822  
904-599-3062

❖ ***Student Assistance Programs***

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Student Assistance Program (SAP) utilizes a systematic team approach comprised of professionals from various disciplines within the school districts to include but not be limited to guidance counselors, teachers, principals, and SAP liaisons from community agencies. These selected professionals shall identify barriers to learning, and, in collaboration with families, identify students for assistance to enhance their school success. Further, as representatives of the county drug and alcohol service system, professionally trained SAP liaisons shall provide consultation to teams and families regarding the need for referral to community or school-based services and supports or referral for assessment to determine the need for treatment.

Within Northumberland County, six (6) school districts and Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School System have developed sixteen (16) SAP teams in their respective schools.

Contact Information:

Kerry Davis  
Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Services  
217 North Center Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2154

❖ ***Northumberland County Court System***

Family Treatment Court:

The Northumberland County Family Treatment Court was established to more effectively address the needs of families. These Courts represent collaboration between the Court of Common Pleas, District Attorney, Drug & Alcohol Services, Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability Services, and local treatment providers. This treatment court provides a heightened level of case management by both Children & Youth and Drug & Alcohol coupled with intensive treatment for the participants.

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Children & Youth  
322 North Second Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-988-4237

Behavioral Health Court:

This Program targets the offender who is diagnosed as Axis I, and has a drug/alcohol problem. The participant is assigned a case manager through the mental health system and a drug/alcohol counselor. Additionally, during the twelve (12) month period of participation, the offender receives intensive supervision from the adult probation officer assigned to the Program. The Program has a capacity of twenty (20). Sexual offenders are excluded from participation.

Community Service Program:

The Department administers this Program for offenders required to perform community service as a condition of participation in Treatment Court. The Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court established a community service project in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's "Adopt a Highway" Program. Offenders who commit minor violations of the conditions of supervision can be placed in the Program in lieu of violation proceedings.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court:

This Program targets second and third time DUI offenders. The Program lasts twelve (12) months and offenders have frequent Court contact, receive intensive supervision and counseling while participating. After completing the Program the offender is placed in a general supervision unit for the remainder of the sentence. The Program capacity is thirty-five (35). Sexual offenders are excluded from participation.

Drug Court:

This Program is eighteen (18) months long and targets Level 3 and Level 4 Intermediate Punishment (IP) offenders. Participants receive intensive supervision and treatment and are placed on Electronic Monitoring, in conjunction with intensive drug and alcohol testing. After completing the Program, the offender is placed in a regular supervision unit for the remaining three (3) to four (4) years of the sentence. Sexual offenders are excluded from participation.

Veterans Court:

The mission of the Veterans Court is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism of criminal offenders who are military veterans by connecting them with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and services along with county based services, and to find appropriate dispositions to criminal charges while considering the offender's treatment needs and the seriousness of the offense. Sexual offenders are excluded from participation.

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Services  
217 North Center Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2154

Juvenile Treatment Court – Drug & Alcohol:

The Northumberland County Juvenile Treatment Court – Drug and Alcohol Component's mission is to reduce alcohol and other drug use and delinquent/dependent behavior through evidence based practices, therapeutic interventions and judicial supervision to improve family functioning and community safety consistent with the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

Juvenile Treatment Court – High Risk:

The Northumberland County Juvenile Treatment Court – High Risk Offender Component's mission is to reduce delinquent behavior of those youth who score High Risk on the Youth Level of Service (YLS) by matching services to the youths specific risk factors and needs through evidence based practices, therapeutic interventions and judicial supervision to improve juvenile competency, family functioning and community safety consistent with the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Juvenile Court Services  
322 North Second Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2174

❖ ***PA Get Help Now Initiative***

PA Get Help now is available 24/7 throughout the Commonwealth to help those suffering from addiction find immediate help. The goal is to help an individual find immediate help through one phone call, saving someone in crisis the struggle of making multiple calls.



When an individual calls the hotline requesting help, he/she will talk to a person who can provide assistance, including a screening for emergent care, and a direct “warm transfer” to a treatment provider.

Contact Information:

1-800-662-4357 (HELP)

<https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/>

❖ ***PA Public Health & Addictions Information Clearinghouse***

The Pennsylvania Public Health & Addictions Information Clearinghouse operates as the information clearinghouse and referral center for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. In a statewide effort to promote healthy lifestyles for all Pennsylvanians, the Clearinghouse’s mission is to serve as a resource center and provide a wide range of health-related information.

Contact Information:

<https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/Clearinghouse/>

❖ ***Prescription Drug Monitoring Program***

To help prevent prescription drug abuse and protect the health and safety of our community, Pennsylvania's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PA PDMP) collects information on all filled prescriptions for controlled substances. This information helps health care providers safely prescribe controlled substances and helps patients get the treatment they need.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is integrating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) system into electronic health records and pharmacy systems across the commonwealth. The goal is to minimize any workflow disruption by providing near-instant and seamless access to critical prescription history information to both prescribers and pharmacists.

All health care entities in Pennsylvania legally authorized to prescribe, administer or dispense controlled substances are eligible to apply for integration. This includes ambulatory care units, acute care facilities, emergency care units, physician practices, pharmacies, drug treatment facilities and others.

As of July 7, 2017, the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is sharing data with 11 other states and D.C. Interstate sharing of data helps prescribers and pharmacists get a more complete picture of their patients' controlled

substance prescription histories, regardless of which state they filled their prescription in.

Contact Information:

<http://www.health.pa.gov/>

❖ ***Drug Take-Back Boxes***

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Office of the Attorney General, the National Guard, and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA), spearheaded a greatly-expanded prescription drug take-back box program to greatly reduce the amount of prescription drugs available for potential misuse and abuse.

Through grants, this program has placed 580 take-back boxes across all 67 counties. In 2016, approximately 124,336 pounds of prescription drugs were collected and destroyed. Since its start in January 2014, approximately 227,857 pounds of prescription drugs have been collected and properly destroyed.

There are ten (10) permanent drug take-back locations in Northumberland County:

- Mount Carmel Township Police Department  
300 Laurel Street  
Atlas, PA 17851  
570-339-1653
  
- Coal Township Police Department  
805 West Lynn Street  
Coal Township, PA 17866  
570-644-0333
  
- Ralpho Township Police Department  
206 South Market Street, Suite 4  
Elysburg, PA 17824  
570-672-9892
  
- Milton Police Department  
1 Filbert Street  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-742-8757

- State Police-Troop F / Milton  
50 Lawton Lane  
Milton, PA 17847
- Mount Carmel Borough Police Department  
137 West Fourth Street, Suite 2  
Mount Carmel, PA 17851  
570-339-6020
- Shamokin Police Department  
511 North Franklin Street  
Shamokin, PA 17872  
570-648-5708
- Northumberland County Sheriff's Office  
201 Market Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-988-4155
- State Police-Troop F / Stonington  
2465 SR 61  
Sunbury, PA 17801
- Sunbury Police Department  
440 Market Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-286-4584

### ❖ ***Opioid Prescribing Guidelines***

Under Governor Wolf's leadership, Pennsylvania has taken significant steps to improve doctor prescribing practices. The Department of Health and the Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs convenes the Safe and Effective Prescribing Practices Task Force. The task force membership includes various state agencies, representatives from medical associations, provider advocates and community members. The task force developed and adopted guidelines for ten medical specialties on the safe and effective use of opioids in the treatment of pain.

The prescribing guidelines include:

- Opioids to Treat Chronic Noncancer Pain
- Emergency Department Pain Treatment Guidelines
- Opioids in Dental Practice

- Opioid Dispensing Guidelines
- Obstetrics & Gynecology Pain Treatment
- Geriatric Pain – Opioid Use and Safe Prescribing
- Use of Addiction Treatment Medications in the Treatment of Pregnant Patients with Opioid Use Disorder
- Safe Prescribing Benzodiazepines for Acute Treatment of Anxiety & Insomnia
- Safe Prescribing of Opioids in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- Safe Prescribing of Opioids in Pediatric and Adolescent Populations

Contact Information:

<http://www.health.pa.gov/>

❖ **PA Stop**

PA Stop, coordinated through the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA), is designed to educate Pennsylvanians about the risks of prescription painkiller and heroin use, the relationship between painkiller and heroin use, and what to do when you need help. PA Stop is working to prevent non-medical use of prescription painkillers and, in so doing, to break the connection between heroin and prescription painkillers.

Funded through a generous grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and together with community partners, the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) has developed free materials about opiate addiction for D&A professionals to download and distribute, as well as information and resources for anyone looking for HELP.

Contact Information:

[www.pastop.org](http://www.pastop.org)

❖ **Overdose Free PA**

OverdoseFreePA.org is operated by the Pennsylvania Opioid Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Center (TAC) and is a collaboration between the TAC, Pennsylvania communities, and seven partner organizations. The TAC is based out of the Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy.

The TAC provides support for county coalition and task forces that aim to eliminate overdoses in their communities. We promote a multi-faceted approach, data driven strategies, and an implementation framework developed by director Dr. Janice

Pringle. The TAC partners with counties across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (31 counties and growing).

Contact Information:

[www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu](http://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu)

❖ ***Naloxone***

Naloxone is a medication that can temporarily reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug (prescription pain medication or heroin). When given during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse- a person can't get high or become addicted to it – and it is safe to use. Naloxone does not work to reverse overdose from other types of substances.

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Drug & Alcohol Services  
217 North Center Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-495-2154

[www.getnaloxonenow.org](http://www.getnaloxonenow.org)

Get Naloxone Now is an online resource to train people to respond effectively to an opioid-associated overdose emergency.

❖ ***Drug Free Workplace PA***

Drug Free Workplace PA is a grant funded program that provides tools, resources, and expertise to employers interested in making their businesses drug free at no cost.

Contact Information:

[www.drugfreeworkplacepa.org](http://www.drugfreeworkplacepa.org)

❖ ***Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)***

The SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit – 2016 equips health care providers, communities, and local governments with material to develop practices and policies to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. It addresses issues for health care providers, first responders, treatment providers, and those recovering from opioid overdose.

Contact Information:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/opioid-overdose-prevention-toolkit>

❖ ***Other Resources:***

Community Care Behavioral Health Organization:

This organization manages behavioral health care for Pennsylvania residents receiving Medical Assistance. Community Care Behavioral Health Care provides help with mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and/or alcohol or other drug problems. Community Care can answer questions, help find care providers near you, assist with transportation arrangements, ensure individuals are receiving the right services, and ensure services are covered under Medical Assistance.

Contact Information:

<https://www.ccbh.com/healthchoices/index.php>

Certified Recovery Support Services:

Certified Recovery Support Services are nonclinical peer-driven services assisting individuals and families in their recovery from alcohol or drug problems. Services are flexible and may be provided prior to, during, and after treatment. Recovery support services are provided by peer-specialists who are familiar with their community.

Contact Information:

Gaudenzia (Sunbury)  
39 North Fourth Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-988-1901

<http://www.gaudenzia.org/>

A Community Clinic, Inc:

A Community Clinic, Inc. assists the uninsured population with access to high quality health care through a network of volunteer physicians and services provided by local area hospitals.

Contact Information:

A Community Clinic, Inc.  
344 Market Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-988-1270

<http://www.acommunityclinic.org/>

Northumberland County Assistance Office:

Individuals and their families can seek assistance and a range of services at the County Assistance Office. These services include cash assistance, health care coverage (Medicaid), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help with child care, home heating assistance (LIHEAP), and school meals.

Contact Information:

Northumberland County Assistance Office  
320 Chestnut Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-988-5900

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us>

COMPASS is an online application for residents to apply for services through the Assistance Office.

Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. (CSO):

CSO serves as the Community Action Agency for Northumberland, Columbia, and Montour counties. The organization provides the tools needed to enable people to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. CSO provides care management; housing/rental assistance; financial literacy workshops; workforce development; and assistance with home heating costs, clothing, food, and utility costs.

Contact Information:

Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.  
2 East Arch Street  
Shamokin, PA 17872  
570-644-6575

<http://censop.com/>