Opioids in Delaware

Prescribing Trends
The rate of people in Delaware filling an opioid prescription has declined since 2015, decreasing from 204 to 124 people per 1000 residents by 2021.

High School Misuse
In 2021, 8% of high school students in Delaware reported they had ever taken a prescription pain medicine without a prescription or differently from how a doctor told them to use it.

Perception of Risk
In 2022, more than half (54%) of Delaware 11th graders agreed there is "great risk" from using prescription drugs (including opioids) without a prescription, compared to 41% of 8th graders who felt the same.

Pain reliever misuse* in Delaware, past year, by age group (%)

- 12-17: 2.53%
- 18-25: 4.63%
- 26+: 3.09%

Prescription pain reliever misuse among 18 to 25 year olds is almost double the rate of misuse reported by 12 to 17 year olds.

*Misuse is defined in the NSDUH as: "use in any way not directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one's own; use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told; or use in any other way not directed by a doctor."

This infographic references data reported in the Opioid Module of the 2023 Delaware Epidemiological Profile, which draws upon the following sources: Delaware Prescription Monitoring Program, Delaware School Surveys, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

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