



West Virginia Attorney General's Office

Kids Kick Opioids

West Virginia Attorney General's Youth Opioid Awareness PSA Contest

IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER



What is the problem with opioids?

- Opioids are powerful narcotic prescription painkillers
- Opioids have similar chemical properties and addiction risks as heroin
- Opioids provide temporary relief but do nothing to address the underlying injury
- Opioids can have serious side effects including coma, addiction, overdose and even death

How have opioids affected West Virginia?

- West Virginia has the **third highest** opioid prescribing rate in the country
- West Virginia has **ten** counties on the list of 30 counties with the highest prescription drug overdose deaths in the United States
 - Wyoming County, West Virginia is the **number one** county in the United States for prescription drug overdose deaths
 - McDowell, Boone, and Mingo follow close behind ranking at numbers 2-4 in the nation for prescription drug overdose deaths
- West Virginia has the **highest** drug overdose rate in the United States
 - In 2014 there were 35.5 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 West Virginia residents, which is more than twice the national average of 14.7 per 100,000
- West Virginia had 598 opioid-related fatal overdoses in 2015