



Combating the Opioid Epidemic

What we have done

- Enacted a best-in-the-country medical marijuana law to combat many medical conditions.
 - Among them are chronic pain and other conditions that are typically treated with opioids. According to one study, between 2000 and 2010 opioid-related fatalities and reductions in treatment admissions in states with medical marijuana dispensaries declined by about 20 percent.
- Redesigned the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to reduce doctor-shopping, combat pill mills, and remove non-addictive drugs from the registry.
- Expanded and worked to protect Medicaid – helping over 125,000 people get treatment.
- Established 45 Centers of Excellence treatment programs that will allow nearly 11,000 Pennsylvanians to receive care.
- Expanded the drug-take back program to 700 boxes, destroying 300,000 pounds of drugs.
- Made naloxone available to all Pennsylvanians and provided state money to first responders and law enforcement to gain access to additional supplies.
- Created a childhood education program to instruct students on the dangers of opioids and heroin.
- Created ten sets of prescribing guidelines to assist health care professionals.
- Worked with Pennsylvania’s medical schools to create new curricula on opioids.

- Started a help hotline to connect individuals seeking treatment.
- Limited the number of opioids that can be prescribed to a minor or ER patient.
- Provided \$2 million to expand specialty drug courts.
- Began regulating and certifying recovery houses to ensure patients are receiving appropriate care.
- Introduced legislation that would mandate the reporting of any infant born with an addiction to opioids and make it easier for state officials to use data to understand communities most impacted by the epidemic and better utilize resources and prevention strategies.
- Announced Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) funding for programs and organizations that support addiction education, treatment, and recovery.
- Held hearings throughout the state to better understand how the opioid epidemic is impacting communities, families and individuals who can benefit from treatment and recovery.