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Drug Overdose and Chronic Drug Abuse Deaths on the Rise in New York State

***The rise of heroin, prescription drugs, and synthetic drugs, like Fentanyl,
has driven an aggressive response by state and local governments***

Albany, NY—The Rockefeller Institute of Government has released an analysis of drug overdose and chronic drug abuse deaths in New York State, finding that there was a 71 percent increase in the number of deaths from 2010 to 2015.

The report also found:

- The death rate from drugs in New York grew between 2010 (9.1 deaths per every 100K people) and 2015 (15.2 deaths per every 100K people).
- The overdose and chronic drug abuse death rate was worse in upstate and suburban counties outside of New York City. There was a 45 percent increase in annual drug-related deaths in New York City, compared to an 84 percent increase for counties outside of New York City for which there are complete federal data.
- Certain counties experienced significant increases in drug-related deaths. In Erie County, the drug-related death rate increased 256 percent from 2010 to 2015, in Onondaga County it increased 145 percent, and in Westchester it increased 122 percent.
- Men died of drug overdoses/chronic drug abuse at more than twice the rate than women, and whites died at a higher rate than blacks and Hispanics.

Although there was an increase in drug-related deaths over the past six years, New York fared better than other states. In 2015, New York State ranked 34th in the overall death rate from overdoses and chronic drug abuse.

In response, New York has taken aggressive steps to address the problem. The Rockefeller Institute will provide future analysis of the effectiveness of those steps.

For the full report see: www.rockinst.org/pdf/health_care/2017-04-20-By_numbers_brief_no8.pdf.

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