



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Announces Ongoing Opioid Investigation

BALTIMORE, MD (June 15, 2017) - Attorney General Brian Frosh announced that he is working with a bipartisan coalition of Attorneys General from across the country in an ongoing investigation of the marketing and sale of opioids.

“Opioids are highly addictive and extremely dangerous, altering the one’s brain, even after just one use,” said Attorney General Frosh. “The opioid epidemic has been devastating to communities and families across Maryland. Addiction to opiates is dangerous and it’s our goal to combat the opioid epidemic from all angles. My office, in coordination with Attorneys General nationwide, is looking into whether unlawful marketing practices have played a role in contributing to the epidemic.”

According to a [report](#) by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 89 percent of all intoxication deaths that occurred in Maryland in 2016 were opioid-related. Opioid-related deaths include deaths related to heroin, prescription opioids, and non-pharmaceutical fentanyl. In Maryland, the number of opioid-related deaths increased by 70 percent between 2015 and 2016, and has nearly quadrupled since 2010. The number of prescription-opioid related deaths increased by 19 percent (from 351 to 418); many of these deaths occurred in combination with heroin and/or fentanyl.

Nationwide, opioids—prescription and illicit—are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. Opioids were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015, and opioid overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

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