

MEDIA ALERT

On May 5, 2020, the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) will release county-specific rates of hospitalization for four opioid-related conditions for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). These results will serve as a baseline for the continued study of opioids during and after the COVID-19 crisis.

“These hospitalizations occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely we will see increases again in future reports which will include the pandemic time period,” said Joe Martin, PHC4’s Executive Director.

The COVID-19 pandemic could be particularly stressful for those struggling with opioid use disorders. These individuals, who often have other chronic health or socioeconomic issues, are at higher risk for developing the severe respiratory symptoms associated with COVID-19. Further, the stress brought about by this pandemic could affect treatment and recovery as well as increase the risk of relapse.

County-specific rates will be available for:

- Opioid Overdose
- Opioid Use Disorder
- Maternal Hospital Stays involving Opioids
- Newborns with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Statewide trends are also reported, highlighting a 30.9% decrease in the number of hospitalizations for opioid overdose between FY 2017 and FY 2019.

The report will be available at www.phc4.org on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Please contact Joe Martin at jmartin@phc4.org if you have any questions.