



March 18, 2022

Stanley E. Saylor, Majority Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202094
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2094

Matthew Bradford, Minority Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
512E Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

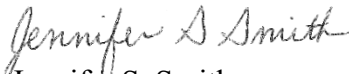
Dear Chairman Saylor and Chairman Bradford,

During the department's budget hearing on March 3rd, I offered to provide members with more data on Pennsylvania's overdose death numbers. The Department of Health's (DOH) [Drug Overdose Surveillance Interactive Data Report](#) reports on demographic trends including age, sex, ethnicity, and race; enhanced data on substances involved in the incidents; and county breakdowns. This data is updated regularly and vetted thoroughly.

As noted on the dashboard, finalized records are often delayed at a minimum 3-6 months into the next year, as data is submitted by coroners. Currently, 2020 numbers are still being reviewed and finalized, and with that, we don't foresee 2021 data being complete until at least the end of 2022, early 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before the committee and to provide this additional information to members.

Sincerely,


Jennifer S. Smith
Secretary