

THE SCOPE OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN ARIZONA

The opioid epidemic does not discriminate based on age, race, gender, or socio-economic status. It affects everyone.

The chemical composition of prescription opioids makes them highly addictive.

An Opioid Overdose State of Emergency was declared in Arizona, after **an average of two Arizonans per day died from opioid overdoses** in 2016.



Mohave and Gila counties have been identified as the hardest-hit Arizona regions in terms of opioid overprescribing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2018, 94.1 prescriptions were administered in Mohave County per 100 residents with Gila County close behind at 73.7 per 100 residents. (CDC.gov, 2018)

RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE:

Arizona Attorney General's Office Website

- www.azag.gov/outreach/webinars
- Attend free webinars about the Opioid Crisis and Consumer Protection.

AZ Department of Health Services

- www.azdhs.gov "Opioid Epidemic"
- Real time data, training, community resources, etc.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- www.samhsa.gov
- 1-800-662-4957
- Provides education, prevention, and treatment information

Arizona Opioid Assistance and Referral Line

- www.azdhs.gov/oarline
- 1-888-688-4222
- Provides information on local treatment facilities.

Southwest Behavioral & Health Services Bullhead City

- www.sbhservices.org/opiate-treatment
- 928-763-7111
- Service available in Mohave County

Community Bridges Payson, AZ

- 877-931-9142
- communitybridgesaz.org
- Service available in Gila County

CONTACT US:

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THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

THE OFFICE OF ARIZONA
ATTORNEY GENERAL
MARK BRNOVICH



DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR PRACTICES



Some pharmaceutical companies used the following tactics to boost sales and profits:

Paying Doctors

- to prescribe drugs at higher volume and strength than necessary.

Deceptive Marketing

- downplayed the dangers of addiction.
- led doctors to prescribe more potent or higher volumes of opioid medications, when non-addictive pain medications were available.

These tactics left many consumers with an excess of opioid medications. A surplus in opioids can lead to prescription drug abuse or even to deadly overdose. Many opioid overdoses occur in personal residences.



FRAUD IN ARIZONA

Insys Therapeutics 2017

The Attorney General's Office sued Insys Therapeutics and doctors alleging that Insys paid doctors to prescribe more doses of its sublingual fentanyl spray, at higher strengths than necessary, in order to boost profits. As a result of the lawsuit, several Arizona doctors agreed to give up all of the money they took from Insys. The Insys litigation also has resulted in settlements with others.

Purdue Pharma 2018

In 2018, the Attorney General's Office filed litigation against Purdue Pharma, alleging that the company violated a 2007 consent judgement with the State of Arizona by continuing to downplay the dangers of addiction in its marketing of OxyContin.

McKinsey Settlement

In February 2021, Attorney General Brnovich announced a \$573 million multi-state settlement with McKinsey & Company, resolving investigations into the company's role in working for opioid companies, helping those companies promote their drugs, and profiting from the opioid epidemic. The settlement provides over \$13 million over five years for Arizona, with all funds devoted to addressing the opioid epidemic.

Distributor/Manufacturer Settlement Proposal

State attorneys general have reached two proposed nationwide settlements that would resolve opioid litigation brought by state and local governments against the three largest drug distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen, and one manufacturer, Johnson & Johnson. If finalized, Arizona would receive up to \$549 million from the settlement and the money would be used for opioid treatment, prevention, and education. Arizona's share of settlement funds will be distributed among state and local governments pursuant to an agreement that the Arizona Attorney General and more than 100 local governments have reached.

YOUR CONSUMER RIGHTS

Consumer fraud, as defined by Arizona law, includes any deceptive or unfair act or practice, false statement, false pretense, false promise or misrepresentation made by a seller or advertiser of merchandise.

If you believe you have been a victim of consumer fraud, you may file a consumer complaint with the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

To complete a **Consumer Complaint Form** please go to the AZAGO website www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer and submit a complaint.

If you need a complaint form mailed to you, call:

Phoenix: (602) 542-5763

Tucson: (520) 628-6698

Call Toll Free: (800) 354-8431

