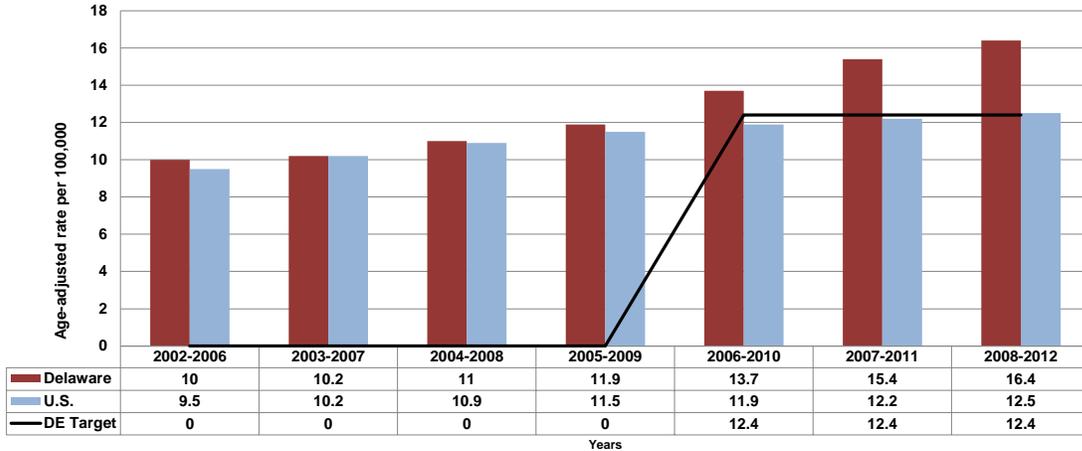




### Death Caused by Drug Overdose Top Level Outcome Measure



**Interpretation**

The graph presents death rates per 100,000 population caused by drug overdose for the years 2002-2012, illustrating an upward trend in the rate of deaths during the past decade. The Delaware rate exceeds the U.S rate for the majority of this time period. A marked increase in the overdose death rate occurred between 2002-2006 (10.0 deaths per 100,000) and 2007-2011 (15.4 deaths per 100,000) with the upswing occurring in 2006-2010 time period. The rate continues to increase.

**Addressing the health issue**

Delaware provides public drug and alcohol treatment services for adults, primarily through contracts with private agencies. Services include: screening and evaluation; outpatient counseling; opioid treatment, including methadone maintenance; continuous treatment team programs for individuals with long-term, disabling alcohol and drug dependence disorders; less intensive case management services offered through the outpatient counseling agencies; detoxification; and residential services. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services also provides outreach materials and resources for health care providers and for people struggling with addiction through websites, [HelpisHereDe.com](http://HelpisHereDe.com), [DrinkingHurtsThinking.com](http://DrinkingHurtsThinking.com), and [AmIABingeDrinker.com](http://AmIABingeDrinker.com).

<sup>1</sup> Deaths caused by drug overdose= the number of deaths from poisonings by and exposure to drugs, regardless of intent per 100,000 population.  
 Note: Drug overdoses exclude deaths from adverse events caused by drugs in therapeutic use, death indirectly related to drug use, and new born deaths related to a mother's drug use.  
<sup>2</sup> Rates are age-adjusted to the US Census 2000 standard population.  
<sup>3</sup> DE reports five-year moving averages to increase the stability of estimates resulting from a small number of annual deaths related to drug overdose.  
<sup>4</sup> Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center.; NCHS Data Brief, No. 81, December 2011; Health Indicators Warehouse.  
<sup>5</sup> The Delaware target was established in DPH's Strategic Plan to be met by 2020 as a reduction to the current U.S. rate.