

## Week 8 Discussion: Health Policy and Ethics

### *Maryland Department of Health [MDH], 2017*

1. Go to your state government web page.
2. Find one health policy enacted within the last two (2) years at the state level. Write down the bill number and the sponsors of the bill and include this information in your initial post.
3. Write a minimum of a one-page critical analysis summary of the policy. (250 words double spaced, APA). Your summary should integrate the concepts of advocacy, population health, and the ANA ethical statements ("The Code"), and course readings, to include a minimum of one course scholarly article (provided within the course). Be sure to speak to the role of advocacy and population health.
4. Respond to a minimum of two (2) peers/faculty posts with one (1) paragraph of 4-5 sentences integrating one scholarly source utilized in an in-text citation/APA.

### **Answer:**

In Maryland, 88% of all intoxication deaths that occurred in 2017 were opioid-related (Maryland Department of Health [MDH], 2017). Opioid-related deaths include deaths related to heroin, prescription opioids, and non-pharmaceutical fentanyl (MDH, 2017). The majority of fatal drug overdoses are related to prescription drug abuse, most frequently opioid analgesics (Gabay, 2015). Maryland has been experiencing large increases in the number of fentanyl-related deaths and are responsible for the overall rise in opioid-related deaths (MDH, 2017). The number of fentanyl-related deaths that occurred between 2016 and 2017 increased by 42% (MDH, 2017). In response to the opioid crisis, the MDH (2017) and the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration (MBHA) (2016) has implemented a mandate known as the Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (MPDMP). This program supports healthcare providers as well as patients in safe and effective prescription drug usage (MDH, 2017). It is a free and electronic program designed for pharmacists and prescribers to collect and securely store information on controlled substances that are dispensed to patients in Maryland (MBHA, 2016). PDMP's are designed to collect, monitor, and analyze electronically transmitted prescribing and dispensing data submitted by prescriber and pharmacist (Gabay, 2015). One of the goals of this data collection and analysis is to help ensure public health and safety by investigating illegal or