

Ivey creates council to tackle opioid addiction

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(Photo: Albert Cesare / Advertiser)

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has set up a council to study opioid addiction. The Governor's office says in a statement that on Tuesday, Ivey signed an executive order to create the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. The order changes the name of the Opioid and Addiction Council, established by former Gov. Robert Bentley, and adds education and prevention to its mandate.

More: [Opioid use in Alabama: 'Addiction is preventable'](http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2016/11/addiction-preventable/93894426/) (/story/news/2016/11/addiction-preventable/93894426/)

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of Alabama overdose deaths in 2015, 282 were caused by opioids. The data also shows that Alabama doctors in 2012 wrote 1.43 prescriptions for pain relievers per person — a rate higher than any other state.

The council will hold its first meeting within the next three weeks.

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