

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health
Opioid Update for Wednesday, April 4, 2018

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opioid Update to share information about opioid use and Iowa's efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Julie Jones at julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov.

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Iowa News

National Safety Council Report

On April 2, 2018, the National Safety Council released a report that shows just 13 states and Washington, D.C., have implemented comprehensive, proven actions to eliminate opioid overdoses and help protect their residents. In the report, Iowa was identified as one of eight states that received a "Failing" grade, having accomplished just two of the six key actions identified in the report as critical and life-saving. The six key actions used for the report (and Iowa's rating) are:

- Mandating prescriber education (**Improving**)
- Implementing opioid prescribing guidelines (**Improving**)
- Integrating Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs into clinical settings (**Failing**)
- Improving data collection and sharing (**Failing**)
- Treating opioid overdose (**Failing**)
- Increasing availability of opioid use disorder treatment (**Failing**)

While the timing of the report doesn't take into consideration current efforts underway the state is considering (House File 2237), it does reinforce the need for changes to Iowa's approach in addressing the opioid epidemic.

To read the report in its entirety, please click on the following link: [Prescription Nation 2018](#)

Reminder: Naloxone Rebate

The Iowa Attorney General has negotiated a \$6.00 per dose rebate for each Amphastar Naloxone syringe purchased by eligible Iowa Public Entities. This includes Iowa government state agencies, county and local government agencies, county and local government EMS providers, law enforcement agencies, and not-for-profit community agencies.

The Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) has agreed to collect and process rebates on behalf of eligible applicants in Iowa. Rebate requests are submitted online through www.iowagrants.gov and are due the 23rd day following the end of each quarter (April 23, July 23, October 23, and January 23).

For questions regarding eligibility and the application process, go to the [ODCP](#) website or contact Dennis Wiggins at dennis.wiggins@iowa.gov.

Department Efforts

41st Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse: April 18-19

The Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse is a statewide educational forum focused on substance abuse and problem gambling prevention, treatment and recovery. The goal of the conference is to establish a meaningful dialogue among prevention, treatment, research, recovery, and policy-making professionals. The conference provides information, resources and tools to facilitate strategic responses to the challenges in the field.

The conference is a collaborative effort involving IDPH, service providers, and stakeholders. In addition to opioids, this year's agenda includes presentations on methamphetamines, eating disorders, Iowa's medical cannabidiol law, therapy techniques for working with couples, recovery coaching, and other topics.

For more information on the conference, click on the following link: [GCSA](#)

Opioid News

American Dental Association Unveils New Policy on Opioids

In what could be the first of its kind among major health care organizations, the American Dental Association (ADA) has announced a new policy on opioids supporting continuing education requirements and prescription limits.

The policy states:

- The ADA supports mandatory continuing education in prescribing opioids and other controlled substances.
- The ADA supports statutory limits on opioid dosage and duration of no more than seven days for the treatment of acute pain, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention evidence-based guidelines.
- The ADA supports dentists registering with and utilizing Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) to promote the appropriate use of opioids and deter misuse and abuse.

“As president of the ADA, I call upon dentists everywhere to double down on their efforts to prevent opioids from harming our patients and their families,” said ADA President Joseph P. Crowley, D.D.S. “This new policy demonstrates ADA’s firm commitment to help fight the country’s opioid epidemic while continuing to help patients manage dental pain.”

To read the entire announcement, click on the following link: [ADA](#)