

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update for Wednesday, September 20, 2017

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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Department Efforts

Update: Medication Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction Grant

In August of 2015, IDPH was awarded the three-year Medication Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The goals of the grant are:

- 1) Coordinate expansion and enhancement of MAT services
- 2) Increase the number of individuals receiving MAT services
- 3) Decrease illicit drug use and improve client outcomes

As the second year of the grant comes to an end, IDPH wanted to share some of the findings to date as identified by the project evaluator, the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation. While these outcomes may not be focused on the *reduction in substance use* you are used to seeing (which, by the way, *decreased from 65.5% at admission to 28.1% at follow-up*), we do feel they are extremely important results to consider. In follow-up interviews (conducted 5-8 months after admission):

- *Employment increased from 39.6% to 54%*
- *Median income increased by over 65%*
- *Individuals living in their own apartment or house increased from 41% to 58.3%*
- *Emergency room visits for a substance use related issue decreased from 11.5% to 0.7%*
- *Number of clients tested for HIV increased from 74.1% to 92.1%*

Watch for more information regarding outcomes for the MAT-PDOA grant when the Consortium releases their report later this fall.

AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity

As part of a collaboration between AmeriCorps and IDPH, a funding opportunity has been posted on IowaGrants.Gov for mentoring and substance abuse prevention programs throughout the state of Iowa. Applicants can request up to 2 full-time members to provide capacity-building services to improve an agency's ability to address opioid use in their area and to accomplish their mission. Capacity building can cover a wide range of service activities, including but not limited to: assisting with sustainability planning, recruiting mentors and volunteers, and developing and presenting new outreach materials or curricula.

To learn more about this program and national service, you can read Governor Kim Reynolds' opinion piece: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/347459-the-case-for-an-american-year-of-service>.

For more information on AmeriCorps, contact Amanda McCurley at Amanda.McCurley@idph.iowa.gov.

Opioid News

With Opioid Crisis, a Surge in Hepatitis C*

Nationally, related to the still unrelenting opioid epidemic, tens of thousands of mostly young, white injection drug users, are becoming infected with hepatitis C. The Appalachian, Midwestern and New England states with the highest hep C prevalence rates are also the states experiencing the steepest overdose death rates.

Like the opioid use that is driving it, the rate of new hepatitis C cases has spiked in the last five years. After declining for two decades, new hepatitis C cases climbed to an estimated 34,000 in 2015, nearly triple the number in 2010, according to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In Iowa, the recent MAT-PDOA grant evaluation revealed that over one-third (36.2%) of the clients enrolled in MAT-PDOA indicated they had injected drugs in the 30 days prior to admission to grant project services. And nearly 40% of those clients indicated they had shared needles or paraphernalia with someone else in the 30 days prior to grant admission.

* To read the entire article, click on the following link: [PEW Charitable Trusts](#).

How to Secure Buy-in for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)*

In a recent ATTC/NIATx Service Improvement Blog, Lynn Madden, President and CEO of the APT Foundation in New Haven, CT, talked about two strategies that organizations can use to secure buy-in for MAT services. Madden suggests: 1) sharing information on best practices, and 2) starting small with a pilot test, also known as a rapid-cycle test in the NIATx model.

* To view the blog entry or to find more information on the NIATx model, click on the following link: [ATTC/NIATx Service Improvement Blog](#).