

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update: December 2019

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 News

IDPH Awards Eight Opioid-Related Grant Projects

Through funding made available by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, IDPH awarded eight opioid-related grant projects. These include:

- Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
 - Heartland Family Services
 - Mercy Medical Center: Mercy One
 - University of Iowa: Maternal Opioid Agonist Therapy
- Corrections Liaison
 - Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services
 - Community and Family Resources
 - UCS Healthcare
 - University of Iowa: Bridge Project North
 - University of Iowa: Bridge Project South

For more information on grant awards, please contact Monica Wilke-Brown at monica.wilke-brown@idph.iowa.gov.

Iowa News

Iowa Poison Control Center Issues Opioids Alert

On November 21, 2019, the Iowa Poison Control Center, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Safety and the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, issued an advisory to healthcare professionals regarding opioids.

The alert states that illicit drugs seized by law enforcement and analyzed by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) laboratory have been found to contain a variety of opiates and stimulants. While many of the samples analyzed were found to contain either heroin or fentanyl alone, approximately half of the samples were found to have heroin or fentanyl mixed with one or more other potent opioids. In addition, some of the samples also included mixtures that included stimulants such as methamphetamine and cocaine.

Along with a mixture of substances, the alert was a reminder that the issue of counterfeit opioid tablets is still a concern in Iowa. Earlier this year, tablets made to resemble prescription oxycodone were found which contained fentanyl, increasing the risks of overdose death.

For more information regarding the alert, please click on the following link: [Poison Control](#)

Upcoming Trainings

IDPH Sponsoring Three Upcoming Trainings:

- IDPH will be hosting a training titled, **A Closer Look: Methamphetamine, Opioids and Poly-Substance Use** on December 3, 2019. The purpose of this event is to provide information about methamphetamine, opioid and poly-substance use, and explore their unique presentations. Speakers will discuss how these particular substances impact individuals compared to other types of substance use.

The training will be held at the Ron Pearson Center in West Des Moines. For information on registering, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)

- **SAVE THE DATE:**

IDPH will be hosting a four-day **Recovery Coaching Academy** training on January 10-11 and January 24-25, 2020. The purpose of this event is to train individuals interested in helping others address recovery-related issues, from a peer perspective.

IDPH will be hosting a three-day **Ethical Considerations for Recovery Coaches** training February 7-9, 2020. The purpose of this training is to provide coaches with additional support and insight into related areas, such as defining the coaching service role and functions, coaching standards, issues of vulnerability, ethical decision-making, performance enhancement and legal issues.

The Recovery Coaching Academy and Ethics training will be held in Iowa City (location being finalized). A limited number of travel and lodging stipends will be made available for participants that meet distance eligibility. For more information, please contact Cara Weis at cara.weis@idph.iowa.gov.

National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit: April 13-16 (Nashville)

The Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit is the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state and federal agencies, business, academia, treatment providers, and allied communities impacted by prescription drug abuse and heroin use. It is *the* event for decision makers and allied professionals working to address this public health emergency.

To learn more about the Summit or to register, please click on the following link: [Rx Summit](#)