

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update: September 2020

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 RaChel Greenwood at rachel.greenwood@idph.iowa.gov.

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Iowa News

Iowa Receives \$17.9 Million to Combat Opioid and Psychostimulant Use

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been awarded \$17.9 million dollars over two years to address the use of opioids and psychostimulants, such as methamphetamines, as part of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.

The funds, made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), are part of the U.S. Health and Human Services Five-Point Opioid Strategy.

"Unfortunately, we saw an increase in the number of deaths involving opioids and psychostimulants in 2019, and all indicators point to that number increasing in 2020," said Kevin Gabbert, Opioid Initiatives Director at the Iowa Department of Public Health. "Our state is extremely grateful for this new funding opportunity from SAMHSA."

Monica Wilke-Brown, project director for the grant said, "These funds will allow Iowa to increase efforts for overdose prevention, in addition to expanding prevention, treatment and recovery support services for people affected by both opioids and methamphetamine."

SAMHSA says the funds are instrumental in providing greater access to evidence-based treatment. "Now, more than ever, this access to treatment for those with substance use disorders is especially critical," said Elinore F. McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use.

Opioid News

Emergent BioSolutions Announces FDA Approval of NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray Shelf Life Extension to 36 Months

Emergent Biosolutions announced on August 17, 2020 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the extension of the shelf life of NARCAN® nasal spray from 24 to 36 months. This extension includes any product previously released with a 24-month shelf life can now be extended for an additional 12 months.

For more information on this extension, please click on the following link: [EMERGENT](#)

FDA says opioid labels must include information about naloxone

A few weeks after the 2019 opioid overdose data was released, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced July 23 that drug manufacturers will be required to include information about naloxone, the overdose-reversal medication, on the labels of opioid painkillers.

“Today’s action can help further raise awareness about this potentially life-saving treatment for individuals that may be at greater risk of an overdose and those in the community most likely to observe an overdose,” said FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn.

To read this article, please click on the following link: [FDA](#)

Study Assesses Two-Year Outcomes of OUD Patients Following Sublocade Clinical Trials

The results of the long-term recovery study, RECOVER (Remission from Chronic Opioid Use-Studying Environmental and Socio Economic Factors on Recovery) were recently presented at the Scientific Meeting of the College of Drug Dependence. Authors found 44% of participants with moderate-to-severe opioid use disorder self-reported sustained illicit opioid-free weeks for the two-year duration of the project in the phase 3 clinical trial of an extended release formulation of buprenorphine (Sublocade).

The study’s lead author, Walter Ling, MD, research professor in the Department of Family Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA said in a news release, “these findings show that long-term treatment with counseling may positively assist patients in focusing on their recovery, including discontinuation of illicit opioid use. Over the 24-month RECOVER observation period, participants also achieved and maintained positive effects including improved employment rates and lower healthcare system utilization.”

To read the article describing the study, please click on the following link: [RECOVER](#)

Fatal cardiac arrests could be hiding opioid overdose deaths in U.S.

A study in San Francisco recently published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that of the 767 sudden deaths appearing to be due to cardiac arrest between 2011 and 2017 in San Francisco, 17 percent actually died of a fatal overdose. Most of the overdose deaths included more than one substance, with opioids being the most common. This study suggests that the estimates of fatal opioid overdose may be an underestimation and provides possible implications for suspected cardiac arrest treatment.

To read the article describing the study, please click on the following link: [NEWSCI](#)

Webinars and Trainings

Opioid and Pain Management CME: Guidelines, Research and Treatments

The American Medical Association EdHub offers a comprehensive list of CME activities to meet state requirements around opioid analgesics while gaining critical knowledge about acute and chronic pain management, substance misuse treatment, overdose prevention, pain treatment and medical and adult-use marijuana.

This course is relevant for U.S. and worldwide physicians, medical students, residents, nurses, physician assistants and other allied health professionals who participate in the diagnosis, prescribing, and treatment of patients.

For information on registering, please click on the following link: [AMA](#)

IDPH Offers Virtual Learning Series- Part Two Session

The Virtual Learning Series is a part of the Iowa Department of Public Health initiative that supports prevention, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders and problem gambling. This free series has been renewed for a second round that will continue into the fall.

Event Objectives:

- Educate professionals on the unique needs of individuals impacted by behavioral health conditions
- Identify recent trends in substance use and problem gambling

Certificates of Completion, Nursing Contact Hours and Iowa Board of Certification Continuing Education Units will be provided to the e-mail provided at registration. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is required.

For information on registering, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)