

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health
Opioid Update for Wednesday, November 1, 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

AmeriCorps Program: Update

IDPH's AmeriCorps Substance Abuse Prevention Program is underway! In the first year of the program, AmeriCorps members will focus on opioid and prescription drug misuse across the state through theory of change education, community engagement, and capacity building.

AmeriCorps members will serve at the following host sites:

- Area Substance Abuse Council, Inc./Cedar Rapids
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clinton Iowa/Clinton
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland/Sioux City
- Burlington Community School District/Burlington
- Community Youth Concepts/Des Moines
- Everybody Wins! Iowa/Des Moines
- Mills County Public Health/Glenwood
- New Opportunities/Carroll
- South Central Calhoun Community School District/Rockwell City
- Youth and Shelter Services/Ames

For more information on the AmeriCorps program, contact Amanda McCurley at amanda.mccurley@idph.iowa.gov.

Iowa News

Opioid Awareness Week

Governor Kim Reynolds set October 22-28 as Opioid Awareness Week in Iowa, to highlight efforts and initiatives currently underway in the state and to introduce an action plan for the state going forward. During the week, Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg visited Turning Point Treatment Center in Dubuque, spoke at the Forum to Combat Opioids in Des Moines (see additional information below), shared opioid-related priorities during their weekly news conference, and encouraged all Iowans to participate in Iowa's Drug Take Back Day.

An important part of the Governor's message was hope. During her remarks at the Forum, Governor Reynolds stated "For those Iowans suffering with substance abuse today, I want you to know there is help, and we hear you."

Forum to Combat Opioids

On October 26, as part of Governor Reynolds' Opioid Awareness Week, IDPH and the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy hosted, "**Identify, Prevent, Recover: An Iowa Forum to Combat Opioids**". Held at Drake University, the forum focused on prescriber strategies to reduce opioid misuse, Iowa's response to the opioid epidemic, and the path from opioid addiction to recovery. Highlights of the forum were panel discussions featuring prescribers and prevention and treatment providers as well as State agency representatives, including Commissioner Roxann Ryan of the Department of Public Safety and Andrew Funk, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. Attorney General Tom Miller spoke on enforcement issues. Following a personal presentation by a person in recovery from heroin use, Governor Kim Reynolds outlined her list of priorities to combat opioids in Iowa:

- Increase Prescriber Use of Iowa's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)
- Reduce Opioid Prescribing to Prevent Misuse in Iowa
- Enhance Intervention for Iowans Misusing or Addicted to Opioids
- Enhance Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Particularly Medication Assisted Treatment for Individuals with an Opioid Use Disorder

To see a more detailed explanation of the Governor's plan and the four major priorities, please click on the following link: [Opioid Priorities](#).

Opioid News

Opioid Public Health Emergency

On October 26, President Trump signed a memorandum that orders the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to declare a nationwide public health emergency through the Public Health Services Act. Determination of a public health emergency triggers emergency powers that permit the federal government to assist state and local governments, suspend or modify certain legal requirements, and expend available funds to address the emergency.

While specific details are still to be released, it appears at this time that no additional funding will be allocated to assist with the declaration. However, the declaration may provide states flexibility within existing federal allocations.

Additional information from SAMHSA is available at: [Public Health Emergency](#)

Opioid Resources

New resources are available from the CDC at: [CDC Awareness Campaign](#)

Prescriber education is available from ASAM at: [ASAM Education](#)

Information on opioid use and juveniles is available at: [Office of Adolescent Health](#)