

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health / Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update for Wednesday, June 13, 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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Department Efforts

Naloxone Access Day: June 29, 2018

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Board of Pharmacy, and Iowa Pharmacy Association, are teaming up to sponsor a statewide Naloxone Access Day. Intended to expand availability of naloxone (Narcan) for anyone concerned about someone's use of opioids – including their own – limited quantities of free naloxone kits will be available at over 340 participating pharmacies in Iowa. Kevin Gabbert is the Opioid Initiatives Director at the Iowa Department of Public Health. According to Gabbert, "This is a great opportunity to equip Iowans most at risk for encountering or experiencing an opioid overdose." While some may say opioid misuse in Iowa isn't as much of an issue as in harder-hit states, Gabbert said, "How do you tell the families and friends of the 103 Iowans who died from an opioid overdose in 2017 that the issue isn't significant in our state? It doesn't matter that we've experienced fewer overdoses. One is too many."

To find a participating pharmacy, please click on the following link: [Naloxone](#)

State Targeted Response (STR) Grant: Update

As IDPH's State Targeted Response (STR) opioid grant enters Year Two, here's a summary of activities from Year One of the grant that STR funds helped support:

- 16 of the 23 IDPH-funded substance use disorder treatment contractors added or expanded access to Medication Assisted Treatment.
- 113 people received Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and another 120 people received MAT-related services such as a medical evaluation/assessment.
- More than 1,300 people participated in naloxone trainings that included distribution of naloxone, the opioid overdose temporary reversal medication.
- More than 2,100 people – health care providers, behavioral health services staff, and other interested community members – received information on opioid-related topics from treatment providers across the state.
- A media campaign to build opioid awareness statewide generated over 9.4 million impressions through traditional and online media strategies.

Already under way in Year Two, are efforts to further expand access to MAT statewide and to make naloxone more readily available. For more information on the STR grant, contact Monica Wilke-Brown at monica.wilke-brown@idph.iowa.gov.

Opioid News

SAMHSA Releases Updated Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announces the update of an important resource on opioid overdose prevention. The *SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit* offers information and facts from literature and links to resources to prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Because interdisciplinary collaboration is critical to success, SAMHSA offers the *Toolkit* as an educational resource for community members, first responders, prescribers, patients, and families.

The *SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit* is divided into four sections – one for each target audience:

Facts for Community Members

- Facts about opioids and opioid-related overdoses
- Information about who is at risk
- Strategies to prevent overdose deaths

Five Essential Steps for First Responders

- Recommended actions to reduce the number of deaths resulting from opioid overdoses
- Dos and don'ts when responding to an opioid overdose

Information for Prescribers

- Recommendations to consider when prescribing opioids for adults with chronic pain
- Information on billing codes for providing overdose prevention education and for prescribing naloxone
- Explanation of how to treat an overdose
- Resources to determine legal and liability considerations

Safety Advice for Patients & Family Members

- Information about preventing overdose and what to do when an overdose is suspected
- Explanation of naloxone, how to use it, and how to store it
- Resources for overdose survivors and family members and information on finding a support network

To download the updated toolkit, please click on the following link: [Toolkit](#)

Upcoming Trainings

Webinar: The Intersection of Opioid Abuse, Overdose, and Suicide – *The Role of Chronic Pain*

More than 100 million Americans live with chronic pain—debilitating, enduring pain that increases their risk for a variety of adverse health outcomes, including opioid abuse, overdose, and suicide. This webinar will explore common characteristics among people with chronic pain, challenges they often face, and factors that may place them at increased risk for adverse outcomes. Expert presenters will also discuss strategies, including non-pharmacological approaches, for reducing the risk of opioid overdose and suicide in this population, and explore barriers to receiving care.

The webinar will be held on June 28th from 2:00pm to 3:30pm CDT. To register, please click on the following link: [Chronic Pain](#)