

Division of Behavioral Health

Opium Update for Wednesday, June 28, 2017

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opium Update to share information about opium use and Iowa's efforts to address the national opium epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Madeline Scherb at madeline.scherb@idph.iowa.gov.

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Provider Spotlight

IDPH is introducing readers to Opium Treatment Programs (OTPs) serving the State of Iowa. First, here's a little information on what an OTP is, as defined by SAMHSA:

In the United States, the treatment of opium dependence with medications is governed by the [Certification of Opium Treatment Programs, 42 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 8](#). This regulation created a system to accredit and certify opium treatment programs dispensing Methadone for an opium use disorder. SAMHSA's Division of Pharmacologic Therapies (DPT), part of the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), oversees the certification of OTPs. OTPs must be certified by SAMHSA and accredited by an independent, SAMHSA-approved accrediting body to dispense opium treatment medications. All OTPs also must be licensed by the state in which they operate and must register with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), through a local DEA office.

Cedar Rapids Treatment Center (CRTC)

The Cedar Rapids Treatment Center (CRTC), opened to serve patients in May of 2014, and is committed to providing the latest in evidence-based treatment in the most cost-effective patient specific manner possible. As an Opium Treatment Provider, CRTC utilizes methadone maintenance to treat opium use disorders, in addition to other forms of medication assisted treatment such as buprenorphine and naltrexone. CRTC strives to provide comprehensive, medically monitored chemical dependency treatment services for persons with demonstrated opium dependence, with the primary goal of assisting the persons served to achieve significant improvement in their quality of life through the reduction or elimination of their use of licit/illicit chemicals.

CRTC is open Monday through Saturday. Hours of operation are 6:00am to 2:30pm Monday through Friday, and 7:30am through 10:00am on Saturdays. Admissions are completed on Tuesdays and Thursdays and walk-ins are welcome anytime during business hours to start the assessment process. Applicants must be 18 years of age and must meet DSM criteria for an opium use disorder. Patients also have access to a 24-hour telephone service if they need to contact staff after hours.

CRTC is licensed as a treatment program by the Iowa Department of Public Health Division of Behavioral Health and certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) under 21 CFR Part 291 and 42 CFR Part 8. In addition, CRTC was awarded a three (3) year accreditation from the Commission of the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). For more information, please call 319-531-3824 or visit www.cedarrapidsctc.com.

Department Efforts

Prevention efforts: Prescription Drug Media Campaign

The SPF Rx media campaign to help reduce the misuse of prescription drugs for ages 12-25 began in early June, throughout Iowa on YouTube, banner ads, billboards, and Pandora. The video can be seen here <https://youtu.be/u9rUDWmFNik>



Opioid News

Iowa part of probe into opioid pharmaceutical marketing and sales*

State Attorney General Tom Miller has announced that his office is part of an ongoing multi-state investigation into whether certain opioid manufacturers have unlawfully marketed and sold the powerful painkillers, according to an Iowa Department of Justice release.

A bipartisan group of state attorneys general is investigating the role that prescription opioid manufacturers may have played in creating and prolonging the nation's opioid abuse epidemic, the release states.

"We're asking tough questions and we're seeking solid evidence to help us understand how pharmaceutical companies have mass-marketed and sold these highly addictive pain medications, including claims they've made about their products," Miller said. "These are prescription drugs that we know have helped fuel epidemic levels of addiction to opioids and heroin."

*This article was adapted from the Des Moines Register. To see the original, go [here](#).

Despite Increases in Medication Assisted Treatment for Youth, Disparities Persist*

Amidst emerging recommendations calling for expanded access to pharmacotherapy for youth with opioid use disorder, medications may have been historically underutilized and disparities may exist by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. In this large, national retrospective cohort of over 20,000 youth aged 13 to 25 years with opioid use disorder, medication receipt increased from 2001 to 2014, but only 1 in 4 individuals received buprenorphine or naltrexone. Younger individuals, females, and black and Hispanic youth were less likely to receive a medication.

*This article was adapted from JAMA Pediatrics. To see the original, go [here](#).

Librarians treating Overdoses*

“She’s not a paramedic,” the guard, Sterling Davis, said later. “She’s just a teen-adult librarian — and saved six people since April. That’s a lot for a librarian.”

Long viewed as guardians of safe spaces for children, library staff members have begun taking on the role of first responder in drug overdoses. In at least three major cities — Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco — library employees now know, or are set to learn, how to use the drug naloxone, usually known by its brand name Narcan, to help reverse overdoses.

Their training tracks with the disastrous national rise in opioid use and an apparent uptick of overdoses in libraries, which often serve as daytime havens for homeless people and hubs of services in impoverished communities.

*This excerpt is from WGNO. To see the full article, go [here](#).