

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update: October 2021

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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Department News

IDPH Launches Latest Addition to Anti-Stigma Media Campaign: *It Starts With Us*

The Bureau of Substance Abuse at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is excited to continue work on our education and awareness campaign aimed at reducing stigma. For this latest effort, *It Starts With Us*, IDPH collaborated with key stakeholders representing various vocations (healthcare, law enforcement, corrections) where stigma may be experienced. The intent of this initiative is to help change the narrative around how individuals with a substance use disorder are seen by others, and how they see themselves.

To find promotional materials, including a public service announcement developed, please click on the following link: [Stigma](#)



SAMHSA awarded IDPH second Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), awarded the Iowa Department of Public Health its second Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) grant to reduce the misuse of prescription drugs for ages 12-25. This five-year award follows the end of the first successful SPF Rx grant which originally funded three highest need counties through a request for proposal (RFP) process. This next round of funding is \$384,000 per year from September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2026.

The program is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications and work with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing to young adults. The SPF Rx program will also raise community awareness and bring prescription drug abuse prevention activities and education to schools, communities, parents, prescribers, and

their patients. Reductions in opioid overdoses and data incorporated from Iowa's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) into needs assessments and strategic plans will be indicators of the program's success. For more information, contact Janet Nelson, Project Director, Janet.Nelson@IDPH.iowa.gov.

State Opioid Response (SOR2) Funding Announcement

You are invited to apply for funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to expand services available to Iowans with substance use disorders under the SOR2 program. Funding is available until September 29, 2022 through an award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address opioid and stimulant use disorders.

Funding is intended to supplement existing services and funding streams and is to be used to pay for services that are not sufficiently covered by a recipient's health plan. The types of services allowable with SOR2 grant funds are outlined in the application, which can be found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/mat/provider>

Please direct any questions to SOR@idph.iowa.gov.

Narcan Available for Non-EMS Regulated Fire Departments

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Fire Service Training Bureau (FSTB), are working to resolve the issue of opioid overdose in Iowa, including preventing the deaths of Iowans exposed to opioids through a variety of scenarios.

As part of our ongoing Opioid Initiatives, IDPH is teaming up with DPS and the FSTB to help prevent fatal overdoses by offering free naloxone (Narcan Nasal) kits to every interested fire department (Non-EMS Regulated) in the state. Quite often our fire department personnel are the first to arrive at a scene when a suspected overdose is occurring. Having the ability to administer naloxone without delay could mean the difference between life and death for a person experiencing an overdose.

If your fire department would like to participate in this opportunity, please contact Chief John Kraemer at kraemer@dps.state.ia.us.

Opioid News

National Drug Take Back Day is October 23rd

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. According to Dale Woolery, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, "A small act by all of us can make a big difference in the health of Iowans. Safely disposing of unused medicines during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, and at local Take Back sites throughout the year, helps prevent the dangerous misuse of prescription medication."

For more information on the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, please click on the following link: [DEA](#)

ERs Struggle with People Who Struggle With Addiction: New Approaches Might Help

Despite research suggesting that starting medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) could double a person's chance of staying in treatment a month later, a recent report from the Legal Action Center and the Bloomberg American Health Initiative found that providing these important medications in the ED is far from standard practice. The report indicated that many hospitals struggle to screen for substance use, offer medications to treat OUD or to connect patients to follow-up care.

This article describes different strategies communities across America are using to reduce overdose deaths. Some of the strategies described include: hiring advocates for patients within the ED that physically walks patients to addiction services; removing referral obstacles through a virtual referral program that invites patients to select where they'd like to be referred to from a map of services on a tablet; and through training health care providers, health centers and health departments on medication assisted therapy (MAT) for OUD to increase referral options for ED clinicians.

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

Upcoming Trainings

Recovery Coach Training Vouchers

The Iowa Department of Public Health's State Opioid Response (SOR2) grant has collaborated with the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) to offer vouchers to Iowa residents who are interested in attending CCAR's Recovery Coach Academy (RCA) and Ethical Considerations for Recovery Coaches.

- CCAR Recovery Coach Academy© is a 5-day intensive training academy focusing on providing individuals with the skills needed to guide, mentor and support anyone who would like to enter into or sustain long-term recovery from an addiction to alcohol or other drugs
- Ethical Considerations is a 16 hour training that helps coaches, and anyone else working in the peer role understand how critical it is to be ethically responsible

In order to receive a voucher an individual must commit to attending the entire training and share how they intend to utilize what they've learned. For available training dates and times, please visit the CCAR [website](#).

If interested in obtaining a voucher to attend an available training, or for more information, please contact Sarah Vannice at sarah.vannice@idph.iowa.gov.

Resources

Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit: Part I

Substance Use Disorders (SUD) can contribute to homelessness and make it harder for people to exit homelessness. However, people may be unable to access, engage with, or sustain treatment and recovery support services while experiencing homelessness and thus find it difficult to exiting homelessness.

This new resource from SAMHSA provides information and resources for implementing a whole-person care approach to supporting and assisting people experiencing homelessness and OUD in their recovery journey.

To view this toolkit, please click on the following link: [HHRC](#)

Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women: A Closer Look at SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women Program

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) recently released a comprehensive fact sheet for professionals about substance use among pregnant people. This resource includes information about substance use among pregnant women, neonatal abstinence syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, the impact of adverse experiences in childhood, and the importance of family-based approaches to treatment.

To view this factsheet, please click on the following link: [NASADAD](#)