

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update for Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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 News

IDPH Releases New Report: *Iowa's Opioid Crisis – An Update*

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has collaborated with state, local and private partners to address opioid use problems in Iowa. Statewide, Iowans have implemented coordinated, multi-sector efforts that have led to increased awareness, access to resources and improvements in care. Initial data show these efforts are making positive impacts in Iowa communities to prevent and reduce the negative consequences of opioid-related problems, but work still needs done.

The following summary was prepared in order to provide a comprehensive update on Iowa-specific measures, IDPH efforts and an overview of funding the state has received to address opioid misuse. To read the report, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)

Opioid News

ONDCP Releases National Drug Control Strategy

Last week the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) released the 2019 National Drug Control Strategy, which establishes the President's priorities for addressing the challenge of drug trafficking and use. "Our number one goal is to save American lives, and this comprehensive plan reaffirms President Trump's commitment to addressing the opioid crisis aggressively and in partnership with our partners across the nation," said recently sworn-in ONDCP Director Jim Carroll.

To read the entire report, please click on the following link: [ONDCP](#)

NHSC Loan Repayment Application Deadline Approaching

To combat the nation's opioid crisis, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) launched the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program (SUD Workforce LRP). The program supports the recruitment and retention of health professionals needed in underserved areas to expand access to SUD treatment and prevent overdose deaths. The deadline for applications is February 21, 2019.

To learn more about qualifications and eligibility, please click on the following link: [NHSC](#)

Iowa News

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative Opioid Resources

To address opioid-related issues, the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) has created several resources for Iowans. These include:

- The Pain Management Toolkit: Iowa's Guide to the Opioid Stewardship provides information on how to start and stop opioids, how to have difficult conversations, the use of benzodiazepines, and tools to utilize when a patient is taking opioids.
- The IHC Comfort Scale, which can be used in place of or in conjunction with the pain scale.
- The IHC Comfort Menu, which can be used to allow the patient to identify what will make them more comfortable.
- The IHC Comfort Treatment Plan, which can be used when a patient is discharged or started on a new opioid medication.

These resources can be found on the IHC website at <https://www.ihconline.org/community-resources/ihc-comfort-resources/>.

In addition to these resources, IHC has also created resource flyers for all 99 counties in Iowa, which include information on Medication Assisted Treatment locations, pharmacies that provide naloxone without a prescription and medication disposal locations in each county. These resource guides can be found on the IHC website at <https://www.ihconline.org/community-resources/opioid-flyers/>.

IHC is always looking for feedback on these resources and success stories when these resources are used. If you would like to share your feedback or story, please contact Shawna Law at laws@ihconline.org.

Upcoming Trainings:

- **Second Annual Chicago Summit for Clinical Excellence on the Opioid Crisis**
March 4-5, 2019.
For more information, please click on the following link: [Chicago](#).
- **NatCon19**
March 25-27, 2019.
For more information, please click on the following link: [Nashville](#).
- **Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse**
April 16-17, 2019
For more information, please click on the following link: [Des Moines](#).
- **National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit**
April 22-25, 2019.
For more information, please click on the following link: [Atlanta](#).