

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

State Targeted Response (STR) Grant Coming to an End

Although Iowa is still a current recipient of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, the predecessor to this funding opportunity, known as the State Targeted Response (STR) grant, is ending. This SAMHSA-funded initiative has helped Iowa to increase prevention, treatment and recovery services for individuals with an opioid use disorder, and to help develop more opioid-informed communities. Through these funds, IDPH was able to support several initiatives, which included:

- Helping communities develop opioid-specific needs assessments and strategic plans
- Training over 8,500 Iowans on naloxone administration
- Expanding availability of medication assisted treatment through Medication Units
- Providing treatment and recovery support services to over 500 Iowans
- Supporting PMP enhancements through the Board of Pharmacy

As Iowa continues with the SOR grant, many of these activities will continue to be supported, as well as new initiatives. For more information on the State Opioid Response grant, please contact Monica Wilke-Brown at monica.wilke-brown@idph.iowa.gov.

Opioid News

New Jersey Authorizes Paramedics to Administer Buprenorphine

In a potential paradigm shift for addiction medicine, New Jersey's health commissioner authorized paramedics to administer the drug buprenorphine to patients almost immediately after reviving them from an opioid overdose.

Paramedics would offer patients the drug, often referred to by the brand name Suboxone, after their overdose had been reversed using the opioid antidote naloxone. The first-in-the-nation model has a two-fold purpose, health officials said: beyond treating the withdrawal symptoms that can result from a naloxone revival, administering buprenorphine on scene could serve as an immediate transition to longer-term treatment.

The bold program is without precedent in the U.S., but serves as a testament to many states' increasingly aggressive and innovative efforts to reduce drug overdose deaths. And, while the announcement came as a surprise to many addiction experts, most applauded the effort.

To learn more about this initiative, please click on the following link: [STAT News](#)

Secretary Azar Statement on 2018 Provisional Drug Overdose Death Data

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics released provisional counts of overdose deaths in the United States that showed a decline of 5.1% between 2017 and 2018. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement:

"The latest provisional data on overdose deaths show that America's united efforts to curb opioid use disorder and addiction are working. Lives are being saved, and we're beginning to win the fight against this crisis." Secretary Azar went on to say, "While the declining trend of overdose deaths is an encouraging sign, by no means have we declared victory against the epidemic or addiction in general. This crisis developed over two decades and it will not be solved overnight."

To learn more about the provisional data released, please click on the following link: [CDC](#)

New Funding Opportunity to Support Women Affected by the Opioid Crisis

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office on Women's Health recently announced a new grant program to help women affected by the opioid crisis re-enter the workforce. The Re-Employment, Support, and Training for the Opioid Related Epidemic (RESTORE) grant will award \$2.5 million to organizations that assist in providing coordinated, employment-focused services to women.

Applications are due August 23, 2019. For more information on this funding opportunity, please click on the following link: [RESTORE](#)

Upcoming Trainings

AATOD Conference: October 19-23, 2019, in Orlando, Florida

The 2019 American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc. (AATOD) Conference will be held October 19-23, 2019, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. The 2019 conference theme, "Out of the Shadows: Managing the Opioid Epidemic through the Continuum of Care," highlights the issues and challenges of medication assisted-treatment in the context of the current opioid use/abuse epidemic.

The intent of the conference is to educate and promote acceptance and integration of MAT options by patients, families, clinicians, the medical system, judicial systems, government, policy makers, social service administrations and the public. The conference works to disseminate innovative, evidence-based initiatives and treatment techniques to better serve patients and providers, improve program development and administration, promote integration across the continuum of care, and enhance patient outcomes to assist communities in developing an effective response to this crisis.

For more information on the conference, please click on the following link: [AATOD](#)