

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

In this issue:

- **Department News**
- **Opioid News**
- **Iowa News**
- **Upcoming Trainings**

Department News

IDPH Receives 3-Year CDC Grant to Address Opioid Overdose

IDPH was recently awarded the Overdose Data to Action grant from the CDC. This competitively procured funding opportunity was the result of a collaborative approach that involved the IDPH Bureaus of Substance Abuse; HIV, STD and Hepatitis; and Health Statistics, as well as the Iowa Board of Pharmacy, State Office of the Medical Examiner, University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center and the Iowa Hospital Association.

The 3-year grant focuses on the complex and changing nature of the opioid overdose epidemic and highlights the need for an interdisciplinary, comprehensive and cohesive public health approach. These funds will support the state in obtaining high quality, more comprehensive, and timelier data on overdose morbidity and mortality, and use those data to inform prevention and response efforts. Iowa will receive \$2.6 million per year of the grant.

For more information on the grant, please contact Julie Hibben at julie.hibben@idph.iowa.gov.

Opioid News

Still Not Enough Naloxone Where It's Most Needed

Despite a huge increase in naloxone prescribing in recent years, CDC researchers report in a published *Vital Signs* study that far too little naloxone is being dispensed in many areas of the country that need it the most.

According to the study, too few doctors are prescribing naloxone to patients receiving high-dose opioids or opioids plus benzodiazepines, or to those with a substance use disorder as recommended by CDC's *Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*. Nearly 9 million more naloxone prescriptions could have been dispensed in 2018 if every patient with a high-dose opioid prescription were offered naloxone.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said, "Giving people a chance to survive an opioid overdose and safely enter recovery is one of the five key pillars of our HHS strategy for ending the overdose epidemic." Azar went on to say that in light of the report, "there is much more all of us need to do to save lives."

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

Iowa News

Join the MAT ECHO...what?

The Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) is a movement to de-monopolize knowledge and amplify local capacity to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world. The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) ECHO is an interactive web-based program that provides essential guidelines and steps to implement and integrate a successful MAT program into an outpatient primary care setting. The MAT ECHO program aims to support healthcare teams to improve access for patients with opioid use disorder.

MAT ECHO sessions occur monthly on the second Friday via Zoom. These sessions are open at no charge, as they are supported by opioid grant funds. If you are interested in participating, please email ECHO@iowapca.org with the following information:

- Name
- Title
- Organization Name
- Email

To be clear, this is not the buprenorphine training needed to become a waived prescriber. It is intended for those who have their waiver and are ready to start, or recently started providing services.

Trainings

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids Trainings

Recently, IDPH and the Opioid Response Network (ORN) hosted four continuing education webinars on the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Each training was designed specifically for a different healthcare provider population (nurses, dentists, pharmacists and physicians/physician assistants). In the event providers were unable to participate on the webinar, the presentations and materials can be found by clicking the following link: [IDPH/ORN](#).

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](#)