

**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse**  
**Opioid Update for Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

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](mailto:julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov).

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**Department Efforts**

**Good Samaritan Media Campaign**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has developed a media campaign focused on the Good Samaritan law passed earlier this year. The Good Samaritan law encourages those who witness a drug overdose to stay and call 911, rather than leaving out of fear of prosecution. Generally, overdose bystanders, defined as "overdose reporters" under the law, will not be arrested, charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance, delivery of a controlled substance or possession of drug paraphernalia, if they make a good faith effort to seek medical assistance for an overdose patient. The Good Samaritan law protects overdose reporters if they:

- *Are the first person to seek medical assistance for the overdose victim*
- *Provide their contact information to emergency personnel*
- *Remain on the scene until assistance is provided*
- *Cooperate with emergency personnel*

To assist in educating Iowans about the Good Samaritan law, IDPH has created informational materials and videos that further address how the law works. These materials are available at the [Your Life Iowa](#) website. And remember, *Don't Run, Call 911!*

**IDPH Receives First Responders Grant to Address Opioid Overdose**

The IDPH Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services, has been awarded the First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR CARA) grant of \$3.19 million over the next four years. The purpose of the grant project is to provide training to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers regarding the prevention, treatment, referral and care of individuals at risk of an opioid overdose. Bureau Chief Rebecca Curtiss will be overseeing grant activities.

For more information about the grant and implementation in Iowa, please contact Rebecca at [rebecca.curtiss@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:rebecca.curtiss@idph.iowa.gov).

## Iowa News

### **ODCP Receives Grant to Develop an Iowa Opioid Data Exchange**

The Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) has been awarded a Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) grant of \$464,433 over the next three years to strengthen Iowa's response to opioid misuse and related challenges. The funding will support an Iowa Opioid Data Exchange (IODE) project.

"The new COAP grant will assist with timely integration and sharing of key data from primary and behavioral health care professionals, law enforcement officers and other first responders to sharpen response times and strategies," said Dale Woolery, interim director of ODCP.

"When trying to save lives from local overdose outbreaks involving hot batches of illicit opioids, it's critical for emergency room health care providers to know as quickly as possible what law enforcement officers may know about new drugs or drug mixtures, and vice versa," said Woolery. "This is only one example of how the IODE project may help Iowans, by improving the speed, quality and cross-discipline sharing of potential life-saving information."

ODCP will partner with the Iowa Departments of Public Safety and Public Health, Board of Pharmacy, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning and other stakeholders to implement the new project.

## Opioid News

### **National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is October 27, 2018**

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, **6.2 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs**. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

As stated on the DEA Take Back website, *if you don't dispose of the unused or expired prescription drugs in your home, they might find a new one. They could end up misplaced, stolen or simply misused. Whatever the case, don't be the dealer. **Keep them safe, clean them out, take them back.***

To find a collection site, please click on the following link: [DEATakeBack.com](http://DEATakeBack.com).

## Upcoming Training

### **Approaches to Pain Management Symposium: **Registration Now Open****

Registration is now open for the IDPH **Approaches to Pain Management Symposium**, scheduled for October 30 in West Des Moines. The symposium will provide an overview of a range of non-pharmacological approaches to addressing pain, in addition or as an alternative to the use of opioids. Following keynote speaker Dr. Jennifer Sharpe Potter, Associate Dean of Research, UT Health, San Antonio, the symposium will include a series of presentations on topics such as *Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, Physical Therapy, Nutrition and Exercise, Chiropractic Care, Yoga, Acupuncture and Stem Cells*. Cost for registration is \$20 and includes lunch.

To register, please click on the following link: [Pain Management](#)