

**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse**  
**Opioid Update: April 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](mailto:rachel.greenwood@idph.iowa.gov).

**In this issue:**

- **Opioid News**
- **Iowa News**
- **Department News**

**Opioid News**

**With Pandemic Worsening the Mental Illness and Addiction Crisis, Biden Administration to Provide Nearly \$2.5 Billion to States, Territories for Treatment, Prevention Aid**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will direct \$1.65 billion in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding as well as \$825 million in Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funding to state and territories as part of the nearly \$2.5 billion the Biden Administration is providing to states and territories to address the nation's mental illness and addiction crisis. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant program allows states and territories to plan, implement and evaluate activities to prevent and treat substance use disorder, all of which are critically important at this point in time.

Data recently released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms a rise in fatal overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Tom Coderre states, "We know multiple stressors during the pandemic – isolation, sickness, grief, job loss, food instability and loss of routines – have devastated many Americans and presented unprecedented challenges for behavioral health providers across the nation."

To read about the funding and funding allocation from SAMHSA, please click this link: [SAMHSA](#)

**Iowa News**

**National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 24, 2021**

According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. This same survey showed that the majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. The DEA's Take Back Day events provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths and address a crucial public safety and public health issue.

"Properly disposing of unused medicines is one way we can all help build healthier communities," said Dale Woolery, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

"Iowans have another opportunity to contribute as part of 'spring cleaning,' by safely tossing leftover medicines at designated collection sites April 24th, and year-round at nearly 400 permanent Take Back sites across the State." Iowans have safely disposed of nearly 78 tons of obsolete prescription drugs over the last 10 years of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day events.

Iowa's next Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 24, 2021. To learn more about this initiative and find a collection site near you, please click this link: [TBDRX](#)

## **Department News**

### **Identifying Opioid Misuse: Virtual Series**

The Iowa Department of Public Health is sponsoring a virtual training series to support professionals in understanding the impacts of opioid use on their communities and the nation as a whole.

The training objectives include:

1. List the individual and community impacts of opioid misuse
2. Identify an evidence based strategy to screen and address substance misuse
3. Identify appropriate opioid overdose recognition and response strategies

There is one more opportunity (April 22, 2021) to attend this one day event but limited space is available.

For more information and to register, please click this link: [IDPH](#)

### **The 44th Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse**

This annual event sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health will be hosted virtually this year from May 18th through May 20th. The purpose of this conference is to establish a meaningful dialogue among health professionals by focusing on trending topics, best practices and strategies for addressing barriers in behavioral health. Exhibitor registration has opened as of March 19th, and it is anticipated that the agenda will be posted by April 9th.

For more information about this event, please click this link: [GCSA](#)

### **Interested in joining the IDPH Team?**

Revised Posting: The Iowa Department of Public Health is looking to fill a Project Coordinator position. Under supervision of the Bureau Chief, this position provides daily functional oversight of the Integrated Provider Network (IPN) Project. The Project Coordinator must be skilled in Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment work, and have an extensive understanding of addictive disorders. Telework will be considered.

To learn more about the position, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)