

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update: July 2020

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.

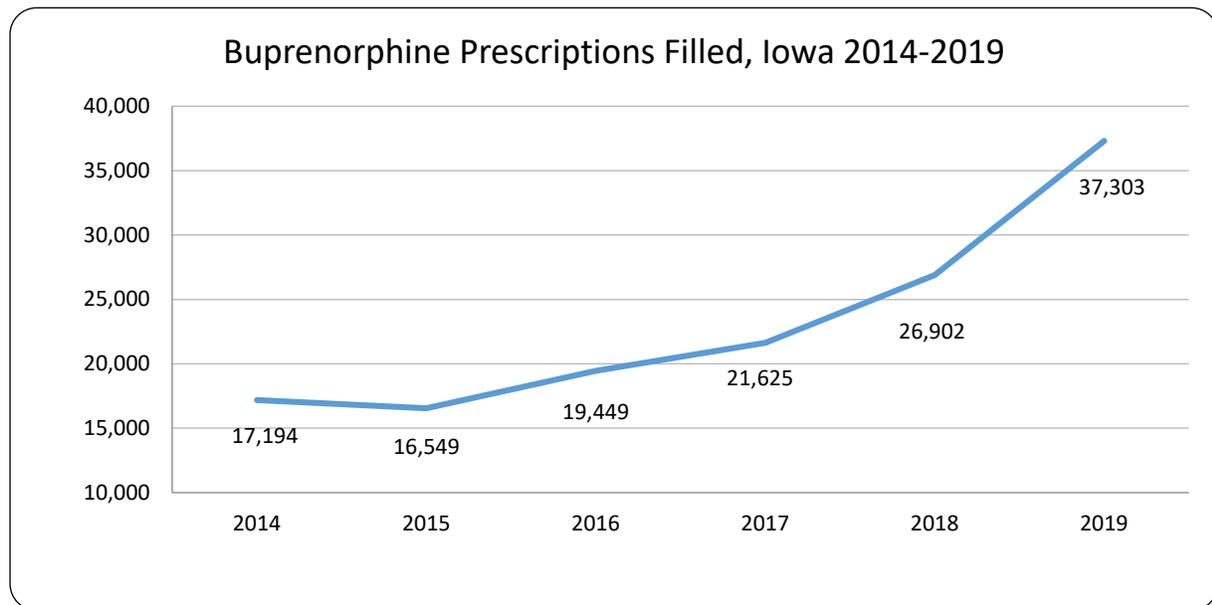
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Iowa News

Buprenorphine Prescriptions

Recent Iowa data suggest that buprenorphine prescriptions for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) continued to climb through 2019. Prescription Monitoring Program data shows that 2019 saw over 37,000 prescriptions filled - an increase of more than 20,000 in five years. Buprenorphine is an opioid agonist/antagonist that blocks other narcotics while reducing withdrawal risk. It is an FDA-approved medication, which is proven to successfully treat OUD and help sustain recovery, especially when accompanied by counseling and behavioral therapies. These numbers are encouraging for the efficacious treatment of OUD in Iowa.



Opioid News

When Coronavirus Pandemic Passes, We'll still face the Opioid Epidemic

In this article, Nicholas Bush describes the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the opioid epidemic. Not only is the coronavirus pandemic eclipsing coverage on the opioid epidemic, it may be triggering for both developing an opioid use disorder and for those in recovery. As he describes, "there is never going to be a vaccine for the cycle of grief, pain and addiction."

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

Number of US Opioid Overdose Deaths May Be Higher Than Recent Estimates

A new national analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrates that the actual number of opioid-related overdose deaths in the U.S. may be much higher than the previously estimated 400,000 since 1999. The researchers analyzed more than 630,000 overdose deaths reported to the CDC between 1999 and 2016. They found that opioid overdose deaths in cases where a specific drug was indicated may be 28% higher than previously estimated, and more than double in some states.

To read the full analysis, please click on the following link: [OVERDOSE](#)

Webinars and Trainings

IDPH Offers Virtual Learning Series

The Virtual Learning Series is a part of the Iowa Department of Public Health initiative that supports prevention, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders and problem gambling.

Event Objectives:

- Educate professionals on the unique needs of individuals impacted by behavioral health conditions
- Identify recent trends in substance use and problem gambling

Certificates of Completion, Nursing Contact Hours and Iowa Board of Certification Continuing Education Units will be provided to the e-mail provided at registration. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is required.

For information on registering, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)

Join the Hepatitis C ECHO Learning Community

Through didactic sessions and case presentations, the Hepatitis C ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an interactive web-based program that provides community-focused primary care clinicians and clinical staff who provide treatment and care to individuals with HCV an opportunity to become experts in the delivery of Hepatitis C care through a mentoring-based initiative.

To register, email ECHO@iowapca.org

Resources

Tips for Teens: The Truth about Opioids (Spanish Language Version)

Consejos para adolescentes: la realidad sobre los opioides

This fact sheet for teens provides facts about opioids, and is now available in Spanish. It describes short- and long-term effects, lists signs of use, and helps dispel common myths. It can also be used by prevention professionals, educators, health care providers and others who come in contact with teens on a regular basis.

To download the PDF, please click on the following link: [SAMHSA](#)