

**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse**  
**Opioid Update: June 2022**

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).

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## **Department News**

### **Bureau of Substance Abuse Awarded State Opioid Response Fund from SAMHSA**

The US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the third round of State Opioid Response (SOR) grants. Priorities are the prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services needed to reduce the impact of the opioid and stimulant crises. The funding levels for each state are assigned through a federal formula. Once applications are complete and approved, Iowa may receive up to \$9,081,141 each year for the next 2 years.

## **Opioid News**

### **Ohio AG issues warning about 'Frankenstein Opioids' more powerful than fentanyl**

A new group of synthetic opioids called nitazenes can be 1.5 to 40 times more potent than fentanyl. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) issued a bulletin warning of nitazene due to an alarming increase of nitazene cases in Ohio (27 cases in the first quarter of 2021 to 143 cases in the first quarter of 2022).

The state's Attorney General Dave Yost issued a warning about the prevalence of nitazenes in Ohio due to this increase and experts have reported the rapid spread of nitazenes across the U.S.

To read this article, please click on this link: [OAGN](#)

### **Rhode Island Biosurveillance Shows Fentanyl to Blame for Majority of Non-Fatal Overdoses**

Researchers in Rhode Island examined the feasibility and public health utility of opioid biosurveillance, which is a new surveillance technique that relies on laboratory analysis of urine samples from individuals with suspected opioid overdose, through a study of 1,345 urine

samples collected from individuals suspected of an opioid overdose within Rhode Island hospitals from 2019 to 2021.

The study found that 79% of the samples contained fentanyl. Study authors state that fentanyl and its analogs are main drivers of the opioid epidemic in Rhode Island and that this technique is unique in its ability to demonstrate the amount novel fentanyl analogs contribute to the burden of overdoses.

To read the study abstract, please click on this link: [RIBNO](#)

### **US Overdose Deaths Hit Record 107,000 Last Year, CDC Says**

The provisional total U.S. overdose deaths in 2021 increased 15% from the record high set the year before. The 2021 record of 107,000 translates to roughly one U.S. overdose death every 5 minutes.

More information on overdose prevention efforts, such as connecting more people to treatment, disrupting drug trafficking and expanding access to the overdose-reversing medication naloxone are described in the recently released National Drug Control Strategy.

To read this article, please click on this link: [USOPI](#)

To read the National Drug Control Strategy, please click on this link: [WHDCS](#)

## **Resources**

### **FY 2022 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications for funding to develop, implement, or expand comprehensive programs in response to the overdose crisis and impacts of illicit opioids, stimulants, or other substances. This program provides resources to support state, local, tribal, and territorial efforts to respond to illicit substance use and misuse; reduce overdose deaths; promote public safety; and support access to prevention, harm-reduction, treatment, and recovery services in the community and justice system.

The funding amounts differ by category and range from 1 million to 6 million for 36 months and the closing date of this application is June 17, 2022.

To get more information about this funding opportunity, please click here: [OSJC](#)