

Iowa Department of Public Health Opioid Update: January 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.

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Department News

IDPH Publishes Results of Surveys about Buprenorphine-waivered Providers and Administration of Naloxone among Law Enforcement

Recently, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and various stakeholder groups participated in the development and distribution of two surveys focused on substance related issues.

- **Buprenorphine Waivered Prescriber Practices:** This survey was a collaborative effort between IDPH and the Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (IMQCC) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Sub-Committee. The purpose of this survey was to inform efforts to increase access to MAT and assess perceptions and experiences of waivered providers.
- **Naloxone Administration Practices Amongst Law Enforcement:** This survey was a collaborative effort between IDPH and representatives from the Iowa Police Chiefs' Association (IPCA), Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA), Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), and the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP). The purpose of this survey was to assess perceptions and policies among Iowa law enforcement agencies regarding naloxone.

The information from these surveys can be used in a variety of ways, but most importantly, they provide first-hand insight into the experiences of those prescribing buprenorphine, as well as those administering naloxone as part of a first response. Potential technical assistance opportunities and education needs are also illustrated within the reports.

To view these reports, please click on this link: [IDPH](#)

Opioid News

SAMHSA Announces Unprecedented \$30 Million Harm Reduction Grant Funding Opportunity to Help Address the Nation's Substance Use and Overdose Epidemic

For the first time ever, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is awarding a Harm Reduction grant program and expects to distribute \$10 million per year over the next three years for a total of \$30 million in grant awards. This funding will

help to increase access to a range of community harm reduction services and support harm reduction service providers to prevent overdose and reduce drug use morbidities.

This funding allows organizations to expand their community-based overdose prevention programs in a variety of ways, including distributing overdose-reversal medications, fentanyl test strips, increasing overdose education and counseling, and managing or expanding syringe services programs.

As Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D. Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use states, “Innovative harm reduction services will help keep Americans alive. Thanks to this American Rescue Plan funding, harm reduction service providers in historically under-resourced communities will receive long-awaited support to help stem the disproportionate number of overdose deaths and related health issues facing those communities.”

To view the funding announcement, please click on this link: [HRMRED](#)

SAMHSA Extends the Methadone Take-Home Flexibility for One Year While Working Toward a Permanent Solution

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is extending the take-home methadone flexibilities that SAMHSA put in place in March 2020 for one year and is considering mechanisms to make this flexibility permanent.

The March 2020 exemption was issued to protect public health by reducing the risk of COVID-19 infections among patients and health care providers by allowing Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP’s) to dispense 28 days of take-home methadone doses to stable patients for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and up to 14 doses of take-home methadone doses for less-stable patients.

These new flexibilities have received widespread support among patients, providers, and state authorities. Preliminary research demonstrates increased engagement with treatment, improved patient satisfaction and very few incidents of misuse or diversion of medication.

To read the press release, please click on this link: [SAMHSA](#)

Resources

Practical Tools for Prescribing and Promoting Buprenorphine in Primary Care Settings

This toolkit provides practical, step-by-step information and practices for primary care providers on how to implement opioid use disorder treatment using buprenorphine. Common barriers are identified and strategies to address these barriers are provided.

To access this toolkit, please click on this link: [PTPPB](#)

Law Enforcement First Responder Partnership Training and Technical Assistance Program

In partnership with the Center of Health and Justice (CHJ) at Treatment Alternative to Safe Communities (TASC), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), recently

launched a web page designed as a resource for the implementation of evidence-based, systemic solutions within the justice system to respond to substance use and addiction.

The webpage provides links to articles, case studies and webinars designed to inform law enforcement and other first responders. Links to opportunities for training, technical assistance, and peer-to-peer learning are also provided.

To view the website, please click on this link: [IACP](#)