



# Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

December 27, 2022

## Updates

### Overdose Lifeline Expands Youth Drug Prevention Program

Local not-for-profit organization Overdose Lifeline provides an array of services to address the opioid epidemic in Indiana. This month, it announced plans to expand the Aaron's Place: Exchange Youth program. Overdose Lifeline CEO Justin Philips emphasized to [WISH-TV](#) that programming for youth is critical. "Some of these kids have experienced the loss of a caregiver. Some of these kids have been removed from their parents. All this compounds on their experience of trauma," he said.

With synthetic opioids like fentanyl taking the lives of more people each day, it is important to expand services to youth. Aaron's Place is designed for children and teens aged 9-12 who are affected by a family member's substance use. It is a camp provided on 6 different weekends per year and includes traditional camp activities and support sessions led by mental health professionals. Drug prevention programs like Aaron's Place have been proven to prevent substance use in later life. So far, 45 young people have been through the program, and Overdose Lifeline is currently accepting referrals to the program. For more information about Aaron's Place:

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Narcan Added at Kokomo Library

On Dec. 16, the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library added a Narcan vending machine. It is the first library in Indiana to install a naloxone vending machine, and it was made possible via partnership with Turning Point System of Care. To read the full story, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

### Mental Health Program Expansion Proposed

A bipartisan group of Indiana legislators revealed on Dec. 9, new details about their plans for mental health legislation. State Representative Ann Vermilion, State Senator Michael Crider, State Senator J.D. Ford, and State Representative Greg Steurwald all attended the Mental Health America of Indiana's Mental Health and Addiction Symposium and participated as panelists. Attendees asked questions about the state's new crisis system.

State Rep. Ann Vermilion acknowledges that the mental health agenda is a top priority, noting that "the tides have turned, and I feel like my colleagues now know that they are only one degree of separation from a loved one that's walking this journey". State Senator Michael Crider is supporting a bill that would create a \$1 surcharge on cell phone bills to fund the new 988 mental health crisis lifeline. Another bill, backed by State Rep. Greg Steurwald, would divert Hoosiers facing incarceration into mental health treatment centers if they are deemed in need of treatment. Overall, lawmakers are considering long-term solutions to expand accessibility to treatment.



Get more information on the upcoming legislative session and for resources about your representatives: [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Crisis Line Response: Helping People With Personality Disorders

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. CT, Jan. 4

Hosted by: Great Lakes MHTTC

Crisis call centers must address the challenge of burnout among staff. Calls can leave the worker exhausted and the caller in worse shape than in the beginning of the call. This one hour training addresses burnout for crisis line workers and how to assist callers with personality disorders. The training is led by physician David Mays, who is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

### FIRM 2023 Bent But Not Broken: Overcoming Adversity, Cultivating Resilience

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. EST, Jan. 13

William K. Nasser, MD, Healthcare Education and Simulation Center

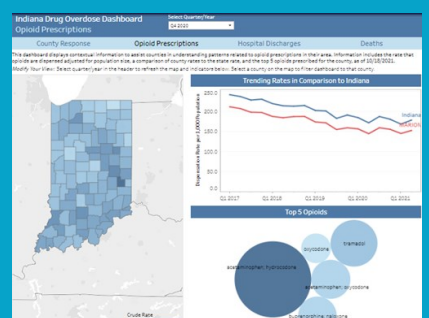
1801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260

Hosted by: FIRM Committee

Hard times are inevitable, and failure is a natural part of life. At this free conference, participants will listen to keynote speakers and participate in interactive activities to help them build resiliency skills. To view the conference itinerary and reserve your spot, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

## Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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