



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Feb 21, 2023

Updates

Pharmacists and the Road to Recovery

A recent study from the New England Journal of Medicine discovered that pharmacists may play a vital role in facilitating patients' paths to recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD). The pilot study details the experience of 100 patients who visited a specially-trained pharmacist to receive buprenorphine medicine. Once stabilized on the medicine, patients were divided into two groups. The first group continued to receive care in the pharmacy, and the second group received care in a physician's office. Interestingly, the first group showed drastically higher rates of treatment retention at 89%.

These results may be indicative of pharmacies' roles in recovery. "Opioid use disorder is too often a lethal disease, and it kills by stigma and isolation. Widespread, equitable access to effective treatment is the answer. Our study showed that the pharmacy treatment model increases access, which benefits a diverse patient population and increases equity", said Dr. Josiah D. Rich, a professor of medicine at Brown University.

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Innovative Approaches to Stigma Reduction Trainings

Sally Wasmuth, a professor of occupational therapy at Indiana IUPUI, has researched stigma within medical settings, primarily stigma towards individuals who use substances. Over the years, she has collected stories of those who have faced stigma for using substances. In partnership with Summit Performance Indianapolis, a theater company, she turns those stories into monologues. Professional actors act out the monologues, which are then recorded, and then the videos are showed to medical professionals.

The monologues are designed to showcase the diversity of people who struggle with substance use and the unique experiences they have. "We think that using narratives and using things like theater and film can help people receive the information or empathize with the stories because their guard is down", Wasmuth said. The results are preliminary but promising; most health care workers report having less negative attitudes towards people who use substances after viewing the videos. As the opioid crisis continues across the country, it is important to take innovative approaches to implicit bias training, as medical professionals treat people with substance use disorder in a variety of settings.

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New NaloxBox on Indiana University Campus

There is now a naloxone-dispensing box located on the IU Bloomington campus. It contains naloxone nasal spray and fentanyl test strips. The box is located in the vestibule of Door No. 1 at the Student Health Center and is available at no cost to the IU and Bloomington community. Sarah Robertson, IU Substance Use Prevention coordinator, says the Substance Use Intervention office will monitor the box and refill it every week.

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Upcoming Events

On-the-Spot Ethics

Noon - 1 p.m. EST, Feb. 23

Hosted by: Mountain Plains ATTC

Ethical dilemmas are situations in which a difficult decision must be made based on competing values, with no clear solution. These dilemmas are an expected part of working in behavioral healthcare, especially for providers practicing in rural communities. Ethics On-the-Spot is a monthly one-hour opportunity to discuss your dilemmas with a veteran ethics professor Dr. Cindy Juntunen. We invite you to submit your ethical dilemmas using the form below or we welcome you to join us on the last Thursday of the month to ask your questions live.

To join *Ethics OtS* use the Zoom login below on the scheduled time and day:

Step 1: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89981959769>

Step 2: Join by Telephone (ONLY if device does not have a microphone built in): Phone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) or +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 899-8195-9769

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Upstream Prevention Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. EST, Feb. 24

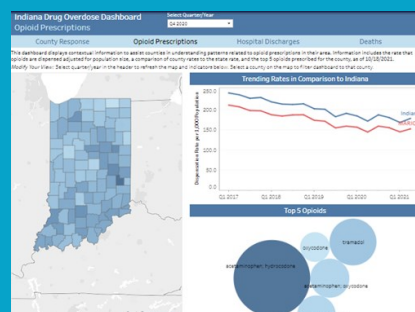
Hosted by: Upstream Prevention

Join Upstream Prevention's monthly Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting via Zoom!

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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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