



# Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

June 21, 2022

## Updates

### Understand the 'Can Workshops Offered

InTouch Outreach Resource Center is an Indianapolis-based not-for-profit that offers peer recovery supportive services to individuals and families in need.

Throughout this summer, InTouch Outreach Resource Center will be holding its new campaign, Understand the 'Can. These events, which will be held at Indy parks in the coming months, will be a place for community members to find resources, support, and community in response to the opioid overdose crisis. Community members will also be able to learn how to use Narcan at these events.

Please visit [InTouch Outreach Resource Center's website](#) to learn more about [this event](#) and the other services they provide, such as life coaching, employment assistance, and connecting people with community assistance programs.



### Disparities in Patient Access to Opioid Treatments Persist

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the combination of three U.S. FDA-approved medications and counseling and cognitive behavioral therapy. [Research from Mayo Clinic](#) on the access of communities to buprenorphine, one of these three medications, was published earlier this month.

The research team used the OptumLabs Data Warehouse to examine 3,110 filled prescriptions of buprenorphine from 72,055 emergency department visits across the United States from 2014 to 2020. While access to the medication increased over time for all groups studied, it was consistently lower for people 41 and older, women, and Black and Hispanic people. These disparities remained relatively steady over the years studied.

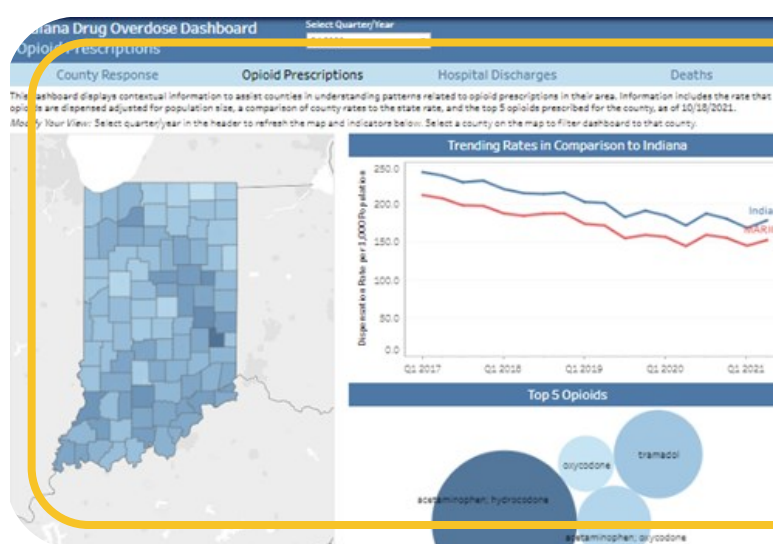
The researchers note that people with socioeconomic advantages — white, male or younger — were more likely to receive buprenorphine. "These findings are not surprising, given that patient- and system-level barriers for accessing buprenorphine often disproportionately impact minoritized racial and ethnic populations," the researchers wrote. They say that obstacles to receiving the drug include systemic racism, mistrust of health care professionals and the healthcare system, not enough clinicians able and prepared to prescribe buprenorphine in the emergency department, regulatory requirements, reimbursement issues, and addiction and mental health stigmas.

The FDA approved buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder in 2002. Please visit the [NextLevel Recovery Indiana website](#) to learn more about where you can find MAT providers for methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

## Indiana's 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.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)



## Upcoming Events

### Risk Factors for Youth Substance Misuse

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. EDT, Thursday June 23

During this webinar, we will explore the risk factors that place youth at greater risk of substance misuse, as identified by the Social Development Research Group through systematic reviews of the research literature. Time will be spent exploring each risk factor to ensure that preventionists understand the meaning of each factor to address them effectively.

To learn more and register for this event, click [here](#).

### Effectively Integrating Peer Workers into Substance Use Service Systems

1 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EDT, Friday June 24

This presentation will focus on the effective integration of peer workers into the existing substance use service systems. In particular, it will focus in on defining and maintaining peer workers' roles, values, and ethics while collaborating successfully with those in established clinical roles. The presentation and subsequent panel discussion will encourage the audience to respect the value that peer workers bring with them to the behavioral health field. Finally, there will be discussion on best practices for the provision of peer support services within substance use service systems and how peers provide support to those through out the course of substance use disorder continuum.

To learn more and register for this event, click [here](#).

### Prevention Meets Harm Reduction: How Community Collaborations Work Across the Continuum, Part One

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT, Tuesday June 28

This virtual series will provide a framework for understanding harm reduction strategies by sharing the history and pillars of harm reduction as a social movement and examples of various types of harm reduction strategies.

Participants will explore how the goals and values of prevention intersect with harm reduction and how we can work together through community collaborations to address overlapping goals. Finally, we will explore how the knowledge brought from those with lived experience can enhance our implementation strategies across the continuum of care.

To learn more and register for this event, click [here](#).

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

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