



Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Nov 1, 2022

Updates

Indiana University Researchers Receive Grant

Researchers at Indiana University have received a \$5.1 million grant from the National Institute of Health's HEAL Data2Action Initiative. These funds will help researchers collaborate with overdose fatality review teams in 19 Indiana counties to measure effectiveness of harm reduction strategies.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Indiana ranked 13th in the nation with 36.7 overdose deaths per 100,000 in 2020. Overdose fatality review teams are considered a best practice for addressing overdose deaths because they include local expertise. Brad Ray, co-leader of the HEAL Data2Action implementation, notes that "More than any other state, Indiana has facilitated the creation of localized overdose fatality review teams to enact prevention efforts that are tailored to the community.

In addition to working with the overdose fatality review teams, the grant will also support data integration efforts. Khairi Reda, associate professor of informatics and computing at IUPUI, is working with the HEAL Data2Action team to create dashboards and visualizations that will pinpoint high-risk areas of Indiana. Once these areas are identified by the data, harm reduction services can be delivered quickly. He will work with state and local partners to aggregate the data and create the dashboards, which will "help overdose fatality review teams dig into the data to determine if there are appropriate services where care can be provided and implemented to contribute to lowering overdose deaths in Indiana."

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Northern Indiana Leaders Attend Opioid and Mental Health Summit

State and local leaders gathered Oct. 15 in New Haven for the Northern Indiana Opioid and Mental Health Summit. The all-day event emphasized the importance of local efforts in addressing the drug overdose crisis, especially considering the opioid settlement funds being distributed this fall.

Indiana is part of a national settlement made earlier this year with Johnson & Johnson, Amerisource Bergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson. Each county, city, and town are set to receive a portion of the \$507 million Indiana received.

Indiana leaders are convening to determine the best use of these funds. At the summit, leaders discussed potential strategies, including strengthening partnerships with mental health facilities, halfway houses, and addiction treatment centers.

Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch attended the event. During her closing remarks, she shared how mental health and substance use has impacted her own family. "It gives me great optimism to see you all gather to discuss an issue that is important to all of us", she said.

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Upcoming Events

Rethinking Recovery

5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 7

Hosted by: Care to Change Counseling, located at 10080 U.S 36 Suite A, Avon

For individuals who are struggling with substance use, or individuals who know someone who struggles with substance use, Care to Change Counseling is offering free counseling services starting Monday, Nov. 7. Care to Change is a professional counseling center that uses evidence-based models of care. At each weekly session, participants will learn about substance use, develop relapse prevention skills, and provide each other with support and community. The men's group will meet from 5-6:30 p.m., and the women's group will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. There is no cost to join, but registration is required.

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HIV Modernization: Ending the Stigma of People Living with HIV

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. EST, Nov. 9

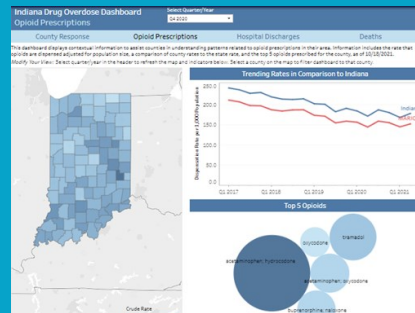
Hosted by: Phoenix Theater Cultural Centre, located at 705 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis

People living with HIV often face stigma and discrimination due to Indiana laws that criminalize them. At this unique event, speakers living with HIV will discuss how to end HIV criminalization through arts, advocacy, and policy. At the beginning of the event, Indianapolis-based artists Contonnia Turner, Jr. and Todd Fuqua will feature their art that provides a backdrop for the discussion. The panel will begin shortly after. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended. This is a free event.

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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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