

Indiana

Alerting partners with near real-time emergency department data to combat the opioid epidemic



Marshall County Health Department



Increase in suspected drug overdose ED visits



Marshall County, Indiana



Nov. 29, 2018



Advocate for naloxone administration training

“The alert system in place allowed for us to take action in a timely manner. The public responded positively with many people coming to the naloxone trainings we held in the following days.”

— Jacob Baylis, Health Educator
Marshall County Health Department

On Nov. 29, 2018, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) alerted the Marshall County Health Department (MCHD) of an increase in suspected drug overdose-related emergency department (ED) visits in the county on Nov. 24-25, 2018.

In response, MCHD took the opportunity to raise awareness of its naloxone program to train community members on naloxone administration and to educate the public about overdose response through a Facebook media release. Local news picked up the story and interviewed the health department, spreading the word about the training opportunities. The press release bolstered attendance of subsequent naloxone trainings hosted by MCHD with one being the most widely attended public training the department ever held. In addition to informing the public, the health department released the drug overdose increase information to all area first responders for situational awareness and offered to supply naloxone for their agencies.

The critical and timely information obtained from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), will maintain MCHD's investment and participation in the ISDH overdose surveillance program. MCHD greatly appreciates the collaboration with ISDH, regarding it as a valuable effort to raise awareness about overdose events in a way that benefits the public. MCHD and ISDH view the media release and community response as a noteworthy example of leveraging emergency department data to monitor drug overdose activities in the community.