

# DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION NEWSCAST



May 10, 2019

**Here are your weekly opioid epidemic updates  
from the Indiana State Department of Health:**

## **As Meth Use Surges, First Responders Struggle to Help Those in Crisis**

Throughout the West and Midwest, many communities are seeing an uptick in meth usage. This has led to a spike in requests for residential treatment programs and hospitalizations in these communities. However, one distinct difference between meth and opioid treatment is that meth has no medication-assisted treatment equivalent, making the addiction significantly harder to treat.

## **Physicians Get Addicted Too**

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Coordination of Prevention  
Services in Rural  
Communities Webinar**

May 14, 2019, noon EDT

An often underreported aspect of the opioid epidemic is the trend of doctors experiencing substance use disorder (SUD). This article profiles a doctor with SUD and details his path to recovery. It also dives into the reasons why some doctors were overprescribing and the general culture of pill pushing at the time. There are now programs designed to walk with doctors through their addiction all while maintaining their licensure.

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## Indiana University joins collaborative to counter opioid epidemic

Indiana University (IU) has joined a National Academy of Medicine collaborative of more than 100 organizations to address the opioid crisis. The collaborative led by the National Academy of Medicine is looking to effect, “health professional education and training; opioid prescribing guidelines and evidence standards; prevention, treatment and recovery; and research, data and metrics.” IU was chosen because of its Responding to the Addictions Crisis Grand Challenge initiative. As a part of IU Challenge, more than 30 research projects are under way and 1,000 court and law enforcement officials are being trained in medication-assisted treatment.

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## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and many organizations are joining the effort to emphasize this important health issue. To highlight some of the efforts being undertaken by these various organizations, here are some of their resources.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is encouraging individuals to have a #realconvo about mental health. Numerous resources and ideas on how to take action are posted on its website. Check it out [here](#). Mental Health America created a toolkit that has resources, including press releases, key messages, social media photos and fact sheets. Check out their resources [here](#). The federal government’s site, [mentalhealth.gov](http://mentalhealth.gov), is always a great resource as it has valuable information on what to look for and how to get help. Check out their site [here](#). Of course, there are a lot of great webinars throughout month such as the webinar highlighting National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day on May 20. According to the website, “older adults accounted for 18.2 percent of suicide deaths in 2016 and males 75 or older have suicide rates nearly double of any other age group.” Register for that webinar [here](#).

This free webinar will review lessons learned from research conducted in Wisconsin and describe how communities plan to move forward with implementation of client-centered prevention service coordination intervention. This webinar will be especially helpful to many in our rural communities as their program specifically targeted rural communities. Individuals can register for the webinar [here](#).

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### Narcan Training Saturday

**June 1, 2019, various times**

The Baptist Minister’s Alliance and the Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis are hosting a “Narcan Training Saturday.” This training is specifically aimed at empowering churches to combat the opioid crisis. These trainings are open to everyone, and individuals who attend will be eligible to receive an overdose prevention kit. Those interested in attending can register for the 9 a.m. session [here](#) and the 10:30 a.m. session [here](#).

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### Opioid Response Network Training

**June 5-6, 2019, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

This free two-day community training is designed for organizations or individuals who want to learn more about the prevention, treatment, and recovery from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Community workers, treatment providers, prescribers, health educators, law enforcement and legislators are encouraged to attend. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Thank you,  
**Katie Hokanson**

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