



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**

# Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Jan. 10, 2023

## News and Updates

### Potential Fentanyl Vaccine under Development

Researchers at the University of Houston are developing a vaccine designed to immunize against fentanyl. The vaccine generates antibodies that counteract the fentanyl, preventing it from entering the brain. "If the drug does not enter the brain, there are no effects — there are no euphoric effects and no lethal effects, as well," said Dr. Colin Haile, who is the lead of a research team at the University of Houston.

Amid the nation's opioid crisis, the development of a fentanyl vaccine could be an important turning point. However, Dr. Keith Humphreys, a professor of psychiatry at Stanford University, notes that therapeutic vaccines tend to have lower uptake, and there is still more testing needed. Dr. Haile hopes the vaccine will be approved by the U.S. FDA within the next four years. "We still have a ways to go", he said. "We're close and every time I think about it, I get more motivated."

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Opioid Settlements

Indiana may receive more than \$278 million from national lawsuit settlements against Walgreen's, CVS and Wal-Mart. Several states, including Indiana, accused the three companies of mismanaging distribution of prescription drugs, contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita finalized the agreements and reported that Indiana is set to receive \$11.4 million from Walgreen's, \$105 million from CVS, and \$59.4 million from Wal-Mart. The funds will support statewide harm reduction efforts, prevention, recovery services and treatment. All three companies have also agreed to court orders that require monitoring, reporting and data sharing about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

With regards to the settlement involving McKesson, AmerisourceBergan, Cardinal and Janssen, Indiana submitted its plan to spend the state's portion of funds to the State Budget Committee last month, and the plan was approved. [Here](#) is a link to more information, including the plan itself.

### Hope Academy Serves Students in Recovery

Indianapolis is home to one of seven recovery schools for teens throughout the entire United States. Hope Academy, located on the southside, is a high school for teens recovering from substance use.

The school welcomes dozens of students from the greater Indianapolis area. Class sizes average from 5-8 students, providing students with the individualized attention they need to excel. A typical student schedule at Hope Academy includes normal high school classes, like math and econ, and additional small groups and check-ins with recovery coaches. To read the full story about Hope Academy, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

Hope Academy enrolls new students year-round. The school's website is [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

### Overdose Reversal Kit Making

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m. EST, Jan. 10**

**Hosted by: Overdose Lifeline**

Join Overdose Lifeline every other Tuesday evening to assemble overdose reversal kits for distribution to the public. This volunteer activity will contribute to saving lives. Volunteers make kits to distribute across the state. Overdose Lifeline currently distributes an average of 1,000 kits per week to individuals living in all 92 Indiana counties. [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Recognizing Racial Stigma and Opportunities for Change

**9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. EST, Jan. 13**

**Hosted by: Northeast & Caribbean ATTC**

Stigma is associated with negative and often fear-based perspectives and misunderstandings of people with mental health conditions, substance use problems, or physical disabilities. Add layers of race and ethnicity and you have racial stigma, referring to how people of diverse backgrounds are unfairly perceived and treated. The combined impact plays a major role in why many who would benefit from treatment do not seek care. In this virtual workshop, participants will review how stress, discrimination, microaggressions, and societal attributions influence racial stigma and differential treatment. Participants are required to attend the entire training, turn on their video cameras, and actively participant to receive their Certificate of Completion. [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Public Health Day: Investing in Hoosier Lives

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m. EST, Jan. 26**

**Indiana Statehouse North Atrium**

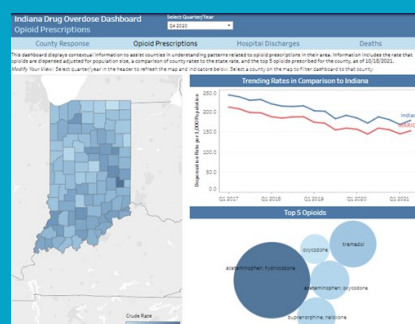
**Hosted by: Indiana Department of Health**

Please join us and show your support for public health in Indiana by wearing blue and gold!

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

## 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

Indiana Department of Health

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