

Opioid Crisis Update

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At the most recent meeting of the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council, the group discussed the State of Illinois Opioid Action Plan at length. ISDS Professional Services Director attended, stating that, "This information would be advantageous to our dentists as it will affect prescribing behaviors." Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

Nirav Shah, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), gave an overview of the State of Illinois Opioid Action Plan that Gov. Rauner released on September 6, 2017. Director Shah noted that recommendations made by the Council are included in the Plan. To download a copy of the Plan, visit <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Illinois-Opioid-Action-Plan-Sept-6-2017-FINAL.pdf>.

The overall goal outlined in the Plan is to reduce opioid-related deaths by 33% in three years. It is important to note the original goal was to reduce deaths against the projected trajectory of overdose deaths. The Plan focuses on efforts that fall into three pillars, six main priorities and nine evidence-based strategies. Briefly, these include:

- **Prevention:** preventing the further spread of the opioid crisis through safer prescribing and dispensing (i.e., increase PMP use, reduce high-risk prescribing via provider education and guidelines), education and stigma reduction, and monitoring and communication;
- **Treatment and Recovery:** providing evidence-based treatment and recovery services to Illinois residents with opioid use disorder (OUD) by increasing access to care (i.e., medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services) and supporting justice-involved populations by increasing deflection and diversion programs statewide;
- **Rescue:** averting overdose deaths by increasing the number of first responders and community members who are trained and have access to naloxone, and decrease the number of overdose deaths after an at-risk individual's immediate release from a correctional or other institutional facility.

Watch for more information on this developing issue from the ISDS Opioid Task Force.