

## THE OPIOID CRISIS IN ILLINOIS: DATA AND THE STATE'S RESPONSE REPORT

The Heroin Crisis Act (Public Act 99-0480) requires that the Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse publish annually a report on drug overdose trends statewide that reviews state death rates from available data to ascertain changes in the causes or rates of drug overdose. IDHS/DASA collaborated with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and other state agencies to publish the report, *The Opioid Crisis in Illinois: Data and the State's Response*. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=96730>.

As providers of SUD services, you are well aware that the opioid crisis has manifested itself in the form of multiple public health problems. *The Opioid Crisis in Illinois* report provides an analysis of the nature and extent of these problems across our state, but also summarizes state agency efforts to transform the behavioral health system of care and impact the opioid crisis.

In January 2017, the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council was formed consisting of representatives from 15 state agencies, 17 trade and professional organizations, ten county health departments and dozens of community based human service healthcare providers. This Council meets regularly to support a strategic planning

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process that has included information sharing regarding initiatives in response to the opioid epidemic, gaps in services and policy, and areas of alignment. The Council formed four subcommittees: Criminal Justice Populations, Medication Assisted Treatment, Prescribing Practices, Public Awareness and Education, all of which are working to better coordinate the state's response to the heroin and other opioid crisis.

Questions about the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council may be directed to [Kim.Fornero@illinois.gov](mailto:Kim.Fornero@illinois.gov).