

The Opioid Public Health Crisis



Course Overview

The Opioid Public Health Crisis began in 1999 and continues more than two decades later. The American toll from the health crisis is large. Between 1999 and 2023, drug overdoses have killed more than 1.2 million Americans. That number exceeds the number of U.S. service members who have died in battle in all wars fought by the United States.

The Opioid Public Health Crisis (OPHC) course will provide you with foundational knowledge on this nationwide health crisis, the historical trends and current conditions and the solutions and actions to take to mitigate and reduce the health crisis effects.

What People Are Saying

"As a public health educator, this course gave me a fantastic overall view of addiction, the opioid crisis (both historically and currently), and how to help."



Discuss the opioid public health crisis - historical, current conditions and trends.



Explain how the health crisis developed, the contributors and risk factors.



Identify the multi-faceted solutions model that states, and communities are applying to reduce the effects of the health crisis and the actions an individual / professional can take to improve the outcomes.

"This helped me understand what I can personally do to help my family and others and that the solutions work when all are used, and everyone works together."

The Opioid Public Health Crisis

Online Course Meets DEA MATE Act Training Requirements

Course Outline

- I. Drug Classifications
- II. Brief Review of Addiction / Substance Use Disorder
- III. Opioid Overview and Fentanyl 101
 - A. The Opioid Family of Drugs
 - B. Prescription Opioid Misuse and Addiction
 - C. Fentanyl 101 and Risks
- IV. The Opioid Public Health Crisis
 - A. Data, Trends and Impact
- V. Contributors and Risk Factors
 - A. Misrepresentation of Opioid's Addiction Risks
 - B. Prescribing Factors and Role in the Crisis
 - C. National Opioid Settlements
 - D. Paths to Prescription Opioid Use Disorder
 - E. Who is Affected and at Risk
 - F. Young Adults / Youth Risk Factors
 - G. Signs of Heroin or Prescription Opioid Misuse
- VI. Recognizing and Preventing an Opioid Overdose
 - A. Opioid Overdose Signs and Symptoms
 - B. What is Naloxone
 - C. Naloxone Administration Devices
 - D. Naloxone Myths and Studies
 - E. Naloxone Access and Laws
 - F. General Naloxone Information
- VII. Solutions
 - A. Education and Prevention
 - B. Clinical Practice Guideline for Opioid Prescribing
 - C. Prescription Management
 - D. Data and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
 - E. Screening and Early Intervention
 - F. Reduce the Stigma Associated with Addiction
 - G. Harm Reduction
 - H. Treatment and Recovery
- VIII. End Notes and Resources

Online Course 3.0 CE Credits

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Virtual Group Training

We bring the training to you. Virtual sessions are available for groups of five or more and can be tailored to meet your organization's needs. Contact us to learn more or request a custom quote.

Course Reviewers

The course material has been reviewed by subject matter expert: Brad Ray, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana.

CE Credit and Certificate Program

In partnership with Purdue University College of Pharmacy, Office of Continuing Education, Overdose Lifeline offers continuing education online courses for clinicians and professionals and a 20 credit professional certificate program on Addiction / Substance Use Disorder with an Opioid Specialization.

The course meets the following CE accreditations: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and Other, AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] (ACCME) which will service all other clinical, professional, and layperson credits.

Law Enforcement: As an approved Law Enforcement Training Board training provider (#47-1333720), Overdose Lifeline online training courses meet annual in-service training requirements for Indiana Law Enforcement officers and support personnel.



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