

Drug Free Marion County News

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Celebration of Lives Lost Photos Available

Thank you to everyone who joined us for and supported the 2016 Celebrations of Lives Lost on Oct. 22. For a look at the event, [please visit this gallery](#) courtesy of the evening's photographers, Tom & David Photographic Artists.

Opioids, Heroin Increasingly Impacting Kids, Teens, Young Adults

The growing opioid/heroin crisis sadly is extending to our youth, new studies show. At Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, researchers found that 18-to-34-year-old non-medical prescription opioid users were more likely to have a use disorder in 2014 than in 2002. Young adults ages 18 to 25 had a 37 percent increase in the odds of having a disorder, while those ages 26 to 30 doubled their odds from 11 percent to 24 percent. The former group also saw a four-fold increase over time in the odds of heroin use, while the latter group's odds surged nine fold.

Meanwhile, researchers at the Yale School of Medicine reported that the number of young children and teens hospitalized for overdosing on opioid painkillers has increased drastically. Among children ages one to four, poisonings increased 205 percent from 1997 to 2012, and poisonings among teens ages 15 to 19 increased 176 percent. Teen poisonings from heroin went up 161 percent.

Most poisonings were accidental, with children "eating them like candy," lead researcher Julie Gaither told Health Day. "The opioid crisis affects everyone, and we need to pay better attention to the impact it's had on children. Our study shows they have suffered hard from this epidemic."

Treatment Available for Expecting Moms with Opioid Use Disorder

Pregnant women interested in treatment for Opioid Use Disorder can receive outpatient care from physicians with Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health Maternal Fetal Medicine. If, after conducting an assessment, a physician determines that Outpatient-Based Opioid Treatment is appropriate, he or she will provide an orientation and consent forms and arrange for the treatment. Should outpatient treatment not be recommended, the physician will arrange to enroll the mom-to-be in a more intensive program. To arrange for an assessment, call [317-944-7010](tel:317-944-7010).

New Legal Synthetic Opioid Responsible for Dozens of Deaths in U.S.

A new synthetic opioid called U-47700 and known by the street names "pink" or "pinky" is eight times more powerful than morphine and is responsible for dozens of deaths across the country, including two 13-year-old boys in Utah. Because it is less powerful than fentanyl and carfentanil, U-47700 hasn't received much publicity, but it is still "extremely toxic, even in small doses," Park City, Utah police captain Phil Kirk [told CNN](#).

Available on the "dark web," U-47700 can be purchased in nasal spray, powder or pill form for as little as \$40 per gram. Several states already have banned the drug including Indiana, which enacted a temporary ban that will stay in effect until June 2017. That development occurred after a Bloomington, Ind. couple in their 20s died from U-47700 overdoses in August.

Marijuana Talk Kit in English and Spanish Available for Parents

The Partnership for Drugfree Kids has created a free online Marijuana Talk Kit in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to help parents and guardians have meaningful, productive conversations with teens about marijuana. The kit offers suggestions for navigating discussion about the risks of teen marijuana use, what to (and not to) say, how to respond to a teen's questions and arguments and more.

News from Our Board of Directors

Judge Bill Nelson of Marion Superior Court has completed training on the administration of Narcan, the opioid-reversal medication. He intends to have his entire court staff undergo this training as well.

Volunteer for Drug Free Marion County

Are you passionate about preventing substance abuse and educating parents and youth about the risks involved with drug and alcohol use? Drug Free Marion County is looking for volunteers who would like to help us spread awareness of these issues. If you would like to assist us with educational presentations in our community or help us with our fundraising efforts, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Randy Miller at [317-254-2815](tel:317-254-2815) or [email him](mailto:randy@dfmc.org).

Upcoming DFMC Meetings

Grants and Community Strategies Meeting

When: Monday, Nov. 21, noon-1:30 p.m.

Where: Finish Line Boys and Girls Club, 3870 N. Post Road

What: Newly expanded to include Drug Free Community grantees, partners from the Northeast Prevention Partnership and Strengthening Families Program, college and university representatives and other interested constituents for collaborative strategic planning. Identifies current substance use trends and related policy issues, DFC grantee progress and reporting, DFMC goals and project updates, etc.

Drug Free Marion County Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 8:30-10 a.m.

Where: Marion County Public Health Department, 3838 N. Rural, First Floor Conference Room

What: Discusses DFMC organizational planning and services

Northeast Prevention Partnership

When: Monday, Dec. 1, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Marion County Public Health Department, 3838 N. Rural, First Floor Conference Room

What: Final meeting under the direction of Drug Free Marion County
