

UNITED AGAINST OPIOID ABUSE, volume 1, issue 1

march
2019



White County United Way

Service Details to Date

Organization Involvement

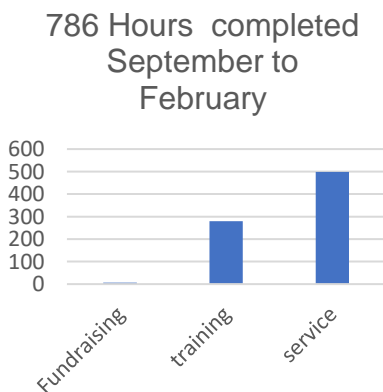
WC Community Corrections Board, WC Chamber LEADS, WC Health Coalition, WC Services Network, Tipp. Co. Opioid Task Force, Drug Free White County, WC Ministerial Association

Conferences and Training

Rural Symposium on Addiction, Solutions and Pathways, AmeriCorps Training, Mental Health First Aid, Harm Reduction Seminar, Intro to Excel, Tipp. Co. Quick Response Team, Motivational Interviewing, Prescribing an American Tragedy, Public Health Training Modules, Project ECHO: peer recovery track, Trauma-informed Systems of Care

Speaking Engagements

LEADS, Monticello Rotary, Brookston Rotary, November Superintendents Meeting, WC School Emergency Management, Monticello Kiwanis



From the AmeriCorps desk...

Many of you already know that I recently retired from nearly 30 years as an educator in White County. There, I saw drug and alcohol use affecting children. I have also witnessed its impact through the lens of jail ministry work and the eyes of a daughter watching her mother suffer with chronic pain and addiction. We all read the news and see the almost daily articles and stories of how much opioids are costing us in terms of productivity, health care, destroyed lives, and devastated families.

Over the past six months as an AmeriCorps member, I have talked to community members and agencies to learn about opioids and the important work that is already being done to combat this epidemic. I have met with more than 60 community members, agencies and providers from law enforcement, the judicial system (including court observations), those incarcerated and in recovery, first responders and pharmacists, community leaders and the coroner, churches and health care, community volunteers, educators, and families of those involved in drug use. I have learned about our background, people's frustrations, and their aspirations for our community. Many of you participated in those conversations and are receiving this newsletter as a result. The chart above indicates that all of these participants perceive the opioid crisis at least somewhat urgent in our community. In the following pages are additional reports from these meetings, surveys, and group sessions.

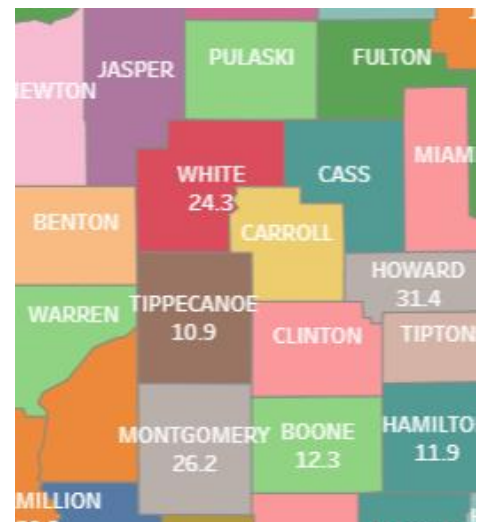
-Lynn Saylor

White County opioid death rate per 100,000 is 24.3.

Indiana state average: 17.2

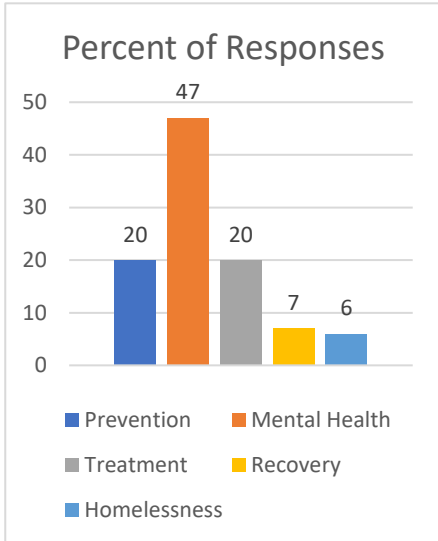
Tippecanoe County: 10.9

(2017 Data) Benton, Carroll, Cass, Fulton, Jasper and Pulaski are not high enough to calculate. (Data from www.in.gov/recovery/index.html)



Community Members' Responses . . .

Question: What would be your first priority in addressing opioid misuse in our community?



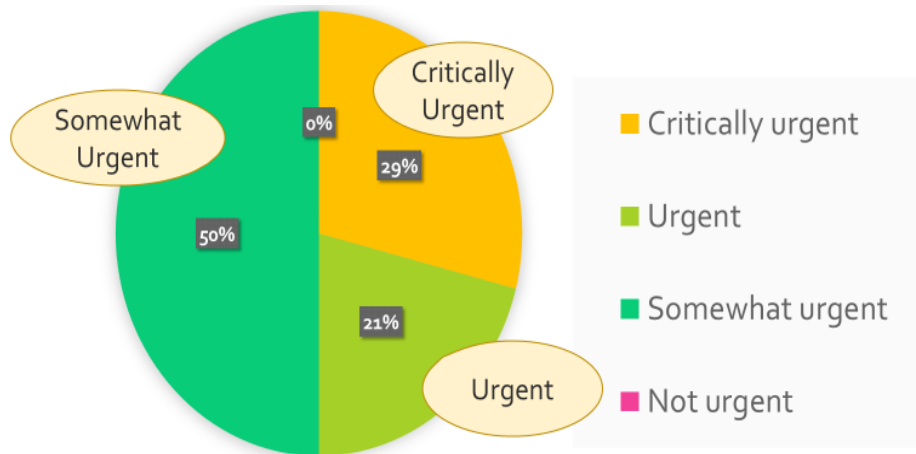
Question: What will make it more difficult to fight opioid misuse in this community?

Number of Responses	
Resistance to change, denial of problem, lack of awareness	12
Lack of facilities, treatment and services	8
Culture of poverty	7
Lack of funds and sustainability	7
Lack of leadership/ agreement on solutions	5
Stigma	3

Question: What will help us be successful in combating drug misuse? This was an open-ended question; participants created their own responses.

- ✓ *People Care*
- ✓ *Increased Awareness of Problem*
- ✓ *Willingness to Collaborate and Work Toward Solutions*
- ✓ *Strong Community Involvement / Partnerships*

Question: How urgent is the opioid crisis in our community?

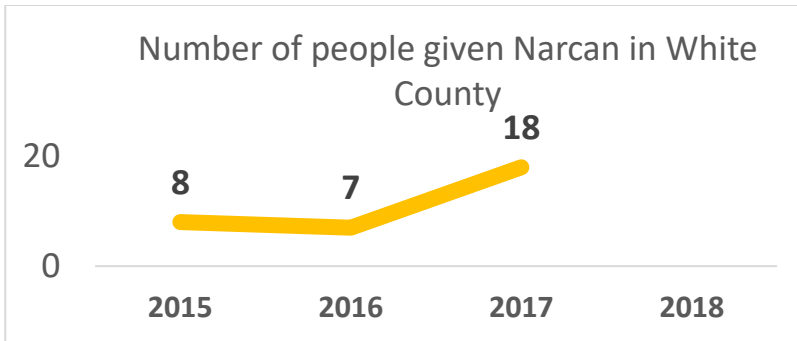


Question: How *hopeful* are you about the success of current collaboration around substance use disorder in your community?

57% optimistic
43% pessimistic

Category	Percentage
very pessimistic	14%
somewhat pessimistic	29%
somewhat optimistic	36%
very optimistic	21%

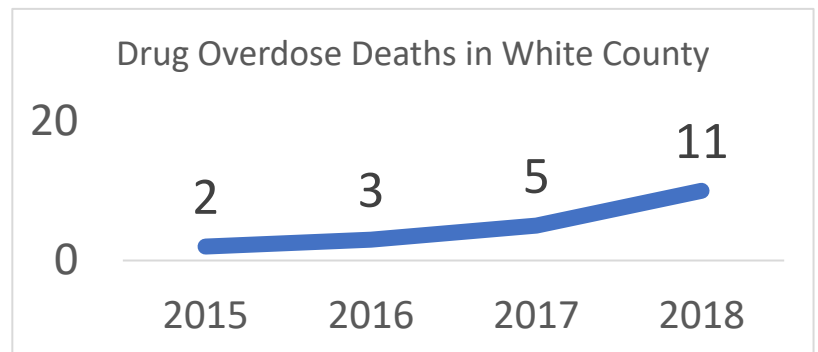
White County Data



The number of times Narcan (an antidote to Opioid overdose) was administered has more than doubled between 2015 and 2018.*

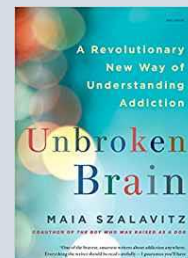
From 2015-2018, our overdose deaths have increased five-fold.*

*Data from local records.

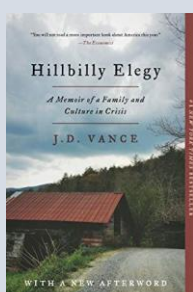


Lynn's Reading List

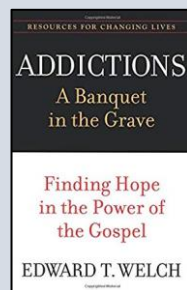
In our response to opioid abuse in our community, we seek to share information and find sources that shed light on those involved in substance abuse disorder. Detailed literature reviews will be a regular focus of our articles in our local newspapers. These books are a selection of sources that will help interested readers understand the many facets of opioid abuse disorder.



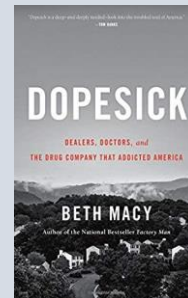
Unbroken Brain by Maia Szalavitz, Picador; Reprint edition; 2017



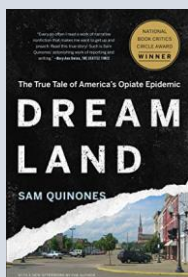
Hillbilly Elegy: A memoir of culture and family in crisis by J. D. Vance, Harper Paperbacks; Reprint edition; 2018



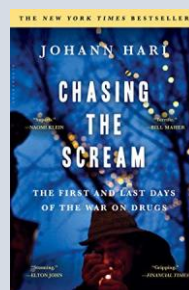
Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave by Ed Welch, P&R Publishing Phillipsburg NJ, 2001



Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America by Beth Macy, Little, Brown and Co.; 2018



Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opioid Epidemic by Sam Quinones, Bloomsbury Press, New York, 2015.



Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs by Johann Hari Bloomsbury USA; 2015



Saving Jake by D'Ann Burwell, Focus Up books Los Altos CA, 2015



White County United Way

unique skills to collaborate in our fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person. Those who have been with the United Way for decades realize that the impacts of substance abuse disorder rob our neighbors of personal vitality: the very strength we strive to protect. That's why many have chosen to fight with us against this burgeoning threat.

In our work outside of the AmeriCorps project, WC UW promotes programs that enrich lives in our community. We understand the importance of connections and relationships, so we wrap the compassion of community around our innocent and vulnerable neighbors through our sixteen agencies, programs, and initiatives. We seek to build a community that our neighbors will want to thrive within, not one they seek to escape.

In the next *United Way Corner*, we will report on the success of our Kindergarten Camp Program and our new United Way Student Board, both county-wide programs that help build stronger relationships and communities. Until then, please find us on Facebook and online to learn more about our work or to donate to your favorite program.

United Way Corner

Some might wonder what the United Way is doing in the business of opioid abuse prevention, but others know us as the community conveners, the facilitators, the liaisons, and the hand-raisers. They recognize our

whitecountyunitedway.org

AmeriCorps Spring Goals

1. Additional community conversations
2. Writing AIM drug and opioid abuse program grant with local government partners
3. Writing more articles
4. Continued work with United Council on Opioids
5. Completing Public Knowledge Report for Harwood Community Conversations
6. Mid-year AmeriCorps training in Indy
7. Research community navigator systems
8. Complete second newsletter, to be published in June, 2019



Discover, Advocate, Volunteer

United Council on Opioids

Perhaps the biggest result of these talks is our community coalition to prevent opioid abuse. The Council has met three times and plans to continue meeting quarterly to address the opioid crisis with deliberate focus and collaboration. Within the council are three task forces that meet monthly: Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. Together, we fight. Together, we win!

United Against Opioid Abuse in the News

[Opioid Crisis Hits Home in White County](#) by Michael Johnson, *Herald Journal* 10/24/18

[Opioid Problems Increasing in White County](#) by James D Wolf, *Herald Journal* 2/6/19

[Saylor to speak at Rotary Luncheon](#): by Travis Rubeck, *News and Review* 10/10/18

Weekly Columns by Lynn Saylor in *Herald Journal* and *News and Review*

Please contact Lynn Saylor at whitecountyamericorps@gmail.com or call 574-583-6544 ext 5 if you have:

- interest in participating in the United Council on Opioids
- ideas/questions/concerns about our coalition
- requests for article topics
- additional data that should be included in this newsletter
- requests for presentations and speakers
- personal experiences to share