

Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy

Agency Performance Report

State Fiscal Year 2023



Introduction

The Agency Performance Report for Iowa's Office of Drug Control Policy is published in accordance with the Accountable Government Act. The information provided illustrates accountability to stakeholders and citizens. The report is indicative of the agency's progress in achieving goals consistent with the enterprise strategic plan, the agency strategic plan and agency performance plan.

In April, Governor Reynolds signed the State Government Alignment bill into law. Effective July 1, 2023, this measure created organizational efficiencies in state government to better serve lowans. One element of the alignment bill moved the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) into the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS). ODCP's core mission and services remain the same, including our staff, grant administration, and work with the Iowa Drug Policy Advisory Council.

Alcohol misuse arguably impacts more lowa families than many controlled substances. The persistent use of highly addictive methamphetamine remains problematic. Opioid overdoses are rising as fentanyl has increasingly been found in counterfeit pills, separately, and mixed with other drugs. The growing number of emergency department visits due to marijuana has hit an all-time high. However, 11th graders reported use of marijuana at 8%, an all-time low. Unfortunately, the vaping of nicotine and marijuana products is 6% over the national average. Even as lowans' use of some of these substances is relatively low or declining, deaths attributed to a few of the substances are rising, along with the potency of certain drugs and more powerful drug combinations.

The issues facing lowa are changing in size, shape, and speed and it is imperative we work together to reduce the threat posed by altered drug supplies and their use in Iowa. Today's drug-related risks require an "all hands on-deck" response that is agile enough to evolve with the elusive challenges. From youth to parents, teachers, volunteers, and state and federal officials, everyone needs to get involved.

Iowa alcohol sales remain very high in FY23. Distilled spirits sales dropped, but only from 6.47 million gallons sold to 6.37 million gallons sold. However, data from the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division shows the current amount is double the amount sold in 2004.

Alcohol related deaths in Iowa rose 5% in 2022, to an all-time high of 868. Comparatively, in 2020, alcohol related deaths in Iowa rose 26% to 760. Alcohol related traffic deaths, as reported by Iowa Department of Transportation, have varied in recent years. In Iowa, alcohol is second only to excessive speed as a contributing factor in all traffic crashes.

lowa substance use disorder (SUD) treatment data indicate marijuana is one of lowa's most used intoxicating or addictive substances. Although marijuana use is prevalent in lowa, only 9.17% of lowans say they currently use the drug according to the 2019-2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration notes that hydrocodone is the most abused and diverted controlled substance in the country. The United States consumes 80% of the world's opioids and 99% of the world's hydrocodone. Iowans can help prevent the illegal diversion of prescription drugs by safely disposing of unused household medication.

Most substance use disorder (SUD) treatment providers shifted to tele-treatment services to comply with social distancing guidance during the pandemic. This switch reportedly resulted in improved program access and participation, especially in rural areas. The Iowa HHS reports 82% of providers switched to telehealth.

Overall, Iowans rank 36th in the rate of current—past 30 day—drug use (12.47% Iowa vs. 14.29% U.S.). However, Iowans use nicotine, alcohol, and methamphetamine at rates above the national average.

Approaches to consider that would strengthen existing efforts include:

- Improve timely data collection, sharing, and utilization to sharpen substance use responses and results.
- Prevent youth use of alcohol, nicotine, and marijuana amid a variety of public policies and social media messages that send mixed signals or make drugs more accessible (e.g., education and digital literacy).
- Enhance use of intervention tools and techniques (e.g., Prescription Monitoring Program, naloxone for reversing opioid overdoses; post-overdose outreach and referrals; and Good Samaritan 911 calls).
- Expand substance use disorder treatment access and effectiveness, including those using more powerful drugs and drug combinations, and promote greater access to recovery support services (e.g., Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid addiction, peer recover services, residential treatment for methamphetamine use and co-occurring disorders, and other aftercare, follow up, and group supports).
- Expand accountable alternatives to incarceration for low-risk drug-affected individuals through evaluation, referral, and case management (e.g., pre/post-arrest diversion to treatment, law enforcement and human service co-response, access centers, and problem-solving courts).
- Increase access to services on demand (e.g., tele-treatment and tele-supervision in rural areas, and access center utilization).

In summary, lowa must build upon our successes and strengthen our response to new and existing challenges. Addressing the addiction epidemic is an urgent issue facing the nation.

Agency Overview

Vision

Safe and healthy lowans.

Mission

To coordinate substance use related criminal justice resourcing and policy development.

Guiding Principles

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Coordination
- Effectiveness
- Integrity
- Service

- Efficiency
- Fairness
- Honesty
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Trustworthiness

ODCP Core Functions

The primary obligation of ODCP, its staff, and program stakeholders, is to serve the public. As such, ODCP and its associates shall operate professionally, truthfully, fairly, and with integrity and accountability to uphold the public trust. ODCP administers federal grant funds in a highly credible, fundamentally fair, and transparent manner. The agency also takes a leadership role in alerting the public to important substance use and drug trafficking issues and is a reliable information source for policy makers. ODCP also produces the annual lowa Drug Control Strategy, which assists in coordinating responses.

Key Services, Products, and Activities

- Coordination of policies, programs, and resources involving state, federal, and local agencies to strategically address substance use in Iowa.
- Procurement and administration of federal grant program funding and other resources to strengthen local and state drug enforcement and treatment efforts focusing primarily on justice-served lowans, and to enhance substance use prevention efforts at the community level.
- Public Policy & Education, including alerting the public to emerging substance use issues, and advising elected officials on policy matters or proposed legislative changes to address current and emerging threats.

Agency Customers and Stakeholders

The Drug Policy Bureau Chief and the Office of Drug Control Policy strive to improve the health and safety of all lowans by working with several organizations – public and private – and state agencies to initiate and coordinate policies and programs that address the complexities of substance use and drug trafficking.

Delivery Mechanisms Used to Provide Services and Products to Customers

Through a comprehensive website, we also provide customer access to major services, such as the annual lowa Drug Control Strategy and Drug Use Profile, Strategic Plan, and Agency Performance Plan, grant application opportunities, drug-free workplace programing, drug-endangered children training,

prescription drug "Take Back" location mapping, and other resources. These services are found on the ODCP website at <u>https://odcp.iowa.gov/</u>.

Organizational Structure, Number of Staff, Location, and Budget

The Office of Drug Control Policy is now a bureau within the Iowa Department of Public Safety. The agency is established in Iowa Code Chapter 80E.1. The Bureau Chief directs the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy; coordinates and monitors all statewide drug enforcement efforts, substance use disorder treatment grants and programs, and substance use prevention and education programs; and engages in other related activities involving the departments of public safety, corrections, education, and health and human services.

The Bureau Chief assists in the development of local and state strategies to fight substance use including law enforcement, education, and treatment activities. The Drug Policy Advisory Council, established by lowa Code Chapter 80E, is responsible for making policy recommendations to the appropriate departments concerning the administration, development, and coordination of programs related to substance use education, prevention, treatment, and enforcement.

The Office of Drug Control Policy is located in the Oran Pape State Office Building at 215 E 7th St, Des Moines, IA 50319. ODCP has four full-time employees. The agency's annual operating budget is \$239,271. Non-general fund revenues include \$232,546.05 in collected fees/fines, \$92,296.15 in interest earnings, and \$3,587,894.63 in federal grant expenditures.

Key Result

Core Function

Name: Advocacy

Description: Enhance coordination and provide leadership and education to improve Iowa's response to drug use and related crime.

Why we are doing this: Reports show addictive substances such as alcohol, nicotine, opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana—directly or indirectly—can ultimately, and tragically, lead to injury or death. More often, these substances negatively impact Iowa users, families, and communities in other ways, including substance use disorder or addiction, and risks to public safety. Substance use has never been a static issue, and that is especially true today. Many of today's drugs are not what they used to be, and that means unsuspecting users may be at greater risk. Be it alcohol, nicotine products, marijuana, opioids, or methamphetamine, many of today's substances are now available in new formulations, alternative delivery systems, and more potent concentrations.

Alcoholic beverages come in more sizes, shapes, and flavors, including craft beers with higher alcohol concentrations. Nicotine is available in liquid form, in many different flavors and stronger concentrations, for use in a large array of vape devices, which can also be used to consume controlled substances.

Opioid misuse involves a growing assortment of lethal illicit synthetic opioids coming from foreign countries. Large amounts of methamphetamine are being smuggled into the country in new ways, and in forms as pure as ever in Iowa. More potent marijuana and marijuana-infused products or "concentrates," including marijuana-infused candies, oils, and waxes are now found in Iowa. Cocaine seems to be slightly more prevalent than in recent years. And, while seemingly less prevalent in Iowa, ever-changing synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones serve as reminders on how quickly dangerous new drugs can be developed and marketed across the U.S.

Kratom is another emerging and unregulated substance that bears monitoring. Kratom is a tropical tree, whose leaves reportedly contain a psychotropic element. Kratom is not currently illegal and is readily available. Some people take Kratom as an herbal supplement, however, there is no scientific evidence that kratom is safe or effective. More study is needed.

What we are doing to achieve results: ODCP works with several stakeholder organizations to prevent substance use, get help for those who need treatment, and enforce drug laws to preserve public safety. Many efforts are all-encompassing, while others strategically focus on a specific emerging drug threat. One example of a broad-based initiative is the Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC). This project promotes community collaboration to protect young children who might otherwise become victims of illegal drug activity. Another example is the Iowa Alliance of Coalitions for Change (AC4C), a network of mostly community volunteers working to prevent substance use at the local level.

To enforce lowa's laws, ODCP supports 17 multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task forces around the State. To detect and deter illegal over-the-limit purchases of products used to make methamphetamine, ODCP supported enactment of Iowa's Pseudoephedrine Control Act of 2005 to place effective controls on methamphetamine's main ingredient, pseudoephedrine. ODCP has also advocated for regulations and sanctions involving other precursors intended for the manufacture of illegal drugs. Additionally, ODCP administers Iowa's electronic pseudoephedrine tracking system known as NPLEx. NPLEx further enhances the Pseudoephedrine Control Act and other legislative efforts, combined with education and enforcement to help reduce reported methamphetamine lab incidents over 99%, from 1,500 in 2004 to 3 in 2022. ODCP also supports education and treatment programs aimed at reducing demand for methamphetamine.

ODCP initiates and participates in educational efforts to raise awareness of and reduce medicine misuse. Health care providers are among ODCP's many partners in this quest. Over the last nine years, lowans have participated in biannual community "Take Back Day" events to safely dispose of over 89 tons of unused medicines. ODCP continues to work with local coalitions, law enforcement agencies, pharmacies, and others to provide expanded community "Take Back" options to establish year-round receptacles. These permanent "Take Back" kiosks have grown eight-fold in five years, to nearly 400 in all 99 counties, with more on the way.

Our bureau has also supported legislative and administrative enhancements to Iowa's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), a tool that can deter medicine diversion and misuse. Because some who become addicted to prescription pain relievers go on to use heroin or illicit synthetic opioids, reducing medicine misuse can also help prevent heroin use. ODCP works with community organizations, educators, media and others through community listening posts, public presentations, and special programs to educate lowa youth and parents on new challenges involving lowa's most used addictive and illicit drug, marijuana. Average concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, have grown 3.5- fold in plant material over the last 24 years to a national average of more than 13.85%. Meanwhile, average THC levels in marijuana "concentrates" now average nationally over 53%. While some discuss changing laws, newer and even more powerful forms of marijuana products are being brought into Iowa for sale and use. Some marijuana waxes, hash oils and marijuana-infused food products reportedly contain THC levels as high as 80-90% or higher.

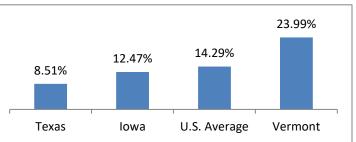
Results

Performance Measure: State Rank Overall Illicit Drug Use

Iowa Ranks 36thin Overall Rate of Past Month Drug Use

Performance Goal/Target:

 Goal for state rank in overall rate of past month drug use is 51/51 (including the District of Columbia)



What was achieved: 10.04 % of Iowans 12 and older and 6.62% of Iowans aged 12-17 used illicit drugs. DATA Source: 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Resources: \$3,378,603.41 in federal grant expenditures



Core Function

Name: Community Coordination and Development

Description: Improve the ability of state and local government, and private partners to enforce drug laws and provide substance use prevention and treatment services.

Why we are doing this: Illegal drug trafficking and substance use involve many factors and know no boundaries. As such, successful responses require collaborative approaches. As issues warrant, ODCP coordinates on drug control strategies with a variety of partners that include individual citizens; community organizations; private businesses; and local, state, and federal governmental agencies.

ODCP has three primary purpose areas that are intertwined: coordination of effort, policy advisement and program development. Related to these purpose areas, ODCP seeks to leverage and prioritize limited resources that support evidence-based practices and promising approaches to address critical drug control needs in Iowa.

What we are doing to achieve results: ODCP works with the Iowa's Drug Policy Advisory Council and many others on program development, notably through administration of multiple federal grants that support drug prevention, treatment, and enforcement projects.

lowa's multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task forces, supported by the ODCP-administered Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, provide public protection services in over half of Iowa's counties. During FY 2023, these units seized 2.2 tons of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and synthetic drugs. They also disrupted 269 drug trafficking organizations, seized 981 firearms from alleged drug dealers and gang members, and referred 153 drug-endangered children for protective services.

The Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children initiative, with ODCP's support, helps organize and train community leaders to better protect very young Iowans who may otherwise become victims of neglect or abuse. The Iowa Department of Human Services reports 5,874 drug-related child abuse cases involving children testing positive for drugs or exposed to a dangerous substance.

Additionally, ODCP has worked with the statewide Iowa Alliance of Coalitions for Change (AC4C) and others to support community drug and crime prevention activities, medicine misuse reduction projects, media awareness campaigns, and public presentations to assist in reducing illegal drug use.

To reduce the diversion and misuse of prescription drugs, ODCP has been working with others to promote expanded opportunities for lowans to properly dispose of unused medicines. More than 100 communities participate in the National Prescription Drug "Take Back Day" program, in which local, state and federal law enforcement agencies partner twice a year with pharmacies and local coalitions, netting over 89 tons of unused medicines over the last 11 years. Nearly 400 lowa pharmacies and local law enforcement centers in every county also offer permanent year-round "Take Back" drop-off boxes and other options, as permitted under federal law, to assist with the goal of cleaning out medicine cabinets for better health.

ODCP successfully collaborated with the Iowa Alliance of Coalitions for Change to receive a multi-year federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant.

ODCP has also worked with the Department of Public Safety to obtain five years of a federal COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program grant, the third year of a COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force grant, and a new threeyear Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant for a data dashboard.

ODCP is also in the last year of a three-year COSSAP grant for a law enforcement assisted pre/post- arrest diversion to treatment program. The office is collaborating with Jones, Story, and Black Hawk Counties to conduct the pilot program with an evaluation component. ODCP is also administering two new Project Safe Neighborhoods grants with the Northern and Southern U.S. Attorney's offices.

Results Performance Measure: Prescription Drug Take Back Volume Performance Goal/Target: • Goal is 12,000 pounds per National Prescription Drug Take Back Day event.

What was achieved: 9,408 pounds of unused medications were collected in the October 2023 Take Back Day. This brings the grand total to over 93 tons since 2010. Data Source: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Resources: Federal grant funds \$3,378,603.41

Agency Performance Plan Results

FY 2023

Agency Mission: To coordinate substance use related criminal justice resourcing and policy development					
Core Function: Advocacy					
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis		
State rank in overall rate of past month illegal drug use.	Baseline 50/51 Target 51/51	36/51	 What Occurred: Strategic coordination and leadership to improve lowa's prevention/treatment/enforcement response to drug use and related crime. Enactment of legislation outlawing numerous synthetic drugs. Legislative and administrative drug control policy enhancements. Performance Data Source: SAMHSA Office of Applied Studies, 2020-2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, State Estimates of Substance Use 		
State rank in rate of substance use treatment clients citing amphetamines/methamphetamine as their primary drug of use.	Baseline 1/51 Target 10/51	5/51	 What Occurred: Enhanced enforcement and treatment in response to emergence of methamphetamine, methamphetamine labs, and related activities. Performance Data Source: 2020 Treatment Episode Data System (TEDS) 		
Number of drug related prison admissions.	Baseline 827 Target 700	605	 What Occurred: Enhanced enforcement and treatment in response to emergence of meth, meth labs, and related activities. Performance Data Source: FY23 CJJP 		

Percent of students self-reporting current alcohol use.	Baseline 18% Target 10%	10%	What Occurred: Current alcohol use held steady at 10%.
Percent of students self-reporting current tobacco use.	Baseline 6% Target 2%	4%	What Occurred: Current tobacco use increased to 4%.
Percent of students self-reporting current marijuana use.	Baseline 7% Target 2%	4%	What Occurred: Current marijuana use held steady at 4%.
Percent of students self-reporting current prescription misuse.	Baseline 4% Target 2%	3%	What Occurred: Current prescription medicine use stayed at 3%.
Percent of students self-reporting current e-cigarette use	Baseline 6% Target 2%	10%	What Occurred: Year 1 of data collection at 10% currently. Performance Data Source: 2018 Iowa Youth Survey
Number of opioid-related drug overdose deaths in Iowa (prescription methadone, other opioids, and other synthetic and unspecified narcotics).	Baseline 165 Target 200	210	 What Occurred: Greater public awareness and increasing (and more convenient) take-back options for lowans. Naloxone availability.
Number of meth/psychostimulant- related deaths.	Baseline 49 Target 100	210	 Performance Data Source: 2023 Iowa Department of Public Health What Occurred: Enhanced enforcement and treatment in response to emergence of meth, meth labs and related activities. Performance Data Source: 2023 Iowa Department of Public Health
Prescription drug take back volume of unused medicine safely disposed by lowans.	Baseline 17,010 lbs. Target 20,000 lbs.	9,408 lbs.	 What Occurred: Greater public awareness and increasing (and more convenient) take- back options for Iowans. Coronavirus affected second Take Back day. Performance Data Source: Nov 2023 DEA

Service, Product or Activity: Drug Control Policy Guidance & Program Coordination			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
Percent of Iowa Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) member agencies participating in developing, implementing, and updating Iowa's comprehensive Drug Control Strategy.	100%	100%	 What Occurred: Increased collaboration among state agencies to identify and refine drug control priorities. A comprehensive and collaborative statewide drug control strategy was developed and implemented to coordinate efforts and maximize the utilization of resources between state, federal, and local agencies. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP reference: https://odcp.iowa.gov/
Percent of Iowa private sector pharmacies, selling pseudoephedrine products over- the-counter, successfully participating in Iowa's Pseudoephedrine Tracking System to deter meth manufacturing.	100%	100%	 What Occurred: Promoted full compliance with and enforcement of new Iowa laws. Coordinated drug enforcement efforts across geographic and governmental jurisdictional boundaries to enhance public safety by interdicting illegal drugs being transported into Iowa. Increased public awareness/education (prevention). What Occurred: Provide guidance to promote compliance with Iowa laws regulating the key meth precursor, pseudoephedrine. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP
Number of reported clandestine methamphetamine lab incidents statewide.	Baseline 152 Target 25	3	 What Occurred: Implementation of effective policy changes, enhanced enforcement, and greater public awareness/education. Smuggling from Mexico is easier and cheaper then local production. Performance Data Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Narcotics Enforcement 2023

Number of illegal pseudoephedrine	Baseline 21,335	19,972	What Occurred:		
purchase attempts blocked by	Target 15,000	13,372	 Program and policy development to keep pace with changes in the nature 		
Iowa's Tracking System.	101801 10,000		and scope of substance use and drug manufacturing.		
lowa s macking system.			and scope of substance use and drug manufacturing.		
			Performance Data Source: Sept '22- Aug'23 NPLEx		
Core Function: Community Coordinati	Core Function: Community Coordination and Development				
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance	Performance	Performance Comments & Analysis		
	Target	Actual			
Percent of Iowa counties served by	100%	100%	What Occurred:		
performance based ODCP			 Improved the ability of state and local government and private partners 		
initiatives.			to enforce drug laws and provide substance use prevention and		
			treatment services with support via grants, policies, and strategic		
			coordination of efforts.		
			Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP		
Service, Product, or Activity: Drug Control Program Development & Evaluation					
Performance Measure	Performance	Performance	Performance Comments & Analysis		
	Target	Actual			
Percent of Iowans served by ODCP	Baseline 63%	70%	What Occurred:		
grant funded multi-jurisdictional	Target 70%		• 17 drug task forces provided services in 56 lowa counties to reduce the		
drug enforcement task forces.			availability of illicit drugs.		
-			• 17 federal grant supported drug task forces supported 55 state and local		
			enforcement positions.		
			Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP		
Percent of drug affected offenders	Baseline 90%	85%	What Occurred:		
successfully completing substance	Target 80%		 85% of offenders receiving ODCP funded treatment successfully 		
use/mental health treatment in	5		completed the programs.		
ODCP grant funded programs.			 82% of providers use tele-health methods. 		

Number of ODCP drug/crime control grants managed electronically via lowaGrants.gov. Percent of federal grant project and financial reports submitted in compliance with state and federal regulations.	100%	100%	 What Occurred: ODCP maintained adequate control procedures to ensure that public resources were used effectively. ODCP's annual audit contained no comments or findings. Electronic Grant Management System was implemented to aid in monitoring project results and financial compliance. 100% of ODCP grants are managed through the electronic grant system. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP
Tons of illicit drugs seized by ODCP grant-funded Drug Enforcement Task Forces. Number of firearms seized during ODCP grant-funded Drug Enforcement Task Force investigations.	Baseline 1.8 tons Target 1.5 tons Baseline 915 guns Target 1000 guns	2.2 tons 981 guns	 What Occurred: Provided performance-based grant resources, oversight, and technical assistance to meet local/state needs. Foster collaborative training and awareness to build capacity and improve outcomes for drug-endangered children. Fostered collaborative drug enforcement efforts to share resources and reduce the supply of illicit drugs in Iowa communities. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP
Number of drug trafficking organizations disrupted or dismantled by multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces. Number of children referred to DHS	Baseline 386 Target 300 Baseline 256	269 153	 What Occurred: Fostered collaborative drug enforcement efforts to share resources and reduce the supply of illicit drugs in Iowa communities. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP What Occurred:
from ODCP funded drug task forces.	Target 200		 Fostered collaborative training and awareness to build capacity and improve outcomes for drug-endangered children. Performance Data Source: FY 2023 ODCP

Resource Reallocation

ODCP did not reallocate any resources in FY2022.