

June 2018

The opioid crisis in Louisiana: call for public input

The nationwide opioid crisis is affecting thousands of Louisiana families. In 2016, more than 1,000 state residents died of overdose, at least 531 of which were related to opioids. Furthermore, the number of opioid poisoning deaths doubled between 2012 and 2016. Louisiana was among the 26 states identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as having significant increases in the rate of drug overdose death between 2015 and 2016.

The Louisiana Department of Health is seeking public input on key strategies to address the opioid crisis.

In addition, the Department of Health is seeking written comment from Louisiana residents. Because the opioid crisis has many dimensions -- affecting local neighborhoods, the business community, and the public sector -- the Department of Health encourages all who have ideas or perspectives to participate in this process.

The Department of Health will use the information to inform the development of a statewide strategy to address the opioid crisis.

- *Anonymous responses will be accepted. Individuals who provide identifying information including their names should be aware that because this is a public process, under most circumstances, identifying information will be disclosed under applicable laws.*

If you, a family member, or friend is in need of assistance, the alcohol and drug helpline in Louisiana is 1-877-664-2248. You can also reach a crisis counselor at your local human service authority.

If you have questions about the survey or would prefer to send an email with your comments, the email address is opioidpubliccomment@la.gov.

<https://providers.healthybluela.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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