

For Immediate Release

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Washtenaw County Opioid Summit Scheduled for Oct 15 *Sessions available for professionals and community members*

YPSILANTI, Mich., Oct. 11, 2018 – The Washtenaw Health Initiative Opioid Project is hosting an Opioid Summit on Monday, Oct. 15. Afternoon and evening sessions are planned at the Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 East Huron River Drive in Ann Arbor. The summit will bring together professionals, providers, and community members to increase awareness, reduce stigma, and develop community-driven solutions.

“We are working on the opioid issue in Washtenaw County, but it’s clearly not enough,” says Jimena Loveluck, MSW, MPH, Opioid Project Co-Chair and Washtenaw County Health Department Deputy Health Officer.

“We continue to see more deaths and need to coordinate resources and tools. This Summit provides a critical opportunity to connect with individuals and leaders across our community. We look forward to increasing our shared understanding and to generating truly effective community solutions,” said Loveluck.

[Fifty-five](#) Washtenaw County residents died of opioid related overdoses between January and August 2018. This is over 30 percent higher than the first eight months of 2017.

Sessions are free. Refreshments will be provided and [registration](#) is required.

Afternoon session for professionals from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- Hear about the current state of opioid prescribing legislation in Michigan
- Learn about treatment resources and patient communication tools
- Get trained in the use of naloxone (Narcan)

This session is for individuals actively working in a profession affected by the opioid epidemic (physicians, nurses, counselors, social workers, peer supports, law enforcement, etc.) and will contain more specialized content. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-washtenaw-county-opioid-summit-professional-development-program-tickets-49355545766>

Evening session for the general public from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.:

- Understand addiction and recovery facts
- Hear from people who have been directly affected by addiction
- Learn about different methods for safe storage and use of opioids
- Get trained in the use of naloxone (Narcan)

This session is designed to educate community members about the opioid epidemic, and engage them in initiatives to address it. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thewashtenaw-county-community-opioid-summit-tickets-49495219534>

View the [Washtenaw County Opioid Summit Flyer and Agenda \(PDF\)](#).

In addition, community organizations and partners will have tables set up in the main entrance from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm, staffed by people who are working at the forefront of the opioid crisis. Attendees can visit them for information and opportunities to connect with local community members.

Washtenaw County Health Department will also offer onsite hepatitis A vaccination. See more about the current hepatitis A outbreak at www.washtenaw.org/stophepA.



The Washtenaw Health Initiative Opioid Project

The WHI Opioid Project is a volunteer organization that brings together people from across Washtenaw County to end the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic in our community.

See more about the Washtenaw Health Initiative Opioid Project www.whiopioidproject.org.

See data on opioid misuse and overdose in Washtenaw County www.washtenaw.org/opioids.

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