

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Elizabeth Hagen

Evaluator

715-271-5567

Elizabeth.Hagen@eauclairecounty.gov

Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil

Public Health Specialist

715-492-1772

Sarah.Dillivanpospisil@eauclairecounty.gov

Opioid data dashboard for Eau Claire County launches today

New dashboard tracks opioid use data, overdoses, distribution of resources, and more

Eau Claire, May 6, 2024 – The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is launching a comprehensive opioid data dashboard that will give critical insight into the impact of opioid use in Eau Claire County, and the prevention and harm reduction strategies that are being implemented.

The opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities across the nation. In Eau Claire County, 82 people died due to drug overdoses between 2018 and 2022; 62 of those deaths (or approximately 76%) were opioid-related. During the same timeframe, more than 488 suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses occurred in Eau Claire County. These findings underscore an urgent need for data-driven solutions.

The interactive opioid dashboard can be found at bit.ly/opioid-dashboard. It tracks data around three aspects of Eau Claire County's opioid crisis and response:

- **Opioid Use:** This section tracks opioid use trends, including opioid prescriptions dispensed, illicit opioid consumption, and youth data.
- **Consequences of Opioid Misuse:** This section tracks suspected overdose rates, hospital encounters, and mortality data.
- **Prevention and Harm Reduction:** This section highlights medication disposal, Narcan and fentanyl test strip distribution, opioid workshops, and medication storage resources.

The purpose of the dashboard is to provide community leaders, policymakers, healthcare providers, and the public with another tool to better understand the impact of opioid misuse - and help mitigate the impact on Eau Claire County. The project was funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to increase efforts to collect, analyze, and apply data in the county.

“We believe data transparency is critically important to guide interventions and policies that can save lives and lessen the impact on communities,” says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, public health specialist with the Health Department. “By making sure the public can easily access timely, reliable data through this new opioid data dashboard, we want to encourage the community to help tackle this urgent public health challenge in whatever ways they can.”

Our community has embraced evidence-based approaches to address the impact of opioids, such as distributing Narcan and fentanyl test strips and participating in statewide Prescription Drug Take-Back events. We hope to sustain and deepen these efforts with the help of everyone in our county.

To learn more about the [Eau Claire County Opioid Dashboard](#) or to find more opioid-related resources, please visit www.ehealthalliance.org/resources.