

# LAPORTE COUNTY OPIOID ADDICTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## BACKGROUND

The opioid epidemic continues to affect the lives of many Americans. Paralleling the rise in prescription opioid (pain reliever) sales over the past two decades, the country also experienced an increase in opioid-related morbidity and mortality.

- In Indiana alone, 270,000 residents ages 12 and older reported misusing prescription opioids, and 24,000 reported heroin use in the past year.
- The percentage of substance use treatment admissions related to opioid misuse (prescription or heroin) has increased steadily. In more than half (57%) of all treatment admissions in LaPorte County in 2017, the misuse of an opioid was reported. This percentage was higher than the state's (37%).
- According to the most recent estimates from the Indiana State Department of Health, nearly 100 residents of LaPorte County died of a fatal drug overdose between 2012 and 2016.

Based on findings from the LaPorte County survey and key informant interviews, respondents listed the following as major challenges in dealing with the opioid epidemic:

- Lack of or limited access to treatment services, especially detoxification, inpatient services, and medication-assisted treatment;
- Socio-economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment;
- Limited awareness or acceptance of the problem within the larger community; and
- Insufficient funding to address the problem.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As a next step, we recommend implementing a strategic framework that addresses the entire continuum of care from prevention to recovery in the community.

### Strategic Framework to Reduce Opioid Misuse in LaPorte County

