



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

Winnebago County State's Attorney joins Attorney General Kwame Raoul in Fight against Opioid Crisis

On Friday, February 25, 2022, Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley joined forces with Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and other State's Attorneys throughout Northern Illinois to announce the final settlement in a nationwide lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Under the settlement, Illinois will receive \$760 million to counteract the impact of the Opioid Crisis in Illinois.

In 2020, Winnebago County, including the City of Rockford, suffered disproportionately from the Opioid Crisis with an opioid fatality rate of 45.8 people per 100,000. This makes Winnebago County the [highest reported county](#) in the State of Illinois. Winnebago County has also seen an increase of opioid-related cases throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As of August 27, 2021, 62 opioid-related deaths were reported through the Winnebago County Coroner's Office.

The opioid epidemic does not just affect adults. According to the 2017 Illinois Department of Public Health Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Advisory Committee's [Annual Report](#), Winnebago County had one of the highest NAS case rates between 2012 and 2016. According to the 2020 [Illinois Youth Survey](#), 6% of youth (who participated in the survey) reported using prescription pain medication without a prescription, or differently than prescribed, indicating the ongoing need for diversion.

"The Winnebago County Health Department is grateful for the work of the Winnebago County States Attorney and the Attorney General in securing this financial settlement to address the Opioid Crisis," said Dr. Sandra Martell, the Public Health Administrator for the Winnebago



Left to right, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart, Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, DuPage County State's Attorney Bob Berlin, and Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley.



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County Health Department. “The Winnebago County Opioid Response Team has been working to coordinate activities under the framework of the [Illinois Opioid Action Plan](#).

Funds secured through this lawsuit settlement will be used to: Expand treatment and recovery capacity in the community, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) /Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder; Increased access to naloxone/Narcan rescue medications and training; Provide for prevention activities including education, training, lock-boxes to prevent diversion, and drop-boxes for unused prescriptions; and Enhance surveillance (data gathering) and analysis regarding opioid prescribing, use, treatment, and outcomes. There will be additional media campaigns to help address the Opioid Crisis.

Winnebago County State’s Attorney J. Hanley is working with Attorney General Kwame Raoul and surrounding counties’ State’s Attorneys to bring a solution to the Opioid Crisis through expanded access, prevention activities, enhanced surveillance, media campaigns, and increased community education. While the community waits for the benefits to be realized from the lawsuit, the public can help take action to prevent opioid overdoses by getting trained in using naloxone (Narcan). Everyone can save a life, whether it be in their own home or in the parking lot of the grocery store. To sign up for a free training, go to <https://www.wchd.org/trainings>.



Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley