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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage Narcan Program – 500 Lives Saved**

**DUPAGE COUNTY**—The DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) recently experienced a milestone by recording the 500th life saved since Narcan was first administered in 2014.

The life was saved by Officer Lundy on June 23, 2018 in Wheaton.

“Serving and protecting citizens continues to evolve,” said Wheaton Police Chief Bill Murphy. “Narcan has become an important public safety tool.”

The DNP was formed in 2013 in response to the alarming number of DuPage County deaths attributed to heroin overdoses, and Narcan training began later that year. There are now 4,601 individuals trained by the DNP to use Narcan to reverse an overdose.

Health Department Executive Director Karen Ayala said, “Although saving 500 lives is a remarkable accomplishment, we must embrace these opportunities to link individuals to treatment.”

Many lives have been saved, however, many lives continue to be lost.

“The remarkable successes we achieved in a few short years are overshadowed by the number of opioid-related deaths,” said DuPage County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen.

There have been 37 deaths due to opioid overdoses in 2018, the coroner said.

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In DuPage County, the recently formed Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce, an interagency-interdisciplinary advisory group, is comprehensively assessing opioid use within the County. The Taskforce advises DuPage County elected leaders on ways to address opioid use in the County. Visit [dupagehealth.org](http://dupagehealth.org) for more details.

*The DNP is a partnership among the DuPage County Police Chief's Association, DuPage County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen, DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, DuPage County Chairman Dan Cronin, and the Health Department, which serves as DNP Project Director and Healthcare Professional.*

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