



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

July 2024

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

2024 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium Materials Now Available Online!

NYSACHO is excited to share that the materials from the 2024 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium, which took place June 4-5 in Albany, NY, are now available online via NYSACHO's website. Presentation materials, handouts, the meeting program, and exhibitor directory can all be found on this page. [Click here to access the resources!](#)

Next-of-Kin Interviews Resources

Next-of-Kin (NOK) interviews are a tool Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) can use to help understand the decedent and precursors to the overdose, from barriers and obstacles to care to potential touchpoints. This memo from the Alcohol Policy Forum provides an overview of best practices, resources, and strategies to consider when implementing NOK interviews. [Click here to download this resource list.](#)

Sample Letter: Law Enforcement Access to Addiction Treatment Records Protected by Federal Privacy Laws

Many substance use disorder treatment programs must interact frequently with law enforcement. In the heat of the moment, it can be challenging to explain the strict privacy protections and the limits on law enforcement's authority. This letter from the Legal Action Center can help explain the scope of the federal privacy laws when police arrive at a program and request information about a patient. [Click here to learn more and download the letter.](#)

Preventing Overdose & Reducing Drug-Related Harm: Policy & Implementation Guides for State & Local Change

Many drug overdose deaths are preventable. In recent years, however, drug overdoses have claimed more lives across the United States than at any point in our nation's history. State and local decision makers can take powerful action to save lives and protect health in their communities by considering policies to mitigate risks of overdose and other drug-related harm. New resources from ChangeLab Solutions offer a range of evidence-based policy strategies and a roadmap to policy implementation that

can advance equity and prioritize care over punishment for people who use drugs. [Click here to download the resources.](#)

Alerts and Advisories

NYSDOH Issues Public Health Alert for Medetomidine Detected in Drug Samples in Schenectady and Syracuse

(June 21, 2024) - The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued a Public Health Alert after two Drug Checking Program community partners, ACR Health and Catholic Charities, detected a dangerous mix of substances, including medetomidine, in Central New York and the Capital Region. Here are some key things to note:

- Medetomidine is a high-potency synthetic sedative used in veterinary medicine that is more potent in the central nervous system than xylazine
- The sample collected in Schenectady included a combination of fentanyl, medetomidine, and caffeine
- The sample collected in Syracuse is suspected to be linked to two non-fatal drug overdoses

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Upcoming Events

What is Harm Reduction for Alcohol? | August 14 at 3:00 PM

This free webinar, hosted by NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, will dispel many myths about what harm reduction is and what it is not. This webinar will give the details of how to make an alcohol harm reduction plan and will discuss various tools in the alcohol harm reduction toolbox. This session will explain how alcohol harm reduction supports every positive change and supports each individual in the goals that they choose for themselves, ranging from safe drinking to reduced drinking to quitting altogether. This webinar will explain how harm reduction is client-centered and how everyone who has a problem with alcohol can find a way to resolve that problem with a goal that they choose for themselves. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

PrEP Aware Week | October 21 - 27, 2024

The New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute is pleased to announce that sixth annual PrEP Aware Week will be October 21 to October 27. This week provides an opportunity to increase awareness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a medication that can prevent HIV and promote sexual health for those at risk of HIV. The theme for 2024 is: PrEP for All Ages.

In the coming months, the AIDS Institute will share more statewide resources, including a social media toolkit for agencies to utilize on various social media platforms. [Click here to visit the official website for this campaign!](#)

Funding Opportunities

Opioid Crisis Innovation Challenge 2024 | Applications due August 8, 2024

The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for its Opioid Crisis Innovation Challenge 2024. The [first cohort of projects](#) focused on two distinct challenges: 1) reducing stigma against people with opioid use disorder by educating community members, leaders, and healthcare providers; and 2) ensuring government agencies and the public have access to timely and actionable data about the opioid crisis. This year's opportunity seeks to solicit projects addressing the following areas: 1) innovative payment models; 2) workforce development; and 3) supporting the transition from treatment to recovery.

[Click here for more information and to access the full RFP!](#)

Updates from the State Register

(6/26/24) Emergency Rulemaking: Administration of Injectable Medications by Pharmacists for the Treatment of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

The purpose of the proposed rule is to implement Chapter 802 which expands access to long-acting injectable medications (LAIs) in NYS by authorizing certified pharmacists who receive training pursuant to Education Law § 6801(3) to administer, pursuant to a patient-specific prescription or patient-specific order issued by a prescriber acting within their scope of practice, LAIs that are approved by the FDA for the treatment of mental illness and/or substance use.

(7/3/24) Revised Rulemaking: Voluntary Certification of Recovery Residences in NYS

The revised rule introduces several changes, focusing on terminology updates and clarifications in policies and procedures for certified recovery residences. Key updates include the consistent use of "recovery residence" and "resident," replacing previous terms like "facility" and "patient." The regulation applies only to voluntarily certified recovery residences. New definitions were added, while outdated terms were removed. Requirements for staffing, resident rights, safety standards, and incident reporting were revised, emphasizing the distinct needs of recovery programs. Provisions for supporting residents who return to substance use and guidelines for terminating residency were clarified. The certification process will follow specific criteria tailored to recovery residences, and additional guidance is forthcoming.

Articles of Interest

- (07/02/2024) [National Harm Reduction Coalition to Work on Smoking Cessation](#)
- (06/30/2024) [Supreme Court blocks opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma that shielded Sacklers](#)
- (06/26/2024) [To help ensure the end of AIDS, leaders need to move away from punitive approaches to people who use drugs](#)
- (06/24/2024) [New technology helps fight overdoses in the Capital Region](#)
- (06/21/2024) [As extreme heat continues, NY outreach teams worry for people struggling with addiction](#)
- (06/20/2024) [Only a Third of Mental Health Clinics Offer Meds for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- (06/20/2024) [New York Task Force Calls for Expanded Drug Courts to Combat Overdose Crisis](#)
- (06/14/2024) [Health care workers to NY regulators: Give us the data](#)
- (06/14/2024) [Adolescent Substance Use Treatment: How Can We Expand Access and Support PCPs?](#)
- (06/13/2024) [Emergency Rooms Emerge as Critical Entry Point for Substance Use Disorder Care](#)

Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: Population Estimates — United States, 2022

(June 27, 2024) - A CDC Morbidity and Mortality Report (MMWR) finds that most adults who needed opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment in 2022 either did not perceive that they needed it (43%) or received treatment that did not include medications for OUD (30%).

[Click here to read the MMWR.](#)

Only 1 in 4 adults who need opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment receive medications for OUD*

OUD medications[†] prevent overdoses and save lives



Providers should offer effective treatment, including OUD medications



Pharmacists and payors can support making these medications available without delays

*National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2022

†FDA-approved medications for OUD are buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone

bit.ly/mm7325a1

CDC.gov

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MMWR

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