



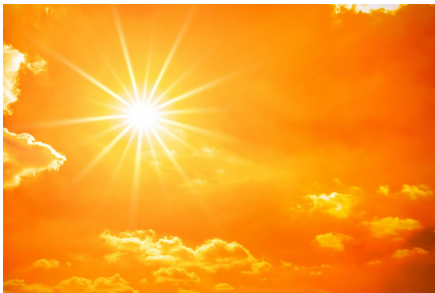
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

June 2024

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources



NEW! Harm Reduction Resource for LHDs: Extreme Heat, Rising Temperatures, and People Who Use Drugs

As the Summer season rapidly approaches, it is more important than ever to be aware of the ways in which rising temperatures and extreme heat can impact public health. Rising temperatures and extreme heat pose significant health risks for people who use drugs.

The NYSDOH Office of Drug User Health is excited to announce the attached resource: ***Extreme Heat, Rising Temperatures, and People Who Use Drugs: A Harm Reduction Resource for Local Health Departments***. This resource contains:

- Background information on Extreme Heat and Rising Temperatures
- The Impact of Rising Temperatures on People Who Use Drugs
- Extreme Heat-Related Illness, Symptoms, and What to Do
- Substances that can Increase Risk of Heat-Related Illness
- Heat-Related Harm Reduction Tips to Share with People Who Use Drugs
- What Local Health Departments Can Do

[Click here to download this resource.](#) Please share this with your networks and community partners!

New Tool: State Opioid Settlement Spending Decisions Tracker

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) recently released the [State Opioid Spending Decisions Tracker](#), which lists:

- Settlement spending status
- Legislation
- State spending dashboards (if applicable)
- Spending plans or agreements
- Allocation formula (state vs. county vs. local share)
- Annual spending reports (if applicable)

New Dataset: Overdose Prevention Center Laws

Overdose prevention centers are facilities where controlled substances, obtained outside the center, may be consumed in a safe environment with monitoring by staff. These centers are intended to lessen the risk of overdose and often also provide access to critical services. [This dataset from the Center for Public Health Law Research](#) analyzes statutes and regulations related to the

Users can also filter the map to display whether states have announced the award of settlement dollars, published spending guidelines or recommendations, and which government bodies within states have spending authority.

establishment of overdose prevention centers and state pilot programs for overdose prevention centers.

Case Study: Helping Pregnant People With Opioid Use Disorder Engage in Medical Care

Pregnancy can be a powerful motivator to seek treatment for opioid use disorder, but pursuing it can be a daunting challenge for people who fear they'll be subject to stigmatizing behavior, criminalization and/or a child welfare investigation, which could lead to being separated from their child or children. Dominika Seidman, MD, MAS, an obstetrician and gynecologist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, has spent the last six years helping people who are affected by substance use disorders (SUDs), homelessness, pregnancy, and mental health conditions gain access to treatment and ongoing care. [Click here to learn more about this project](#), which was funded by the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE).

Alerts and Advisories

NYSDOH Issues Public Health Alert for Carfentanil Detected in Drug Samples from Central New York

(June 7, 2024) The New York State Department of Health has issued a [Public Health Alert](#) after a Drug Checking Program community partner, ACR Health, detected trace amounts of carfentanil in a drug sample. Here are some key things to note:

- Carfentanil is a potent drug up to 100 times stronger than fentanyl
- Sample was assumed to be heroin/nitazenes in a bag labeled "Super Mario"
- Individuals using the substance reported it "knocking them out"
- Sample reportedly linked with severe wounds treated in emergency departments, with wounds developing within 2-3 weeks from use

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

OASAS Advisory: Another Potent Sedative, Medetomidine, Now Appearing in Illegal Drug Supply

(May 31, 2024) This advisory is intended to make the public aware of a new threat entering the illegal drug supply in various parts of the United States, as reported by the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE). The drug, medetomidine, has been used in veterinary medicine for many years as a sedative, analgesic, anxiolytic, and muscle relaxant and is a synthetic, alpha-2-agonist that is in the same class of medications as xylazine and clonidine. In April and May 2024, "mass overdose outbreaks" in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Chicago were associated with fentanyl or heroin containing medetomidine—as well as xylazine and/or other substances. The serious adverse events associated with these overdoses included prolonged sedation, slowed breathing and slowed heart rate that is not reversed by the opioid antagonist, naloxone. [Read more here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Best Practices in Certification of Drug-Caused and Drug-Related Deaths: Drugs on Contributory Causes or Incidental Findings? | June 18 at 1:00 PM

This webinar is the eighth webinar in a series of a twelve-part series, "The Role of Comprehensive Medicolegal Death Investigation as Part of a Public Health Improvement Strategy." [Click here to learn more about the series and register for this webinar!](#)

Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder in Patients with Liver Disease: Leveraging an Underutilized Tool | June 26 at 1:00 PM

Mortality due to alcohol-related liver disease (ALD) has risen steadily over the past two decades, with a sharp increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, 46% of liver disease deaths among people ages 12 and older involved alcohol. Despite alcohol's role in liver disease deaths, medication treatments for alcohol use disorder (MAUD) are rarely used in patients with ALD, in part because of stigma, limited data on effectiveness, and concerns about safety and further potential damage to the liver. There is an immense opportunity to increase use of MAUD for patients with or at risk of liver disease to tackle co-occurring health needs and prevent further complications or even death. [Click here to learn more and register for this webinar](#), hosted by the Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS).

Building a Behavioral Health Continuum of Care: The Role of Rural Leaders and Behavioral Health Dire | June 27 at 2:00 PM

To build an effective and robust behavioral health system, counties need strong leadership to promote dialogue in the community and implement programs and policies that benefit all residents. This webinar by the National Association of Counties (NACo) will highlight two local leadership roles: leaders in rural and frontier communities and behavioral health (BH) directors. Attendees will engage in a panel discussion with representatives of these roles to learn about how rural and frontier leaders and BH directors can identify solutions and cultivate support for sustainable, accessible behavioral health care. [Click here to register!](#)

Funding Opportunities

Advancing Health Equity through Comprehensive Community-Based HIV Ambulatory Care Services - Reissue | Applications due July 17, 2024

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute and Health Research, Inc. announce the availability of federal funds to provide services to improve health outcomes and address health disparities experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) in New York State. The intent of the Request for Applications is to fund \$3,182,870 annually through June 30, 2028. [Click here to access the RFA!](#)

HIV/STI/HCV Prevention and Related Services for Women and Girls | Applications due August 7, 2024

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI), Division of HIV/STD/ HCV Prevention Office of Population Health and Prevention Programs, announces the availability of State funds to support HIV/STI/HCV Prevention and related services for Women and Girls. This procurement will identify service providers to develop and/or enhance comprehensive HIV/ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)/ Hepatitis C (HCV) programs through the implementation of proven high impact prevention strategies and innovative interventions for Women and Girls with a focus on communities of color (Black, Latino/Latinx, Native American/ Indigenous people, and Asian populations). The intent of the Request for Applications (RFA) is to fund \$5,200,000 per year for five (5) years. [Click here to access the RFA!](#)

Articles and Reports

- (06/12/2024) [Cannabis Use, New York State Adults, 2021](#)
- (06/06/2024) [Colorado Passes New Legislation to Support Recovery Friendly Workplaces](#)
- (06/05/2024) [State COVID-19 Policies and Drug Overdose Mortality Among Working-Age Adults in the United States, 2020](#)
- (06/05/2024) [Restoring and Expanding Pandemic-Era Support Policies to Reduce Economic Precarity and Overdose Deaths](#)
- (06/04/2024) [FDA Panel Rejects](#)
- (05/21/2024) [New York State Department of Health Announces Awards From Opioid Settlement Fund to Organizations to Advance Harm Reduction Objectives to Priority Populations](#)
- (05/06/2024) [Understanding and Addressing Widening Racial Inequalities in Drug Overdose](#)

- (05/02/2024) [Alcohol-Related Cancers in New York State, 2016-2020](#)
- (05/01/2024) [Compassionate Overdose Response: Summit Highlights and Key Takeaways](#)
- (04/30/2024) [New Uses of Wastewater Data on High-Risk Substances: Emerging Drug Detection, Overdose Prediction, and Drug Policy Evaluation](#)



Harm Reduction Vending Machines

MATTERS (Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic Referrals) is seeking community-based organizations to manage new vending machines. Their goal is to deploy vending machines in strategic locations to improve access to overdose prevention supplies in high-need communities.

[Click here if your organization is interested in managing a vending machine!](#) **Please share this link with any interested organizations.**

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