



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

MAY 2025

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

New NACCHO Report: Smoking Supplies Distribution Expands Outreach and Reduces Risks

A recent report from NACCHO published in the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice (JPHMP) highlights the impact of distributing smoking supplies as part of Syringe Service Programs (SSPs). Smoking has increased as a method for consuming opioids and stimulants, contributing to a rise in smoking-related overdoses. The report shows that offering safer smoking supplies, like pipes, mouthpieces, and push sticks, helps SSPs reach new, diverse populations and reduce the need for injection. In one case, visits to a site increased by 106%, with 91% of new clients using smoking supplies exclusively. The distribution of these supplies is shown to reduce HIV and hepatitis risks and may lower overdose fatalities, while expanding outreach by providing smoking supplies to underserved communities. [Read the NACCHO blog post](#) and [full JPHMP article here](#).

LGBTQ+ Voices: National Recovery Needs Assessment is Officially Live

Inclusive Recovery developed a LGBTQ+ Recovery Needs Assessment in partnership with Faces and Voices of Recovery, The Global Trans Equity Project, and the LGBTQ+ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights to better understand the barriers, gaps, and challenges LGBTQ+ individuals face in accessing recovery support. This survey is the first of its kind, designed to gather real stories and experiences from LGBTQ+ individuals who are in or seeking recovery. Your voice is powerful — and it's time we use it to shape a recovery system that sees us, affirms us, and serves us. Your insights will help to identify critical needs, improve services, and advocate for more inclusive and affirming recovery spaces nationwide. All responses are 100% confidential. [Click here to take the survey \(or share the link\)!](#)

Emerging Drug Trends: Nitazenes, Tianeptine, and Synthetic Benzodiazepines

Substance use patterns are always changing. Drug use waxes and wanes over time, partly due to availability, price, attitudes, access, and the non-medical determinants of health. This brief focuses on nitazenes, tianeptine, and synthetic benzodiazepines. They are not the only emerging substances in the United States, and they may never reach national or regional prominence, but they have shown clear and dramatic increases over the past several years. Identifying emerging trends and addressing use before it becomes widespread can help reduce the scope and severity of drug epidemics. [Click here to read the brief!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Recovery Policy Barriers and Solutions | May 14, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Join Faces and Voice of Recovery, in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network, for a two-hour webinar discussing the background and origins of the recovery advocacy movement and its current priorities. The training presents effective advocacy methods and describes how to get involved in the recovery advocacy movement. Recovery community organizations advocate for culturally relevant models of treatment and care that affect the broader recovery movement. [Click here to register!](#)

GLP-1 receptor agonists for the treatment of substance use disorders: A review | May 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Join the ORN and AOAAM --The presentation will review 1) GLP-1 receptor agonists and their pharmacology, 2) The emerging evidence base to support their use in treating substance use disorders, and 3) research underway to study their use to treatment substance use disorders. [Click here to register!](#)

Transforming Substance Use Disorder Outcomes: Harnessing Digital Tools for Public Health Success | May 20, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Join CHES Health and NACCHO---This webinar with CHES Health not only aims to raise awareness about the potential of digital solutions but will showcase public sector organizations currently employing digital tools to address SUD in the populations they serve. Panelists will share their experiences, insights, and the impact of these tools.

Participants will gain valuable knowledge through the following learning objectives:

- Analyze the transformative role of digital health solutions in public health initiatives while assessing care coordination across multiagency partnerships.
- Identify strategies for expanding evidence-based practices with technology to extend the reach and effectiveness of public health initiatives focused substance use disorder (SUD).
- Explore effective strategies to improve outcomes by combining technology with human led interventions, clinical interactions and peer support.

[Click here to register!](#)

Supporting Decision Makers Using Opioid Settlement Funds: Centering Sustainability in Planning and Implementation | May 22, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Payments from the national opioid settlements are substantial and present immense opportunity for local jurisdictions, but they are also time-bound. For that reason, local decision-makers need to integrate long-term sustainability strategies throughout their spending planning.

In this webinar, RTI International will share financial, contextual, and partnership considerations, as well as examples of local approaches to sustainability planning. Then, Dr. Orlando Barker (D.C. Office of Opioid Abatement) and Mr. Kirk Lane (Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership) will share their experiences with planning for the sustainability of settlement-funded initiatives. [Click here to register!](#)

Ethics, Values, and Boundaries | May 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Join Faces and Voice of Recovery, in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network, for a comprehensive look into ethical codes of conduct and their role in peer support services and clinical settings. Boundaries may become blurred when working with people living with addiction and mental health conditions. Participants will apply a self-assessment process to discover their own personal boundaries and how these boundaries may affect their work and their life. Participants will be able to describe terms that apply to delivering ethical peer recovery support services, identify how values, morals, and boundaries apply to ethical peer recovery support delivery; apply a process for ethical decision making; and recognize the need for organizational framework that is supportive and

Articles, Reports, and Research

****Specific to NY**

- (5/8/25) [Trends in Suspected Fentanyl-Involved Nonfatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits, by Age Group, Sex, and Race and Ethnicity — United States, October 2020–March 2024](#)
- (4/30/25) [Despite pledge to expand naloxone access, Trump administration proposal would cut overdose prevention programs](#)
- (4/22/25) [Walgreens to pay up to \\$350 million in U.S. opioid settlement](#)
- (4/18/25) [App aims to support recovery in Delaware County**](#)
- (4/15/25) [Lincoln Hospital announces new program to support people with opioid use disorder**](#)
- (4/14/25) [AI Screening Tool Effective in Identifying Opioid Use Disorder and Referring Patients to Treatment](#)
- (4/11/25) [New Guide: Supporting the Health of Youth Who Use Fentanyl/Opioids: Information for Family & Friends](#)
- (4/10/25) [Misinformation About Fentanyl Exposure Threatens To Undermine Overdose Response](#)
- (4/10/25) [Routes of Marijuana Use — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 22 U.S. States and Two Territories, 2022](#)
- (4/8/25) [Unseen Battles, Unmatched Resolve: Addressing Substance Use Disorder in Law Enforcement](#)
- (4/8/25) [The White House Announces Six Drug Policy Priorities](#)
- (4/7/25) [Hospital Addiction Consultation Service and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: The START Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
- (4/7/25) [What's New in Opioid Settlement Spending? Highlights from Select States](#)
- (4/7/25) [Monroe County offering lifeline to addiction services after federal cuts**](#)
- (4/7/25) [Community coalitions key to combating the opioid crisis](#)
- (4/3/25) [Stimulant Misuse Occurring in One-Fourth of Prescribed Patients](#)
- (4/2/25) [New Study Reveals Why Alcohol Use Increased During the Pandemic](#)
- (4/2/25) [Study Finds One In Five U.S. Adults Use Multiple Drugs, Revealing New Patterns In Substance Use](#)

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