



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

August 2024

Harm Reduction Newsletter

August 31, 2024 is



International Overdose Awareness Day

Theme for 2024: "Together We Can"

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) – held on August 31 every year – is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind. Here are some meaningful ways you can recognize IOAD:

- **Attend or organize a local event** - [click here to view a list of registered events!](#)
- **Spread awareness via social media** - create your own, or share resources developed by the [IOAD campaign](#) and/or NYS Department of Health (JPG files sent in a separate email)!
- **Show your support** by wearing a badge, wristband, etc., and by wearing the primary brand color, purple!
- **Distribute educational materials and naloxone**

[Click here to learn more about IOAD and how you can get involved!](#)

Featured Resources

Free Harm Reduction Training Modules for New York State Residents

The National Harm Reduction Coalition (NHRC) is offering a series of [free harm reduction training modules](#) for New York State residents, available in both English and Spanish! These training modules are designed to equip professionals in the substance use treatment field, social workers, healthcare providers, and other related roles with essential knowledge and skills to better support people who use drugs and their families and loved ones. ****CEUs are unable to be provided for these modules, but a certificate will be granted upon completion.****

The training modules include:

- **Safer Use:** Learn strategies to help individuals minimize the risks associated with drug use. This module covers a range of harm reduction techniques to promote safer practices.
- **Stimulants 101:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of stimulants, their effects, and specific harm reduction approaches for those who use them.
- **Wound Care for Non-Clinicians:** Acquire the skills needed to address and prevent common

wounds and infections that can occur with drug use, enhancing the health and well-being of those you support.

Why Take These Modules?

- **Enhanced Knowledge:** Deepen your understanding of harm reduction principles and practices, improving your ability to support clients in a non-judgmental and effective manner.
- **Improved Client Outcomes:** Equip yourself with the tools and techniques to help clients reduce risks, stay safer, and improve their overall health and quality of life.
- **Professional Development:** Gain valuable skills that are increasingly recognized and valued in healthcare, social work, and substance use treatment.
- **Community Impact:** Contribute to a healthier, more informed community by applying harm reduction strategies in your professional practice.

How to Enroll

To take advantage of this unique opportunity, please [register here](#).

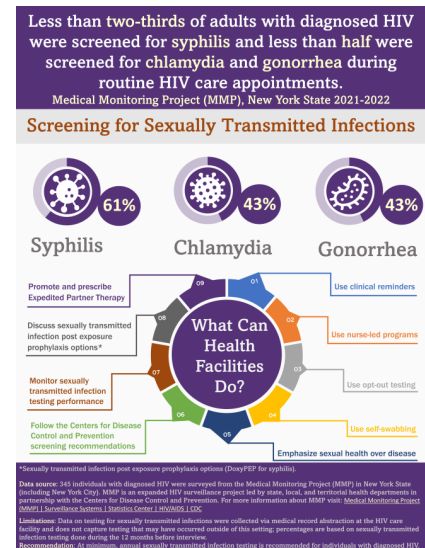
New Report: Q2 2024 Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Discovery Trend Report

With funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) at the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation is developing **quarterly trend reports** in relation to novel psychoactive substance (NPS) use in the United States, with a focus on four main classifications: benzodiazepines, opioids, stimulants and hallucinogens, and synthetic cannabinoids. The goal of this specific initiative is to provide near real-time information regarding NPS prevalence and positivity based on the analysis of authentic forensic and clinical samples. [Click here to learn more and access the latest report!](#)

New Infographic: Sexually Transmitted Infection Screening Among Adults with HIV in NYS

The Medical Monitoring Project’s (MMP) infographic on STI screening among adults with diagnosed HIV in New York State is now published on the Department of Health’s website. It shows the percentage of adults with HIV screened for syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea during routine HIV care using 2021-2022 data. It also includes OSHE’s recommendations for healthcare facilities, such as promoting Expedited Partner Therapy and monitoring STI testing performance.

You can find the infographic on the HIV/AIDS Statistics in New York State page under Medical Monitoring Project (MMP): [STI Infographic \(ny.gov\)](#)



Apply by August 16: Data Dashboard Learning Collaborative

The Addiction Policy Forum, with support from the HEALING Communities Study (HCS), is seeking applications to participate in a six-session Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) on building data dashboards. Many states and jurisdictions across the country are utilizing data dashboards to identify trends, evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies, and inform the development of targeted interventions to quell the ongoing substance use disorder and overdose crisis. This VLC will provide guidance on the development of data dashboards, and insights into anticipatory challenges with implementation and use within communities. Participants will have the unique opportunity to learn from leading subject matter experts who will share their experiences and best practices.

Timeline and Dates

- **Application Deadline: August 16, 2024 at 11:59 PM**
- **Selection Announcement:** September 2024
- **Virtual Kickoff Meeting (1-2 hours):** October 2024

- **Virtual Peer Learning Sessions (1-2 hours):** November, December 2024, January, February, and March 2025

[Click here to learn more and apply for this opportunity!](#)

Upcoming Events

2024 New York State Hepatitis C & Drug User Health Conference | September 11

This free, full-day, virtual event is tailored for clinicians practicing in New York State. Join the NYSDOH's AIDS Institute's Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) to learn about strategies to improve access to buprenorphine treatment, clinical updates in hepatitis C virus, legal advocacy for patients who use drugs and more. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

2024 New York State Recovery Conference | October 6-8 in Albany, NY

Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY) is proud to announce the 9th Annual New York State Recovery Conference; providing innovative educational and networking opportunities for the recovery community. This year's workshops will center on how and what sustains recovery. There will be workshops on the multiple pathways of recovery, emerging advocacy efforts and skill building for peer professionals and people in recovery. Tracks will include youth and family, diversity, equity and inclusion, recovery ready work places, health and wellness, as well education on how to educate decision-makers and the general public about recovery. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

2024 New York State Harm Reduction Association Annual Conference | October 21-22 in Binghamton, NY

The New York State Harm Reduction Association's (NYSHRA) annual conference provides powerful opportunities for the harm reduction community to connect, learn, and build power. This year's two-day conference will feature 4 keynote speakers, 12 workshops, breakfast and lunch each day (free with registration), networking opportunities, and scholarships for PWLE to travel to and participate in the conference. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

Webinars

Date and Time	Topic	Registration Link	Hosted by
August 14 3:00 PM	What is Harm Reduction for Alcohol?	Register here	NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
August 21 12:00 PM	Barriers to Care: Solutions for Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Provision in Rural Communities	Register here	National Council for Mental Wellbeing
August 22 12:00 PM	Peer Recovery Support Series: Passionate Professionals; Dispassionate Practice — Ethical Boundaries in Non-Clinical Roles	Register here	NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

October 8 1:00 PM	New York State Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Partners Meeting	Register here	NYSDOH Office of Drug User Health
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Funding Opportunities

Hepatitis C Navigation and Care Coordination in High-Risk Settings | **Applications due August 22, 2024**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) AIDS Institute (AI), Division of HIV and Hepatitis Health Care/Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology announces the availability of New York State funds to increase the number of people living with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) who are linked to hepatitis C care, initiate and complete treatment and are cured of hepatitis C, and reduce disparities associated with treatment access. The intent of the Request for Applications (RFA) is to fund \$1,700,000 annually through October 31, 2028.

This RFA contains two components: A) Hepatitis C Navigation Services in High-Risk Settings; and B) Nurse Care Coordination in Opioid Treatment Programs. To access the RFA, visit the [NYS Statewide Financial System](#), and search for each component by typing the SFS # in the event ID field: **HCNRA-2025** (Component A), or **HCNRB-2025** (Component B).

Community-Based Maternal Behavioral Health Services Program | **Applications due August 26, 2024**

The purpose of this SAMHSA-funded program is to improve access to evidence-based, timely, and culturally relevant maternal mental health and substance use (behavioral health) intervention and treatment by strengthening community referral pathways. Recipients will be expected to collaborate with pregnancy and postpartum healthcare organizations, refer individuals in need of behavioral health care to the appropriate entities, and provide short-term mental health and substance use services to individuals who cannot access care.

Eligible applicants are State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, nonprofit community-based entities, and primary care and behavioral health organizations to address community behavioral health needs worsened by the COVID-19 public health emergency. [Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Articles and Reports

****Specific to NY**

- (07/31/2024) [N.Y. state Health Department files to extend Narcan contract by at least 1 year**](#)
- (07/22/2024) [We should leverage the successes of HIV care to prevent overdose mortality](#)
- (07/18/2024) [As Erie County fatal overdoses surge, there's debate over how to use funding to combat it**](#)
- (07/17/2024) [Broome County Sheriff's Office receives cease and desist letter over OpVee usage**](#)
- (07/16/2024) [Pharma Firm That Owes Millions in Opioid Settlement Wants in on Lucrative Anti-Overdose Drug Contract](#)
- (07/15/2024) [Study: Opioid use disorder patients were more likely to stick with treatment if referred through telemedicine vs. the emergency department](#)
- (07/10/2024) [New Study Reveals Greater Health Risks of Adolescent Cannabis Use Compared to Adults](#)
- (07/08/2024) [Misconceptions About Opioid Treatment in Primary Care Remain Persistent Problem](#)
- (07/08/2024) [7-Day Buprenorphine Promising for Mild Opioid Withdrawal](#)
- (07/04/2024) [Reported Xylazine Use Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years Evaluated for Substance Use Treatment — United States, July 2022–September 2023](#)
- (07/03/2024) [Rapid Response to the Legalization of Fentanyl Test Strips in Alabama: An Academic–Community Partnership](#)

(07/01/2024) [Harm reduction vending machines coming to North Country**](#)

(06/27/2024) [Scaling Emergency Department Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Across California to Reduce Overdose Deaths, 2019–2023](#)

(06/27/2024) [New York State Department of Health Acknowledges Prescribers In New York for Reducing New High-risk Exposures to Opioid Prescriptions**](#)

(06/27/2024) [Stigmatizing language prevalent in clinical notes of patients with opioid use disorder](#)

(06/04/2024) [New Study: Alcohol and Drug Use Cause Significant Harms that Go Beyond the Individual](#)

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