



# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

November 2024

## Harm Reduction Newsletter

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### Featured Resources

#### **Development, Evaluation and Initial Findings of New York State Department of Health Community Drug Checking Pilot Programs**

Drug checking services provide people who use drugs with timely, detailed information about their substances, helping them make safer decisions to reduce overdose risks, while also allowing staff to tailor care and connect individuals to appropriate harm reduction services and healthcare.

The NYSDOH just published a study in The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice on the initial findings of its drug checking pilot programs, [check it out here!](#)

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#### **NYSACHO Leave it Behind Webinar Resources**

On October 16, 2024, NYSACHO hosted the webinar "Building Effective Leave it Behind Naloxone Programming with First Responders" featuring a presentation and discussion with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (OH). Attendees learned how they have developed, sustained, and expanded a Leave it Behind Program with first responders through stigma reduction and education. [Click here to view the webinar recording](#) or view it from our [Harm Reduction webpage](#).

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#### **Systematic review from the Community Preventive Services Task Force shows community interventions involving coalitions or partnerships can prevent substance use among youth.**

Evidence shows such interventions reduce initiation and use of cannabis, tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances. [Learn more here.](#)

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#### **N-SUMHSS 2023: Data on Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities**

The National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS) is a voluntary annual survey of all active substance use and mental health facilities in the United States, its territories, and D.C. The annual report presents findings on the key operational characteristics of substance use and mental health treatment facilities, use of pharmacotherapies, language assistance services, and suicide prevention assistance services. [Click here to access the report!](#)

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## Improving Health Outcomes for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Mental health conditions and substance use disorders are significant drivers of the U.S. maternal mortality crisis, particularly during the postpartum period. The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) hosted a webinar on October 30, 2024 that previewed a [new report from the CHCS](#), and offered insights and practical examples to help policymakers, health systems, providers, and community-based organizations transform maternal health care to offer critical supports for this often hidden population. [Click here to view the webinar recording!](#)

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## Centering the Voices of People with Lived Criminal Legal Experience in JCOIN Research

The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) hosted a webinar on November 1, 2024 focused on how their Research Hubs empower people with lived experience (PWLE) and the critical role of including their voices in research. They also discussed strategies for meaningful engagement, heard from experts and PWLE, and learned how these contributions can drive innovation and more effective solutions in addressing substance use disorders within criminal legal settings. [Click here to view the webinar recording!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### The Americans with Disabilities Act and How it Applies to Addiction and Recovery | November 6, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Join the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) for a webinar to learn how the ADA protects people with disabilities from discrimination in employment, social services, child welfare, courts, prisons, and medical facilities. The webinar will also cover ADA protections for people in recovery from opioid use disorder, including those on legally prescribed medication. [Click here to register for the webinar and/or download the PowerPoint Slides!](#)

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### Identifying and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments | November 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Join SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC) for a webinar that will explore essential engagement techniques for outreach and community health workers who build trust and connect encampment residents to mental health, substance use, and medical care. Participants will hear from experienced professionals and join a live Q&A. [Click here to register!](#)

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### Silent No More 2024: Highlighting New Multilanguage Resources for Underserved Communities Impacted by the Opioid Crisis | November 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Join the Addiction Policy Forum for a webinar showcasing a series of newly developed, multilanguage materials aimed at enhancing support for individuals and families affected by opioid use disorders, especially within non-English speaking populations. [Click here to register!](#)

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### 2025 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review | February 11-12, 2025 in Portland, OR

Save the dates for this forum, which will convene multidisciplinary members who participate, lead, support, or are interested in overdose fatality reviews (OFRs). The theme for this event is Turning the Tide, which will highlight the advances that OFRs and communities have

made in collaborating to prevent substance misuse and future overdose deaths. Participants at any level of experience are invited to attend!

**If you are interested in attending, no-cost registration is now open!**

[Click here for more information and to register for free.](#)



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## NYS Regional Alcohol Policy Meetings | Dates vary by region

In April 2024, the first New York State Alcohol Policy Summit took place at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health in Harlem. Since then, attendees have collaborated to gather data, scientific evidence, and policy priorities to draft NY Alcohol Policy Recommendations. Regional meetings with community groups, researchers, and government representatives will discuss local perspectives on data, policies, and actions. This feedback will help shape recommendations for the second summit in early 2025.

Please attend the upcoming meeting for your region by [registering here](#). However, if you cannot make that meeting, please select an alternative. Please note that the Central Region meeting was already held on October 30.

- **Capital Region - Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 2:00pm -3:00pm**(Counties: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington)
- **New York City Region - Thursday, November 21, 11:00am-12:00pm**(Counties/Boroughs: Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island)
- **Long Island Region -Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 3:00pm -4:00pm** (Counties: Nassau, Suffolk)
- **Hudson Valley Region - Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 2:00pm -3:00 pm**(Counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester)
- **Western Region - Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 3:00pm -4:00 pm** (Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates)

## Funding Opportunities

### Substance Use Prevention, Adverse Childhood Experiences Reduction, & Capacity-Building (SPARC) Project | **Applications due Friday, November 22, 2024**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in partnership with the CDC, is now accepting proposals for the Substance Use Prevention, ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Reduction, and Capacity-Building (SPARC) Project. This initiative supports organizations working with systems-impacted families and/or families impacted by substance use. The SPARC grant offers up to six awards of \$40,000 each for an initial seven-month planning period, along with training and technical assistance, helping select recipients adopt trauma-informed and resilience-building strategies through the Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) framework. This approach shifts services for affected families from a deficit-based to a strengths-based model, aiming to enhance family-provider relationships and family outcomes.

#### Key Dates:

- Informational Webinar: October 29, 2024 (You can still access the recording by registering [here](#))
- Application Deadline: November 22, 2024, by 5:00 PM ET
- Award Notification: December 6, 2024
- \*Project Period: January 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025

\*Future awards may be extended to four 12-month budget periods for a five-year overall period of performance of January 2025 – July 2029

[Click here to access the full SPARC Project Request for Proposals!](#)

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## **Post-Overdose Response Team Training in Trauma-Informed Practices (PORT-TIP) Project | Applications due Monday, November 25, 2024**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in partnership with the CDC, is now accepting proposals for the PORT-TIP Project. This initiative offers a six-month grant designed to enhance post-overdose response teams' (PORTs) capabilities through trauma-informed training, evaluation, and resilience-focused support. Awardees will receive up to \$20,000 per site, along with technical assistance, to develop and assess trauma-informed practices that improve outcomes for overdose survivors.

Special consideration will be given to PORTs that serve Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations due to the drug-related health inequities these communities experience as a product of the "war on drugs". Special consideration will also be given to PORTs who have team members with lived or living experience, and PORTs that serve and operate in rural jurisdictions.

### Key Dates:

- Informational Webinar: November 4, 2024 (You can still access the recording by registering [here](#))
- Application Deadline: November 25, 2024, by 5:00 pm ET
- Award Notification: December 19, 2024
- Project Period: February 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025

[Click here to access the full PORT-TIP Project Request for Proposals!](#)

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## **COSSUP's Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions Initiative | Applications due December 16, 2024**

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State Justice Institute (SJI), has announced the Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions initiative. This year-long program focuses on learning from rural practitioners and fostering collaboration among rural communities. Participants will receive coaching, engage in workshops, and have access to mentorship and a broad network of rural professionals. At the end of the initiative, participants may apply for an implementation grant to launch projects addressing substance use and misuse among justice-involved individuals in rural areas.

[Click here to learn more about the initiative](#) and [here to access the full solicitation!](#)

## **Updates from the State Register**

### **Office of Cannabis Management Proposed Rule Making: Adult Use Dispensaries—Standards for Public Convenience and Advantage | October 23, 2024**

This proposed regulation by the Cannabis Control Board allows exceptions to distance requirements for adult-use cannabis dispensaries in New York State, provided that doing so serves public convenience and advantage. Key factors for granting exceptions include local demand, economic benefits, and barriers like highways between dispensaries. Dispensary applicants must notify local governments, which have 45 days to comment, promoting community involvement without imposing extra responsibilities on local authorities. The rule supports state goals to expand the legal cannabis market, reduce illicit sales, and boost local economies, particularly in underserved or rural areas, while maintaining protected zones around schools, places of worship, and youth facilities.

[See pages 1-3 of the NYS Register, Vol. XLVI, Issue 43](#)

# Articles and Reports

**\*\*Specific to NY**

- (10/31/24) [Librarians Struggle With Mental Health After Traumatic Events at Work](#)
- (10/30/24) [Drug Overdose Deaths Are Down. Is It a Blip or a Trend?](#)
- (10/30/24) [Student well-being data shows declining substance use, persistent mental health challenges](#)
- (10/28/24) [Seattle becomes first U.S. city where EMTs can administer buprenorphine](#)
- (10/28/24) [UC San Diego receives \\$8 million grant to study the genetics of substance use disorder](#)
- (10/28/24) [Association between mental and physical health with poly-substance use among adults in 33 U.S. states](#)
- (10/25/24) [Fatal Drug Overdoses Are Dropping. Not Everyone Is Spared.](#)
- (10/23/24) [A Social-Ecological Model for Understanding Cannabis Risks and Promoting Harm Reduction](#)
- (10/23/24) [Closing Gaps Between Cannabis Policy and Scientific Understanding](#)
- (10/23/24) [Monitoring Cannabis Adverse Events: Lessons From Edible Packaging Policies and Child Poisonings](#)
- (10/10/24) [Development, Evaluation, and Initial Findings of New York State Department of Health Community Drug Checking Pilot Programs\\*\\*](#)
- (10/10/24) [Effect of the Communities That HEAL Intervention on Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution: A Cluster-Randomized, Wait-List Controlled Trial](#)
- (10/4/24) [Hospital Drug Tests Far More Likely for Minority Teens](#)
- (9/30/24) [Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution: An Evidence-Based Practice That Warrants Course Correcting](#)
- (9/25/24) [Association of Daily Doses of Buprenorphine with Urgent Health Care Utilization](#)

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