



# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

January, 2025

## Harm Reduction Newsletter

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### Featured Resources

#### **SAMHSA Issue Brief: Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Services**

This Issue Brief offers valuable information to State Mental Health Authorities (SMHA) about co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (COD). The document highlights the commonality of CODs and negative outcomes in the absence of evidence-based integrated care. It also provides an overview of treatment barriers and potential solutions, and the effectiveness of integrated care. [Click here to read the brief!](#)

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#### **The Overdose Resource Exchange (ORE): Support Your Community with Free Overdose Materials**

CDC recently re-launched the Overdose Resource Exchange (ORE), your one-stop shop to access, download, and use free CDC-developed communication materials and educational resources about prescription opioid misuse, substance use disorder, treatment and overdose prevention. These ready-made tools for action can help reduce the risk and support your community with preventing overdoses. Materials are also available in Spanish. [Click here to check out the materials!](#)

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#### **CDC Releases Final SUDORS Data for Drug Overdose Deaths in 2023: New Insights and Features Now Available**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) released final data for 2023 on fatal drug overdoses. These data are now available on the updated SUDORS dashboard, a critical tool for public health agencies, policymakers, and researchers.

##### Two Key Updates to the Dashboard:

1. The newly released data offer an in-depth look at unintentional and undetermined intent drug overdose deaths that occurred during 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
2. The CDC's final 2023 data come from reports submitted by 37 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.).

##### Noteworthy additions to the updates:

- **Final 2023 overdose data:** Finalized data for 2023 include comprehensive information on fatal drug overdoses that helps to identify shifts in drugs involved, track emerging drug threats, and inform response strategies at the national and state levels.
- **Adulterants: non-opioid sedatives:** This new category is now selectable for viewing the presence of these adulterants in overdose deaths, mapped geographically across the United States. This is

an overarching category including medetomidine, metomidate, and xylazine. These are non-opioid sedatives that have been found mixed into the illegal drug supply (most often with illegally made fentanyl), and this new category can provide important information on where these drugs are showing up among overdose deaths.

- **New information on ketamine:** The SUDORS dashboard now includes information on the presence of ketamine in fatal drug overdoses, mapped geographically. Currently, ketamine detection in overdose deaths is rare; however, because of increasing interest in its use for treatment of psychiatric conditions, continued monitoring is important.

[Access the SUDORS dashboard here](#), or learn more about it [here!](#)

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## Impact of State Targeted Response & State Opioid Response Grants Described in New Briefs

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors (NASADAD), in partnership with the Overdose Response Network (ORN), created state and territorial briefs detailing how federal funds from SAMHSA's State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants have been used to combat the opioid crisis. These briefs highlight each state's use of funding across the continuum of care, including prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid and stimulant misuse. Additionally, thematic briefs analyze common strategies and services implemented by states, with an interactive map available for exploring specific state efforts. [Explore the interactive map here](#) by clicking on individual states or territories!

## Upcoming Events

### Submit an Abstract for the APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo | **Abstract Submission Deadline March 28, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PDT)**

Submit an abstract for a chance to share your innovative research with your public health peers! The APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo will be held in Washington, D.C., Nov. 2-5. By submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation for APHA 2025, you'll have the opportunity to help others learn and grow while you gain valuable experience presenting to the world's top public health professionals. Presenters will be notified via email of abstract status on June 3

Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts on the meeting theme — Making the Public's Health a National Priority — and current and emerging public health topics. APHA 2025 will be an in-person meeting, and selected presenters will be required to become a member of APHA, pay for registration, attend the meeting in person and abide by any additional rules and requirements. [Click here for instructions on how to submit an abstract!](#)

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### Addiction Policy Forum's Anti- Stigma Institute 2025: April 7 and 8, 2025 in Washington, DC

Join a community of individuals committed to ending the stigma around addiction and provide support as a certified anti-stigma trainer for three years. Stigma surrounding substance use disorders (SUD) remains one of the biggest barriers to treatment. It isolates individuals, prevents families from seeking help, and perpetuates harmful misconceptions. Research shows that stigma can lead to continued substance use, a delay in seeking treatment, and higher dropout rates from recovery programs.

#### Participants will have access to anti-stigma resources including:

- **Stigma Training:** Learn the science and key concepts of addiction stigma, helping you understand and measure stigma within your organization or community.
- **Evidence-Based Stigma Interventions:** Receive a three-year certification to deliver the Responding to Addiction intervention, proven to reduce stigma and increase SUD knowledge among healthcare professionals, criminal justice practitioners, faith leaders, and other community stakeholders. Participants will also receive a three-year certification to deliver the enCompass intervention, a comprehensive training designed to reduce stigma and improve SUD knowledge

- among families, caregivers, and the general public.
- **Community Stigma Surveys:** Learn how to deploy a stigma measurement survey in your community, track progress, and make data-driven decisions.
- **Social Media Campaign Toolkit:** Get trained on launching a targeted anti-stigma campaign, with creative assets and strategies to track its impact.

[Register here](#) today for the Spring 2025 Anti-Stigma Institute! Early bird registration is open now through February 17, 2025. The event is limited to 75 participants to foster deeper connections, meaningful interactions with faculty, and rich networking opportunities.

## Upcoming Webinars

### **Working Effectively with Substance Affected Families | January 8 and 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM**

This training will assist family support and child welfare workers in understanding the process of addiction and recovery and how it affects the family. Participants will explore the risks and safety concerns associated with parental substance use disorders and how a family team can support a family in recovery. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **Cannabis and Adolescents: An Overview of the Science and Concerns from Leading Experts | January 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM**

Join the Addiction Policy Forum for a webinar on the complex relationship between cannabis use and adolescent development with Dr. Mark Gold, a renowned expert in addiction and psychiatry, and Dr. Sarah Vinson, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine. The presentations will explore the effects of cannabis on adolescent brain development, its potential long-term consequences, and emerging trends in use among younger populations. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **Innovative Horizons: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Substance Use Counseling | January 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM**

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, addiction professionals quickly adopted telehealth, a technology they previously used minimally. Now, artificial intelligence (AI) presents new challenges and opportunities in counseling, raising questions about its role in tasks like writing progress notes, the ethical use of AI by students, and its potential to perpetuate stereotypes or make counselors obsolete. This webinar delves into the expanding role of artificial intelligence (AI) in substance use counseling, examining how AI tools can assist with tasks like progress notes and treatment plans. It will cover both the benefits and challenges AI presents, including ethical concerns and its impact on counseling practices. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **The Drug Supply in 2025: A Lookahead with CA Bridge | January 16, 2025 at 2:00 PM**

In response to the dynamic changes in the illicit drug landscape, this session addresses the concerns of clinicians who prescribe buprenorphine, as they increasingly question their understanding of dosing in relation to the evolving street drug supply, especially with the rise of fentanyl, carfentanil, and contaminants like xylazine in our communities. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **Second Virtual Alcohol Policy Summit: Local Action, Statewide Solutions | January 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM**

We invite you to register for the upcoming Second Virtual Alcohol Policy Summit: Local Action, Statewide Solutions on January 23, 2025. The summit will bring together thought leaders, advocates, policymakers, and community leaders to create a framework of evidence-based alcohol policy priorities to reduce alcohol related harms in NYS. [Click here to register!](#)

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## Treating People Who Use Meth or Other Stimulants: Leveraging Contingency Management in Criminal Justice Settings | January 29, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Contingency management is an evidence-based behavioral intervention proven effective in treating individuals with stimulant use disorders. This method leverages positive reinforcement to encourage specific target behaviors that reflect progress in treatment, such as attending sessions or maintaining abstinence. The webinar will address the scientific foundation of contingency management, common challenges associated with its implementation in criminal justice settings, and strategies for overcoming these barriers. Sustainable solutions for integrating contingency management into drug court and reentry programs, with an emphasis on its long-term benefits for individuals in recovery and the community, will also be discussed. [Click here to register!](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations | **Applications due by February 21, 2025**

The purpose of this program is to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of community-based substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services. The program is intended to expand and strengthen the capacity of local community prevention providers to implement evidence-based prevention programs.

Applicants who document that more than 50 percent of their total population(s) of focus will be in underserved communities that are greatly impacted by SUD will be awarded bonus points. Up to \$375,000 will be given to each awardee.

Please note that this [notice of funding opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) remains open for three fiscal years, with FY 2025 applications due by February 21, 2025. In FY 2025 SAMHSA will post a revised NOFO for the SPF-PFS Communities/Tribes program under number SP-25-002. Continue to check back for the FY 2025 NOFO using the [SAMHSA Grants Dashboard](#).

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### JCOIN Rapid Innovation Grants (J-RIG) | **Spring Cycle Applications due by April 1, 2025 at 11:59 PM**

The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) Rapid Innovation Grant (J-RIG) program is a rapid funding mechanism to support small research grants to study newly emerging policies, practices, or interventions that address prevention and treatment of addiction in criminal legal settings.

Applications should focus on substances associated with overdose and overdose mortality. Projects should have direct relevance to individuals who are involved in the criminal legal system but need not take place within criminal legal settings. [Click here to access the Call for Proposals!](#)

## Articles and Reports

**\*\*Specific to NY**

(12/19/24) [National Organizations Urge the White House to Lift the Contingency Management Funding Cap](#)

(12/17/24) [Overdose is NYC's Leading Cause of Pregnancy-Associated Death\\*\\*](#)

(12/17/24) [Governor Hochul Continues New York's Nation-Leading Efforts to Address the Opioid and Overdose Crisis and Signs New Legislation to Keep New Yorkers Safe\\*\\*](#)

(12/12/24) [When Dutchess law enforcement changed their approach, drug overdose deaths decreased\\*\\*](#)

(12/10/24) [CDC warns of carfentanil, an opioid that's 100 times more potent than fentanyl](#)

(12/10/24) [FORE Allocates \\$2.4 Million to Combat Overdose and Opioid Crisis Among Vulnerable Populations](#)

(12/9/24) [Survey finds two-thirds of New York healthcare professionals see youth vaping](#)

[epidemic\\*\\*](#) (12/5/24) [Detection of Illegally Manufactured Fentanyls and Carfentanil in Drug Overdose](#)

**Deaths — United States, 2021–2024**

(12/3/24) **Penalized for Their Prescriptions: Parents Using Legal Addiction Medications Face Ongoing Discrimination in the Child Welfare System**

(11/27/24) **Implementation and sustainability of systems change for mental health promotion and substance misuse prevention: a qualitative study**

(2024) **COPN Accelerator 5.0 Case Studies: Sustainability Strategies in Overdose Prevention**

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