



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

April 2025

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

National Alliance on HIV Education and Workforce Development Archived Webinars

The National Alliance on HIV Education and Workforce Development hosts several webinars related to overdose prevention and harm reduction. Some recent archived webinars that may be of interest include:

- Overamping: Strategies for Identification, Response, and Prevention
- Perinatal Substance Use Disorder Treatment for HIV+ Communities
- Stimulant Use, Chemsex, & Evidence-Based Treatment: State of the Field and Future Directions
- Healing Together: Lived Experiences and Effective Support in HIV and Substance Use Recovery Pt. 2
- Healing Together: Lived Experiences and Effective Support in HIV and Substance Use Recovery Pt. 1
- Youth HIV and Substance Use: Trends, Intersections, and Opportunities for Treatment

[Click here to view the archived webinars, including slides and recordings!](#)

Soundbites on Substance Use Disorders: Stigma, Stimulants and the Fight for Treatment Access

This Opioid Response Network (ORN) podcast series, developed by ORN's emerging topics team, contains peer-to-peer discussions on topics ranging from medications for the treatment of stimulant use disorder, stigma within healthcare policy, courts and stimulants, family considerations, naloxone and fentanyl contamination. Continuing education credits are available (see link in show notes). [Download the series on Apple, Spotify and other apps, or click here to access it on the web!](#)

Opioid Response Network Community Resource Library

Check out our new community resource library. This page features open access educational materials from ORN partner organizations and their funder, SAMHSA. Curricula, trainings, distance learning programs, podcasts and videos are all featured here. Materials provide general information about opioid and other substance use disorders, co-occurring psychiatric disorders and related topics. [Click here to check out the library!](#)

Upcoming Events

Call for Abstracts: 2025 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium | Abstracts due April 14 at 11:59 PM

NYSACHO and the NYSDOH invite you to submit an abstract for the 2025 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium, taking place on September 11–12, 2025, at The Marriott Albany in Albany, NY. This event will bring together local health departments, and their community partners to share best practices and discuss innovative strategies to address the overdose crisis through a harm reduction lens. The theme for this year's symposium is *"Meeting Your Community Where It's At: Addressing Evolving Needs."*



We are seeking 40-minute presentations that highlight innovative and collaborative initiatives and programming related to harm reduction. Topics of interest include stigma reduction, emerging trends in substance use, meaningful engagement of people with lived and living experience, opioid settlement funding, cross-sector partnerships, and so much more. We encourage LHDs to pass the call for abstracts along to community partners as well.

[Click here to view the Call for Abstracts on NYSACHO's Harm Reduction webpage for additional information and a submission link!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Impact of Stigma on Recovery: Professional Communities | April 3 at 10:00 AM

Stigma surrounding drugs and the people who use them is ubiquitous, but it isn't always recognized or understood. Research shows that substance use-related stigma is high among the general public, among treatment professionals, and even among people who use drugs themselves. The burden of stigma is a particular challenge for former, current, or aspiring professionals who face additional barriers related to hiring, promotion, and social engagement. This session will explore the impact of stigma on professional communities as well as evidence-based strategies to reduce it. [Click here to register!](#)

RiVive Community Feedback Report | April 14 at 3:00 PM

Join Harm Reduction Therapeutics for a webinar discussing the release of their 2024 RiVive® Community Engagement Report! They will present the results of interviews with people who have used RiVive and who have survived overdose. They learned even more about what makes an overdose response compassionate, and no surprise, naloxone dosing it at the heart of it. [Click here to register!](#)

Rural Webinar Series—Session 1: Developing Strategic Partnerships in Rural Communities | April 15 at 2:00 PM

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program's (COSSUP) Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program at the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) invites you to this no-cost webinar series. This four-part webinar series invites rural jurisdictions interested in implementing or enhancing Overdose Fatality Reviews to learn from their peers. Each session features multiple sites from rural communities that are demonstrating the innovative work made possible by rural partnerships through OFR.

OFRs rely on multidisciplinary partnerships to share information, data, and insight to determine what intervention and prevention strategies are necessary to reduce drug-related deaths and empower a community response to substance use disorder. In the first webinar session, hear from rural OFR facilitators and members to learn about their role, specific engagement strategies for diverse stakeholders, and how to develop strategic partnerships across sectors.

[Click here to learn more about the rural webinar series](#) and [click here to register!](#) Please note that when you register for the series, you will receive calendar invites for all sessions. However, you have the flexibility to attend as many or as few sessions as you wish.

Start with Hope: Supporting Mothers with SUDs Panel | April 22 at 1:00 PM

Pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders (SUDs) face many barriers to receiving care. For example, pregnant women with SUDs frequently delay or refrain from prenatal care and treatment because of negative experiences and perceived judgement. In this 90-minute panel, speakers will discuss their experiences within the systems of care for pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs. Join this National Council for Mental Wellbeing webinar to learn how providers address these challenges, strengthen care coordination and share solutions rooted in hope of improving the quality of treatment and recovery. [Click here to register!](#)

Barriers to Substance Use Treatment Among People Who Use Drugs in the Rural United States | April 23 at 5:00 PM

This webinar, provided by the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine (AOAAM) with support from the Opioid Response Network, lecture will focus on barriers to substance use disorder across 10 rural US states. Qualitative findings, framed by the social ecological model, will be presented. [Click here for more information and registration!](#)

Understanding Addiction: A Guide for Families with author Jessica Hulsey | April 25 at 1:00 PM

Join the Addiction Policy Forum for a webinar featuring their Founder, Jessica Hulsey, as she discusses her new book, Understanding Addiction: A Guide for Families. Jessica will share insights from the book, reflecting on her own family's struggles with addiction and her decades of experience working in the field. She'll touch on key themes, including the science of addiction, research that dispels common myths and misinformation, and practical guidance to help families navigate the complexities of substance use disorders. [Click here to register!](#)

Harm Reduction: Laying the Groundwork | April 29 at 2:30 PM

This webinar, provided by the Grayken Center for Addiction TTA at the Boston Medical Center with support from the Opioid Response Network, reviews the medical ethics and tenets of harm reduction and their importance in expanding the care continuum for people who use drugs. It provides examples for devising policies influenced by harm reduction. Further, it explores the legalities of harm reduction practices in different healthcare settings, including considerations for licensed providers. [Click here for more information and registration!](#)

Recovery Ready Workplaces | April 30 at 2:00 PM

This webinar, provided by the Faces and Voices of Recovery with support from the Opioid Response Network, describes the ways employers can support people in recovery by creating recovery-ready workplaces. Employers don't need to work in isolation; they benefit by collaborating with other sectors of the community to address barriers to employment. The training discusses the benefits of hiring people in recovery and ways to cultivate a recovery ready workplace. [Click here for more information and registration!](#)

Funding Opportunities

Expanding Harm Reduction Services for Priority Populations* Who Use Drugs | Applications due May 14, 2025 by 4:00 PM ET

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, Office of Drug User Health announces the availability of New York State funds to provide harm reduction interventions in community settings in

New York State. This funding is directed toward people who use drugs within two (2) distinct Priority Populations* (Adolescents (12-17)/Young Adults (18-24) and Veterans) that are especially vulnerable to overdose and who have been historically marginalized and stigmatized by systems of care. The intent of the Request for Applications is to fund two (2) to four (4) programs for awards between \$200,000 to \$300,000, with a total funding amount of \$1,200,000 annually from November 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

Eligible Applicants: not-for-profit agency in New York State, hospital, health care system, primary care network, academic institution, community-based organization, voluntary association, voluntary agency that operates an Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)-certified, funded or otherwise authorized substance use disorder treatment program, voluntary agency that operates an Office of Mental Health (OMH)-licensed mental health services program, scientific /professional association or a local government/public health agency

Key Dates for RFA#20620:

RFA Release Date: March 27, 2025

Questions Due: April 10, 2025, by 4:00 PM ET

Questions, Answers and Updates Posted: (on or about): April 24, 2025

Applications Due: May 14, 2025, by 4:00 PM ET

[Click here to access the full RFA in the NYS Statewide Financial System \(SFS\) website](#) and enter SFS # Pops2025 in the Event ID field.

Articles and Reports

****Specific to NY**

- (3/27) [Trump Administration Slashes New York Public Health Funding**](#)
- (3/24) [Drug overdose deaths decline in Onondaga County**](#)
- (3/22) [Upstate woman shares inspiring story of residential addiction recovery treatment**](#)
- (3/19) [LAC Responds to HHS' Renewal of the Opioid Public Health Emergency and Highlights Need for Increased Funding to Achieve Its Goals](#)
- (3/19) [APA Statement on Proposed Cuts to SAMHSA](#)
- (3/17) [Opioid fatalities and suicides down in Ulster County**](#)
- (3/17) [National Association of Counties expands programming to address opioid crisis](#)
- (3/17) [Cocaine laced with fentanyl suspected in Staten Island ER visits, doc warns**](#)
- (3/15) [HEAL dissolves after years of fighting opioid crisis in Cayuga County**](#)
- (3/14) [FDA Warns of Misuse of Laughing Gas Sold in Colorful, Flavored Canisters](#)
- (3/14) [Harm reduction advocates worry the state wants to 'ramp up' drug criminalization**](#)
- (3/14) [To Prevent Drug Overdose Deaths, Install Anti-Motion Sensors In Public Restrooms](#)
- (3/12) [Steuben County Introduces Opioid Awareness & Education PSA Campaign**](#)
- (3/10) [New York State Announces Start of Construction on 11 Units of Permanent Supportive Housing in Newburgh**](#)
- (3/6) [Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster ending addiction programs**](#)
- (3/4) [Hochul announces new Mobile Medication Unit, first opioid treatment program in Madison Co.**](#)
- (3/4) [GLP-1 Medications Could Be Game-Changer for Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment \(cited study here\)](#)

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