

2025 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium
Meeting Your Community Where It's At: Addressing Evolving Needs

Call for Abstracts

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The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) is pleased to announce the [Call for Abstracts](#) is now open for **the 2025 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium**, taking place on **September 11-12, 2025, at The Marriott Albany in Albany, NY**. This annual symposium brings together local health departments (LHDs) and their community partners to share best practices and innovative strategies in the field of substance use, overdose prevention, and harm reduction. The theme for this event is *"Meeting Your Community Where It's At: Addressing Evolving Needs."*

NYSACHO is seeking abstract proposals for **40-minute presentations** that highlight the important work being done by LHDs and partner organizations dedicated to improving drug user health and addressing the overdose crisis through a harm reduction lens. We encourage LHDs to forward the call for abstracts to their community partners as well. While we certainly welcome all submissions, abstracts addressing the topics below are encouraged, but not mandatory:

- **Addressing Stigma & Community Education** – Strategies to reduce stigma, engage communities, and enhance outreach efforts.
- **Adapting to Changing Drug Trends** – Innovations in programming, overdose response, and harm reduction for emerging substances.
- **Cross-Sector Partnerships** – Collaboration across public health, law enforcement, mental health, social services, and criminal justice around harm reduction strategies; Addressing the intersection of substance use and mental health
- **Harm Reduction Across Prevention Levels** – Primary (education, youth prevention), secondary (naloxone, MOUD access), and tertiary (peer outreach, housing, post-overdose outreach).
- **Peer & Lived Experience Leadership** – Meaningful engagement of people with lived/living experience, utilizing Peer Navigators, supporting outreach, and integrating peer-led frameworks in government structures.
- **Naloxone Best Practices & Overdose Response** – Compassionate dosing, first responder training, and overdose spike planning.
- **Polysubstance Use & Emerging Trends** – Addressing fentanyl and other opioids, xylazine, stimulants, cannabis harm reduction, and shifting drug landscapes.
- **Data to Action** – Leveraging data to inform harm reduction policies, overdose prevention, and response strategies.
- **Sustainable Funding & Opioid Settlement** – Maximizing resources for harm reduction initiatives and long-term program sustainability.
- **Workforce Development & Training** – Building staff capacity, harm reduction competencies, and professional development.

Abstracts must be submitted by Friday, April 18, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Applicants will be notified by May 23rd if their abstract has been accepted for presentation. [Click here to submit an abstract!](#)

Please contact Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org) if you have any questions or concerns.