



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

November 2025

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

Guidance for Investing the Opioid Settlement Funds in Primary Prevention

A new guide from Partnership to End Addiction encourages states and communities to direct opioid settlement funds toward upstream, family-focused prevention that supports youth mental health and strengthens the environments where children grow. It also highlights practical examples from communities already putting these prevention strategies into action to reduce risk and build resilience.

[Click here to view and download the guide!](#)

Tracker: Federal Cuts to Overdose Prevention & Addiction Treatment

The Drug Policy Alliance and Legal Action Center have released a tracker outlining how recent federal budget decisions are already cutting hundreds of millions from overdose prevention, treatment and recovery programs, with the potential for far deeper reductions ahead. The tracker will be updated as new federal actions occur, so be sure to check back regularly for the latest information. [Click here to view the tracker!](#)

Upcoming Events

**The Future in Focus: The Need for a
Comprehensive Approach to Youth Mental
Health**
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 9AM - 12PM
Hilton Albany (Albany, NY)

Young people across New York are navigating a complex challenge when it comes to their mental health. The Future in Focus: The Need for a Comprehensive Approach to Youth Mental Health, presented by The Coalition to Empower our Future, brings together advocates, community organizers, youth leaders, and clinicians who are working to ensure that solutions consider the many factors impacting youth mental health. One-size-fits-all approaches rarely work to solve complex challenges. This event will examine the multitude of factors at play and the various support systems we should deploy to improve youth mental health.



National Opioid Settlement Conference
June 17-19, 2026
Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center (Denver, CO)



The National Opioid Settlement Conference, hosted by The Steadman Group, a Colorado-based, woman-owned, certified B-Corp, will be the first convening dedicated to ensuring the equitable, transparent, and effective use of opioid settlement funds. This event will bring together leaders, policymakers, providers, funders, and people with lived and living experience to advance evidence-informed, equity-centered strategies that reduce opioid-related harms. Grounded in values of innovation, accountability, collaboration, and lived experience, the conference aims to catalyze sustained action and foster multi-sector partnerships nationwide. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Street Medicine and Caring for HIV and SUD in the Unsheltered | November 7 at 12PM | [Register Here!](#)

This session is part of the National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development's national webinar series Bridging HIV and SUD: Innovations in the Field. The series will highlight various innovative models and approaches to treating substance use disorder (SUD) in people at risk for and living with HIV.

People experiencing homelessness have higher rates of substance use disorders and HIV compared to the general population yet are difficult for the system to access. In response, street medicine goes to the people to deliver care in their environment, on their own terms, with excellent outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand challenges facing people experiencing homelessness in accessing care.
- Describe how street medicine addresses these challenges.
- Relate how street medicine is an effective method to treat HIV and SUD on the street without relying on brick and mortar care.

Beyond the Call: Building Community Informed Follow-Up Models | November 13 at 1PM | [Register Here!](#)

This webinar will focus on strengthening follow-up care within crisis response systems by incorporating community-informed, trauma-responsive practices that improve engagement across diverse populations. Dr. Laura Leone of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing will discuss approaches for training peers and clinicians, building partnerships with trusted community organizations to support warm handoffs and service continuity, and addressing participant questions submitted both in advance and during the session.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what constitutes a warm handoff and how it supports continuity of care
- Understand the role of peer support and lived experience in coordinated follow-up care
- Outline community-informed strategies that enhance engagement across diverse groups

New Horizons and Opportunities for Recovery Housing | November 18 at 2PM | [Register Here!](#)

Despite its effectiveness as a recovery support and the significant interest in it among those in or seeking recovery, misconceptions about recovery housing, including what it is and what it provides have contributed to stigma and discrimination across all levels of society, including state/local governments, medical communities, legal professionals, and the general public.

This webinar, part of the Public Health Institute's Alcohol Research Group webinar series "Infrastructure for Studying Treatment & Addiction Recovery Residences"(I-STARR), will review initiatives undertaken at the national level to support recovery housing and demonstrate the value of it.

The 7Cs Framework for Substance Misuse Prevention | November 19 at 12PM | [Register Here!](#)

This NAADAC webinar will explore how to better support youth and young adults who are affected by substance misuse in their families, a group that often carries stigma, unanswered questions, and emotional complexity. The session will introduce the 7Cs Framework for Substance Misuse Prevention, a compassionate and developmentally appropriate approach that helps counselors, educators, clinicians, and other youth-serving professionals strengthen protective factors, guide healthy coping, and empower young people to care for themselves. Attendees will also receive practical digital and printable tools that can be used across clinical, educational, and community settings.

NAMI Ask the Expert: Recognizing and Overcoming Barriers to Mental Health in Rural America | November 20 at 4PM | [Register Here!](#)

Each year, as we recognize the third Thursday of November as Rural Health Day, it's important to acknowledge that mental health is the foundation of overall health for the 46 million people living in rural communities across the country. There is a mental health emergency in rural America due to inherent barriers to mental healthcare that lead to suicide rates that are 49% higher among rural residents compared to urban residents. You may not realize it, but regardless of where you live – a city, the suburbs, in the country – you depend upon the mental and physical wellness of the people living in rural America for the food you eat every day. Rural communities include those who labor to raise, harvest, process, and package the foods that fill our shopping carts and satisfy our appetites.

Articles and Reports

*****Specific to NY***

- (10/29) [Harm Reduction In Shelter Settings: Changing Culture To Save Lives](#)
- (10/24) [The Ripple Effect: How a Government Shutdown Reaches Recovery - An Interview with Libby Jones](#)
- (10/24) [National Drug Early Warning System \(NDEWS\) Special Report: EMS encounters for nonfatal xylazine-related overdoses in the US \(January 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025\)](#)
- (10/22) [Livingston County launches year-long opioid awareness campaign**](#)
- (10/22) [Co-creating health system innovation with people who use drugs](#)
- (10/22) [Increasing opportunities for community input in harm reduction program development using iterative engagement](#)
- (10/21) [Otsego County Warm Line to provide after-hours addiction support**](#)
- (10/16) [Art in Recovery exhibit in Dunkirk on Friday**](#)
- (10/15) [FORE Commentary in Health Affairs Highlights Opportunities to Advance Opioid Policy at the Local Level](#)
- (10/15) [Advancing research on strategies to reduce drug use and overdose-related harms: a community informed approach to establishing common data elements](#)
- (10/14) [Treatment Program for Veterans Shows 41% Reduction in Fatalities with Contingency Management Utilization](#)
- (10/13) [Buffalo lab delivers first-in-the-nation innovation with on-site drug testing inside courthouse**](#)
- (10/6) [Harm reduction approaches for the use of benzodiazepines: a scoping review](#)
- (10/2) [Governor Hochul Announces Certification of 13 New Community Behavioral Health Clinics**](#)
- (10/1) [New Study Shows Wearable Patch Reduces Alcohol and Drug Cravings and Substance Use](#)



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