



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

DECEMBER 2025

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

NEW REPORT | Assessing the State of Drug Checking: Insights from Local Health Departments in the United States

Drug checking services help people make safer, more informed choices about what and how they use, reducing risks such as overdose and changing drug use behaviors. Beyond single-substance test strips, more local health departments are exploring comprehensive, machine-based drug checking using tools like FTIR and mass spectrometry to better understand the local drug supply and connect people to care.

A recent landscape analysis conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Remedy Alliance, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials found that most drug checking programs provide strong linkages to medical and behavioral health services, overdose education, naloxone distribution, and infectious disease prevention. However, funding remains a significant barrier, and the majority of U.S. programs are still new with most operating fewer than two years.

Click [here](#) to view Remedy Alliance's full report and [here](#) to watch the NACCHO webinar!

NEW REPORT | New York's Opioid Settlement Funds: Lessons Learned and Recommendations After the First 3 Years

The Drug Policy Alliance released "New York's Opioid Settlement Funds: Lessons Learned and Recommendations After the First 3 Years." The report provides a clear overview of the various settlement funding streams, recent overdose trends, and how dollars have been allocated to date, including visual breakdowns of spending. It highlights key gaps and inconsistencies, as well as areas where funding decisions did or did not reflect Board guidance and public input. The report concludes with thoughtful recommendations for moving forward. Click [here](#) to learn more and view the full report!

Upcoming Webinars

When the Holidays Hurt: How to Support Ourselves and Others Through Grief Including Loss Associated with Substance Use, Addiction and Overdose | December 10 at 2:30PM | [Register Here!](#)

Grief extends beyond bereavement and can stem from job loss, relationship changes, sending a child to college, or caring for someone experiencing substance use or overdose. This webinar will explore why the holidays can be particularly challenging for people living with loss and will provide actionable ways to help, including what is supportive and what is not, especially when substance use, dependency, and

recovery are involved. Join to learn practical strategies for supporting others and yourself.

Addiction and Recovery: Reflections and Insights from My Journey | December 11 at 11:00AM | [Learn More & Register Here!](#)

Join the New York State Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Team for their next learning session featuring Dr. Stephen Loyd, a leading national expert on addiction and the real-life inspiration behind Michael Keaton's character in Hulu's Emmy Award-winning series "Dopesick."

Dr. Loyd shares his personal story and explores the underlying drivers of addiction in a way that is clear, relatable and deeply resonant with audiences from all backgrounds. His blend of clinical insight, lived experience and authentic, heartfelt storytelling makes his presentations both captivating and deeply informative. His story and ongoing work embody hope, compassion and leadership in the fight against addiction.

Cannabis Use Disorder: Prevention and Treatment | December 12 at 1:00PM | [Register Here!](#)

Cannabis is one of the most commonly used substances in the United States, and while often perceived as low risk, use can lead to the development of cannabis use disorder (CUD). CUD can affect brain function, behavior, and overall health, and the risk is especially concerning among adolescents and young adults. Despite its prevalence, effective prevention and treatment strategies for CUD are often less well known than those for other substance use disorders.

This webinar will focus on the science of CUD, including its neurobiology, risk factors, and the intersections between cannabis use, CUD, and other forms of substance use disorders. Presenters will also discuss evidence-based prevention and treatment strategies to reduce initiation and harms, and improve health outcomes. Participants will also learn about available resources and best practices to support individuals and families affected by cannabis use disorder.

Expanding the Impact of Pharmacy Services by Integrating them with Recovery Housing | December 16 at 2:00PM | [Register Here!](#)

Recovery housing may be a critical resource for those initiating and/or sustaining treatment involving MOUD. Yet despite its potential, recovery housing remains understudied, including within community pharmacy systems, where a majority of individuals who receive MOUD could benefit from resources concerning recovery housing, potentially leveraging the direct patient relationships between pharmacists and their patients. This webinar presents findings from a mixed-methods study collecting data from mobile pharmacy patients with OUD and community pharmacists regarding their awareness of and experiences with recovery housing.

Articles and Reports

*****Specific to NY***

- (11/21) [Study: Substance Use Navigator Support Doubles Likelihood of Addiction Treatment and Lowers Rate of Unplanned Readmissions](#)
- (11/12) [Padagis Awarded New York State Department of Health Naloxone Contract](#)
- (11/12) [Improving on Excellence: Expanding Existing Overdose Prevention Approaches in New York City**](#)
- (11/12) [Counties pivot as federal substance use funding shifts](#)
- (11/10) [Neuromodulation for Treating Substance Use Disorders](#)
- (11/6) [How Staten Island's 'hotspotting' program is helping curb drug overdose deaths**](#)
- (11/5) [New York's Opioid Settlement Funds Lessons Learned and Recommendations After the First 3 Years**](#)
- (11/5) [Monroe County Tackles Addiction Crisis from all Angles**](#)
- (11/4) [Youth need a tailored message to prevent illicit drug overdoses, says Harvard prof](#)
- (11/3) [New York's Landmark Legislation Covers Health and Wellness Training for Construction**](#)

(11/3) [NC launches focused support teams for people with severe mental illnesses leaving prison](#)
(11/2) [5 things to know about major drop in Staten Island overdose deaths](#)**
(10/30) [Study reveals the role of geography in the opioid crisis](#)
(10/30) [Albany highlights early success of new crisis response team](#)**
(10/20) [Overdose Data to Action: Utilizing Partnerships and Flexibility to Support Policy Change](#)

NYSACHO | 8 Airport Park Blvd | Latham, NY 12110 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!