



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

January 2026

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

NEW REPORT | KFF Health News Investigates National Opioid Settlement Funding

KFF Health News released a two-part investigation on how states and localities spent nearly \$2.7 billion in opioid settlement funds in 2024. The review of more than 10,500 spending decisions found that funds largely supported treatment, overdose-reversal medications, recovery services, and housing, though some dollars were also used for law-enforcement equipment and community events.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to read both parts of the report!

UPDATED REPORT | LAPPa Drug Checking Equipment, Needles/Syringes, and Drug Paraphernalia: Summary of State Laws

In 2022, the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPa) conducted a comprehensive review of drug paraphernalia laws across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories to examine how these laws apply to drug checking equipment and syringes. This September 2025 report serves as an updated version of that original analysis, reflecting developments since its initial release.

Click [here](#) to read a summary or download the full updated report!

Training Opportunities

FREE

**Comprehensive Medicolegal
Death Investigation Training:**
Scene Investigation and Overdose Recognition

This new comprehensive training program presented in partnership with the **New York State Department of Health** and **Syracuse University** is designed to enhance the knowledge and

skills of **coroners and medicolegal professionals** in the fundamentals of scene investigation, including the recognition and reporting of overdose deaths. Participants will benefit from interactive instruction, hands-on learning, and collaborative discussions with subject matter experts in death investigation, toxicology, and public health, while networking with colleagues from across New York State. This 30-hour course is divided into two components: an online module and an in-person session.

In-Person Program Highlights | May 11-13, 2026 at Doubletree by Hilton, East Syracuse, NY

- Fundamentals of Scene Investigation and Documentation: including suspicious deaths, child and infant deaths, and drug overdoses
- Collaboration with Partners: including law enforcement, medical practitioners, and the medical examiner
- Communication with Next of Kin and Families
- Role in Overdose Data Collection and Prevention
- Toxicology and Forensic Interpretation
- Post-Scene Actions: including debriefings and courtroom testimony
- Legal Obligations and Public Health Reporting
- Engagement and Practical Application: peer discussion, hands on activities, case studies, and skill-building

Why Attend?

- Eligible for continuing education credits
- Free registration, hotel lodging, travel reimbursement, and meals for the first 40 registrants
- Opportunity to shape the future of coroner training and overdose prevention in NYS

Click [here](#) to register!

Upcoming Webinars

Adult Children of Parental Addiction: Trauma and Healing | January 7 at 12:00PM | [Register Here!](#)

Adult Children of Parental Addiction (ACAs) were young children of parental addiction who have not received healing, so the developmental trauma effects last through the lifespan. Presentations are specific due to trauma and chronic stress from chaos, abuse, neglect, violence, uncertainty, and relationship dysfunction. Survival roles and defenses can be passed down intergenerationally. Childhood safety skills can appear as confounding adult behaviors affecting relationships, such as traumatic bonding, emotional constriction, cycles of re-enactment, and unresolved grief. Effects are further complicated in families with poverty, racism, incarceration, gender bias, and other forms of discrimination. This is a quietly marginalized and invisibly stigmatized population. Identifying resiliencies and accessing strengths offers a new perspective on self and a solid foundation to build from in the healing process.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe three ways the lifelong effects for adult children of addiction (ACAs) present.
- Assess two primary resiliencies of ACOA clients.
- Explain two effects on adult relationships of having grown up in a home with addiction.

From Insight to Action: Affirming Clinical Strategies for LGBTQ+ Clients with Co-Occurring Disorders | January 14 at 12:00PM | [Register Here!](#)

This webinar moves beyond the "why" and focuses on the "how." We will equip you with tangible skills for assessment, alliance-building, and integrated treatment to effectively serve LGBTQ+ clients, recognizing that their substance use is often a symptom of deeper, stress-related challenges.

Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between distal (external) and proximal (internal) stressors using the Minority Stress Model as a clinical lens to understand a client's full narrative.
- Implement three specific changes to clinical paperwork, office environment, and language to create a demonstrably affirming space.
- Adapt standard biopsychosocial assessment questions to specifically uncover the links between minority stress, trauma, and a client's substance use.

Building Rural Overdose Prevention Partnerships | January 29 at 1:00PM | [Register Here!](#)

Join this NACCHO webinar where they will discuss building coalitions and partnerships to prevent and respond to overdoses within rural communities. Participants will hear from San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency and Ross County District Health on their experience bringing together local partners for local overdose prevention efforts.

Learning Objectives:

- Assess the challenges to overdose prevention and response (OPR) in rural communities.
- Understand the importance of partnerships for effective OPR in rural communities.
- Review potential OPR partners to increase the capacity of DFC communities to establish and strengthen collaboration aimed at reducing the risk factors for substance use among youth and adults.
- Learn how some rural LHDs have been able to establish and strengthen collaboration in their communities.

Funding Opportunities

REMINDER: NACCHO Reimagining Health and Public Safety Overdose Initiatives (RHAPSODI) Projects | [Applications due January 5 at 5:00PM EST](#)

With support from CDC, NACCHO is offering a funding opportunity to strengthen overdose prevention efforts at the intersection of public health and public safety through the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), a collaboration with ONDCP's HIDTA Program. Funded projects should focus on preventing overdose among people at high risk—particularly those involved with the criminal legal system—by implementing public health–driven approaches within public safety or overdose response settings.

Programs are expected to reduce overdose risk, limit unnecessary criminal legal system contact, clarify appropriate roles for public health and public safety partners, and engage community-based organizations and people with lived experience to inform project design and delivery. NACCHO will fund up to 15 projects through Planning Awards (up to \$50,000) and Implementation Awards (up to \$120,000), with technical assistance from NACCHO, CDC, and local ORS teams.

For full details about the funding opportunity, please review the Request for Proposals [here!](#)

Articles and Reports

*****Specific to NY***

- (12/9) [Integrating Substance Use Disorder Services into Primary Care: Spotlight on Kentucky](#)
- (12/9) [Mamdani wants less police involvement in mental health calls. Albany is trying it out.**](#)
- (12/8) [10 Key Breakthroughs: Recent Studies Advancing our Understanding of Addiction and Treatment](#)
- (12/5) [Stretching small opioid settlement allocations helps funding do more](#)
- (12/3) [Congress passes SUPPORT Act reauthorization](#)
- (11/25) [SAMHSA Brings Back State-Level Reports on Drug Use, Mental Health](#)

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