



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

MARCH 2026

Harm Reduction Newsletter

Featured Resources

Mock OFR Tabletop Exercise Toolkit | NYS ORS Team

The Mock OFR Tabletop (TTX) Toolkit is designed to support a facilitated tabletop exercise using a fictional case to help teams practice the OFR case review process in a low-pressure setting. It's a resource for communities exploring Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) and interested in building readiness before launch. It's not a substitute for real-world OFR, but serves as a bridge from planning to implementation.



The webpage includes:

- A planning guide and the complete, ready-to-use and editable case review documents that can be tailored to your jurisdiction
- A one-page "At-a-Glance" overview
- A short informational video explaining the toolkit and implementation steps
- Pilot community reflections

[Click here to view the toolkit!](#)

New York State Opioid Settlement Fund Resources

Check out two new recently released resources regarding the distribution and usage of opioid settlement funds in NYS:

- **Legal Action Center Webpage:** [NYS Opioid Settlement Watch](#)
 - **Turth Pharm Report:** [The Misalignment of New York's Opioid Settlement Funds](#)
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New 2024 U.S. Dispensing Data Available | CDC

National dispensing rates continue to decline. New 2024 [United States Dispensing Data](#) from retail pharmacies is available. The overall national opioid dispensing rate declined steadily from a rate of 46.8 opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 persons in 2019 to a rate of 35.4 opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 persons in 2024.

Also updated for 2024:

- [Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps](#)
- [Naloxone Dispensing Rate Maps](#)

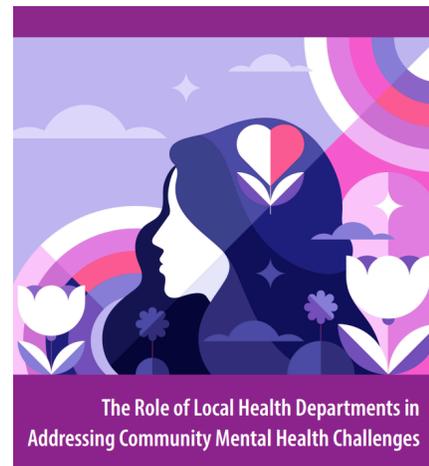
SUDORS Dashboard Updated with 2025 Preliminary Data

CDC has released a data update to the [SUDORS Dashboard](#), now featuring preliminary data on drug overdose deaths that occurred from January-June 2025. With this new preliminary data now available, previously posted preliminary data has been removed. New user accessibility enhancements to the dashboard will be forthcoming later this year.

The SUDORS Dashboard continues to serve as an essential tool for supporting evidence-based overdose prevention initiatives and enhancing shared accountability across jurisdictions.

The Role of Local Health Departments in Addressing Community Mental Health Challenges | NACCHO

In 2022, NACCHO released a white paper outlining the role of local health departments in addressing community mental health challenges, particularly in the context of COVID-19's impact on the workforce and community well-being. As health departments continue to navigate funding, staffing, and service prioritization challenges, NACCHO's Public Health Infrastructure and Systems team is re-sharing this resource. The paper explores the mental health stakeholder landscape, highlights the aspirational role of health departments, and offers practical approaches aligned with the three domains of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.



[Click here to read the paper!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

The MATTERS Network: Your Hub for Overdose Prevention Resources and Treatment Connections | March 12 at 11:00 AM | [Register Here!](#)

Join the next NY ORS Quarterly Virtual Learning Session featuring the MATTERS Network. If you encounter or support people impacted by a substance use disorder in your work, this session is for you. MATTERS is the practical resource you didn't know you needed! Learn how MATTERS helps NYS agencies access a variety of free overdose-prevention resources and provides easy-to-offer, easy-to-access options to connect people with opioid use disorder to care. This session is designed for colleagues across all sectors.

Collaborating with Rural Healthcare Providers & First Responders | March 12 at 1:00 PM | [Register Here!](#)

This NACCHO webinar will examine how strong partnerships and innovative programs can improve outcomes for those at most risk of overdose. Participants will hear from the Louisiana Bridge program, an effort led by the Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority that provides local healthcare workers with the tools and resources needed to identify and support patients in rural communities who may benefit from substance use treatment and related services. Participants will also hear from the CDC on strategies and case studies for implementing deflection or diversion programs in rural communities to improve linkage and retention in treatment and services.

NEW NYSACHO Webinar!

NACCHO Updates on SUD and Overdose Prevention: Programming, TA, and Current Trends | March 19 at 11:00 AM [Register Here!](#)



Join this NYSACHO webinar to learn how NACCHO supports LHDs with practical tools, technical assistance, and national advocacy. As your national association, NACCHO offers resources that complement and strengthen the work happening at the state and local levels.

This session will highlight NACCHO's syndemic approach to the overdose crisis and share updates on key issues shaping local public health right now, including STI and HIV outbreaks among people who use drugs and individuals experiencing homelessness, disaster preparedness, emerging drug trends, opioid settlement implementation, and the local impact of federal policy shifts.

Suicide and Substance Misuse: Supporting Safety| March 23 at 11:30 AM | [Register Here!](#)

Join the Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS) and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing as we explore how to effectively address the association between substance misuse and substance use disorder (SUD) and suicide, particularly opioid use disorder (OUD), to improve care for individuals at risk for and/or experiencing co-occurring SUD and suicidality. Attendees will hear from two leading experts in suicide prevention and behavioral health.

The Public Health Impacts of the 2025 Executive Orders: An Overview of the Network's Executive Order Tracker | March 26 at 1:00 PM | [Register Here!](#)

The past year was filled with federal actions that greatly impacted public health, both in the traditional sense and through a broader Health in All Policies lens. From funding cuts to the destabilization of long-trusted public health institutions, 2025 was a notable year for public health. Federal executive orders issued throughout 2025 were no exception.

Information on the federal executive orders issued throughout 2025 was often scattered, making it difficult to appreciate the overall impact of these federal actions and related policies on public health. The Network's newly created resource, Executive Order Watch: Public Health Impact of the 2025 Federal Executive Orders, helps bridge this gap by providing an at-a-glance overview of the 2025 executive orders. Though not exhaustive, the wide range of topics—from climate to vaccines to the federal workforce—captures the scale of impact across public health.

Join this Network for Public Health Law webinar learn more about this new resource and the ongoing public health impacts of the 2025 executive orders and related actions in areas including equity, reproductive health, the Federal MAHA initiative, immigration, and voting.

Articles and Reports

****Specific to NY**

(2/24) [Opioid Overdose Deaths: National Trends and Variation by Demographics and States](#)

(2/11) [NYC Health Department Expands Overdose Prevention Program to 16th Hospital As New Data Show Overdose Deaths Remain Steady**](#)

(2/6) [Peer Navigator Intervention and Opioid-Related Adverse Events for Emergency Department Patients A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)

(2/9) [Kratom 101: What You Need to Know](#)

(2/7) [Stimulant Use Disorder Treatment: Global Experts Tackle Research Gaps](#)

- (2/3) [State Laws in Support of Drug Checking Programs Can Help Reduce Overdose](#)
- (2/2) [ACF Expands Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder for At-Risk Families](#)
- (1/30) [The cost of chaos: A cracking windshield on substance use in the US](#)
- (1/30) [White House Executive Order establishes national substance use disorder response](#)
- (1/5) [Barriers to Buprenorphine Initiation in Patients Using Fentanyl](#)

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