



MOUNTAIN PLAINS
RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

MOUNTAIN PLAINS POST

The month in review and looking forward



IN THIS EDITION:

MP ROTAC'S FENTANYL
WEBINAR SERIES

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT
TO MISS

SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL
RECOVERY MONTH

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

FEATURED WEBINAR (PART I): UNDERSTANDING FENTANYL

The Mountain Plains Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (MP ROTAC) hosted the Utah State University (USU) Extension for the first of a two-webinar series discussing Fentanyl in school settings. Participants were provided with information about illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF), including current trends and prevalence of substance use amongst youth. Also discussed were the potential impacts of IMF use among school-aged youth, signs and symptoms of use, and how to respond to an overdose.

WHAT IS IMF?

- A synthetic opioid
- An analog of pharmaceutical fentanyl
- 50 times more potent than heroin
- Commonly comes in liquid or powder form
- Can be knowingly or unknowingly consumed as a stand alone substance or mixed with other substances

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

- Small amount (2mg) causes overdose
- Cannot see, smell, or taste it
- Unknown amount in and across substances
- Analogs do not show up on traditional toxicology screenings
- Tolerance is different for everyone

[LEARN MORE](#)

PRESS RELEASE: DEA RECOGNIZES NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY WITH EXTENDED HOURS FOR THE FACES OF FENTANYL EXHIBIT

WASHINGTON—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recognizes National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day by joining the dedicated voices who continue to raise awareness in an effort to prevent the fentanyl poisonings devastating families across the country.

[READ MORE](#)

UP NEXT! PART II: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION MESSAGING

It's not too late to register for the next segment of our Fentanyl series! Join us Friday, September 1 at 9:00 a.m. MST to learn more from the USU Extension team about effective prevention messaging, including what works, what doesn't, and why. Read more about the session and register below. Can't make the session? Keep an eye on our website for the recording!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEATURED

OFFICE FOR DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND WORKFORCE DIVERSITY WEBINAR SERIES: COMING FACE TO FACE WITH SUICIDE IN AMERICAN FARMING

Join the National Institute of Mental Health on September 12 from 12:30-2 p.m. MST for a webinar discussing suicide in American farming:

The suicide rate among American farmers is serious and worsening but may not be well explained by either a lack of access to care or demographic characteristics. This webinar will begin with a brief fact book about suicide and American farming that emphasizes the diversity present in farming and ranching. Discussion topics will include which hypotheses about agricultural suicide are more likely and less likely in the context of the current epidemiological research; where the likely points of leverage are; what is known and not known about the critical protective and risk factors; what is needed to make telehealth successful with this community; the impact of farming stress hotlines; and what the clinical opportunities and challenges are in addressing suicide in the agriculture community.

[REGISTER](#)

REGISTRATION OPEN! 50TH ANNUAL 2023 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL MENTAL HEALTH (NARMH) CONFERENCE

September 19-21, 2023
Pittsburgh, PA

Attend the 2023 NARMH Conference, Building Your Bridge: Linking Voices to Promote Rural Mental Health, in Pittsburgh! Content will focus on rural policy, clinical practice, and effective leadership.

[LEARN MORE](#)

OVERDOSE PREVENTION NETWORK: OVERDOSE PREVENTION 101

Tune in to this webinar on Tuesday, September 26 at 12:30 p.m. MST for an overview of the Overdose Prevention Network's new Overdose Prevention 101 guide. The interactive guide provides an overview of the core areas of overdose prevention, including how to build a strong coalition to key evidence-based strategies, as well as key tools and resources you can use to build an effective local prevention strategy.

[REGISTER](#)

AROUND THE REGION

MOUNTAIN PLAINS ADDICTION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (MP ATTC) WEBINAR: BENEFITS OF MEDICATIONS FOR TREATING OPIOID USE DISORDERS IN OUTPATIENT AND CARCERAL SETTINGS

Join the MP ATTC on September 12 at 11:30 p.m. CT to learn about the costs and benefits of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in outpatient and carceral settings. Medications, specifically methadone and buprenorphine, are associated with significant reductions in fatal overdose. Join JK Costello, MD, MPH, to learn more about the growing body of evidence for MOUD, with a particular focus on carceral settings.

REGISTER

NEW

MOUNTAIN PLAINS PREVENTION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (MP PTTC) PRESENTS: INTRODUCTION TO ADOLESCENT SBIRT FROM A PREVENTION PERSPECTIVE

The Introduction to Adolescent SBIRT from a Prevention Perspective eLearning course provides an overview of the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) protocol for use with adolescents aged 9 to 22. This course takes approximately 3 hours complete, and participants will be eligible to receive a certificate for 3 CE contact hours. By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe what SBIRT stands for and what each component means.
Identify why SBIRT is relevant and important for use with adolescents and young adults
- Demonstrate the ability to recognize the prevalence of substance use among youth and how SBIRT can prevent longer-term problems.
- Define the standard measures of various types of drinks/alcohol to increase knowledge of baseline information and guidelines regarding moderate and high-risk alcohol use.

Participants will need create a FREE [HealthKnowledge.org](https://www.healthknowledge.org) account to access this course.

ACCESS COURSE



USU EXTENSION: HEALTH, ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, & TEACHING (HEART) INITIATIVE AND TRIBAL AND RURAL OPIOID INITIATIVE'S (TROI) 2023 RURAL OPIOID & STIMULANT WELLNESS SUMMIT!

FEATURED

The HEART Initiative and TROI are excited to host the 2023 Rural Opioid & Stimulant Wellness Summit this October! Join them in Price, Utah, to discuss successes in the field of substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, engage with experts and other community members to learn, grow, and build readiness to address new and emerging rural wellness issues together. Rural communities have strength in our connectedness, and we are ready to take on new challenges to form new pathways. Connected, we will face the opioid overdose crisis and the emerging stimulant crisis.

Learn from and connect with experts in the field as well as those with boots on the ground, including substance use disorder professionals, law enforcement and first responders, people in recovery, prevention specialists, medical providers, and more. The event will offer resources for wellness and recovery, including whole-person resources and activities throughout the summit.

Community scholarships for registration are available. Click below for more information and to register for this year's summit!

2023

Rural Opioid & Stimulant Wellness Summit

October 25-26 | Price, Utah

**Pre-conference activity October 24*

"Open Roads to Health and Wellness"

Providing rural communities with many pathways to build strong and healthy families.

Featuring information for rural community members and professionals.

Register now!



2023USUururalopioidsummit.eventbrite.com

Visit bit.ly/2023USUururalopioidsummit for lodging information, schedule, and more.



STAY CONNECTED WITH
THE USU EXTENSION!



RESOURCE REVIEW

FACT SHEET: XYLAZINE BASICS: OVERDOSE PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION, AND WOUND CARE

Check out this fact sheet to learn more about xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer that is used as an additive in illicit drug supplies, notably in combination with heroin and fentanyl. The fact sheet describes xylazine's effects and potential risks. You will also learn about harm reduction interventions for individuals who may encounter xylazine, including the use of naloxone for responding to overdose, as well as the importance of wound identification and treatment.

[DOWNLOAD RESOURCE](#)

GUIDE: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES: PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

This guide, authored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides practical, evidence-based information for first responder agencies, their partners, and communities. Information in the guide can be used to implement or expand practices and programs that link individuals to substance use services.

[ACCESS THE GUIDE](#)

DID YOU KNOW? SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH!

National Recovery Month is a national observance that has been held every September since 1989. The month is observed to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the recovery community, and to acknowledge the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery of all forms possible. There are a variety of resources available for National Recovery Month on SAMHSA's website, including a National Recovery Month Toolkit.

[VIEW TOOLKIT](#)



WHAT'S NEW?

The Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$88 Million in Grants that Safeguard Youth Mental Health and Expand Access to Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

SAMHSA—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has recently awarded more than \$88 million in its continuing effort to safeguard the nation's behavioral health.

[READ MORE](#)

new

ASTHO Legal Mapping Center Launches Maps of Harm Reduction Policies to Prevent Overdose

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)—ASTHO today announced the launch of its new legal mapping center aimed at highlighting policies that may prevent overdose and help fight the opioid epidemic. With the overall goal of reducing the nation's overdose rates, the center created maps that visualize the national policy landscape of overdose prevention centers and laws supporting community distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

New KFF Analysis Examines Rapidly Evolving Federal Policies For Substance Use Disorder Treatment For The Opioid Epidemic

KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (KFF)—A new KFF analysis finds that 24 percent more buprenorphine, a medication to treat opioid use disorder, was dispensed in 2022 than in 2019, the year before the pandemic brought a surge of opioid overdose deaths – and a focus on how to expand access and treatment. This upward trend in buprenorphine distribution, already in motion before the pandemic, continued throughout the COVID public health crisis, suggesting continued improvements in access to treatment even as the pandemic raised other barriers to health care.

[READ MORE](#)

FDA Approves Second Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray Product

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION—Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved RiVive, 3 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over-the-counter (OTC), nonprescription use for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. This is the second nonprescription naloxone product the agency has approved, helping increase consumer access to naloxone without a prescription.

[READ MORE](#)




THANK YOU FOR READING!

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been strengthening higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health throughout the region since 1953. As an interstate compact, WICHE partners with states, territories, freely associated states, and postsecondary institutions in the West to share knowledge, create resources, and develop innovative solutions that address some of society's most pressing needs.

In 2022, WICHE was awarded a two-year grant from SAMHSA to establish the Mountain Plains Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (MP ROTAC). MP ROTAC is dedicated to supporting opioid and stimulant prevention, treatment, and recovery in HHS Region 8, comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. MP ROTAC develops and disseminates resources, training, and technical assistance to rural communities across the continuum of care. In partnership with our Regional Advisory Workgroup, MP ROTAC's efforts aim to meet the needs of a wide variety of audiences that are not traditionally targeted by other training efforts. We look forward to serving you and making a difference in Region 8's rural communities!

CONTACT US:
MPROTAC@WICHE.EDU


**Click here to
check out our**