



MOUNTAIN PLAINS
RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

MOUNTAIN PLAINS POST

The month in review and looking forward



IN THIS EDITION:

**VIRTUAL LEARNING
COURSE RECAP: IS THIS
TRAUMA TREND A
MYTH?**

**NEWLY RELEASED:
SAMHSA'S PRACTICAL GUIDE
FOR IMPLEMENTING A
TRAUMA-INFORMED
APPROACH**

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT &
MICROLEARNING: USU
EXTENSIONS' TROI
RESOURCE CENTER**

RECAP! VIRTUAL LEARNING COURSE: IS THIS TRAUMA TREND A MYTH?

TAP TO
WATCH

On June 20, the Mountain Plains Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (MP ROTAC) hosted the third installment of its Virtual Learning Course Series: Is this Trauma Trend a Myth? Tamera Ford, LCSW, an expert in trauma-informed care, provided insight into the fundamentals of trauma. Topics of discussion included:

- Definitions and categories of trauma
- Information about the human stress response and nervous system impacts
- The impacts of stress response over time
- Descriptions of human arousal states and what they mean
- Responding to trauma in self and others, both in the community and in the workplace

This course is helpful to a broad audience, including community members, organizations, families of those struggling with substance use disorders (SUDs), and clinicians. Click the icon at the top of the page to watch the video on demand!

NEWLY RELEASED! SAMHSA'S Practical Guide For Implementing A Trauma-Informed Approach

This guide, released in June by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides tools and strategies to implement a trauma-informed approach at the organizational level, and is helpful for anyone involved in organization-level change.

[ACCESS THE GUIDE](#)



AROUND THE REGION

Mountain Plains PTTC eLEARNING COURSE: Advanced Ethics For Prevention Professionals

Check out this new eLearning course created for experienced prevention professionals, offered through the Mountain Plains Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC). Participants will refresh their understanding of the Prevention Code of Ethics, explore ethical issues related to prevention topics, and practice applying the Prevention Code of Ethics to real-life situations using an ethical decision-making process. Two continuing education hours are offered!

START THE COURSE

RECORDING: The Perfect and the Good: Engaging People around Harm Reduction and Non-Abstinence Based Goals Webinar

The Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) hosted Scott Walters, PhD, for this engaging webinar on harm reduction approaches for opioid use disorder (OUD). These approaches aim to reduce the negative consequences associated with opioid use without requiring immediate abstinence. You can check out the recording below!

VIEW RECORDING

2023

Save the Date!

Rural Opioid & Stimulant Wellness Summit October 25-26

Price, Utah

"Open Roads to Health and Wellness"

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

Registration information coming soon, scan the QR code or visit extension.usu.edu/communitywellness

Extension

Utah State University



RESOURCE REVIEW

TIP 64: INCORPORATING PEER SUPPORT INTO SUD TREATMENT SERVICES

Authored by SAMHSA, this Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) resource discusses key aspects, functions, and uses of Peer Support Services (PSS) in recovery from problematic substance use.

[READ THE TIP](#)

PTTC RESOURCE: PRIDE MONTH 2023: LGBTQ+ PREVENTION RESOURCES

Created in honor of 2023 Pride Month, check out the PTTC's recently launched resource hub full of LGBTQ+ national and TTC resources.

[VISIT THE PAGE](#)

LIFT THE LABEL: COLORADO'S STIGMA REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Colorado's Lift the Label stigma reduction campaign offers a host of information, including stories, toolkits, support resources, and treatment resources for the people of Colorado.

[CLICK HERE](#)



INTERACTIVE MAP: FIND HEALTH CARE AND RESOURCES FOR NATIVE VETERANS

The Indian Health Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs launched an interagency map application intended to increase access to health care, community-based resources, and other essential services for American Indian and Alaska Native veterans across the country.

[ACCESS THE MAP](#)

ADVISORY: IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS AND CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LONG COVID

This advisory published by SAMHSA discusses epidemiology of the mental health symptoms and conditions related to Long COVID. The document also provides evidence-based treatment resources for the condition, among other resources.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: USU EXTENSION'S TRIBAL AND RURAL OPIOID INITIATIVE (TROI) RESOURCE CENTER



Suzi Prevedel, Director

What do you feel is the most important impact of your work?

At the TROI Resource Center, we provide resources to community members about the science of addiction and harm reduction principles. When we meet people where they are, we can connect and learn from each other. Giving a voice to people with lived experience with addiction and their powerful recovery narratives has been both humbling and inspirational. I feel like one of the most important impacts of our work is the changing of attitudes towards people who are working through the difficult journey of recovery. Through the sharing of personal recovery narratives, understanding and compassion are increased and lives are saved.

The TROI Resource Center is committed to reduce stigma surrounding harm reduction and SUD. The Center provides holistic wellness programs that promote healthier Utah rural and tribal communities.

TROI uses a community-based, participatory-action approach to creating local change around OUD treatment and recovery. Programs include:

- Culturally humble naloxone trainings available for in-person and virtual delivery.
- An annual rural opioid and stimulant wellness summit, featuring harm reduction and holistic wellness practices, presented by community wellness experts (see page 3).
- Voices of Resiliency: a graphic novel series based on personal experiences of Utahns with substance use disorder. They are stories of hope, stigma, and recovery.

MICROLEARNING #1



This session, featuring Program Coordinators Cara Murray and Valentina Sireech, provides additional information about the Center, including unique resources that can be shared with your network!



WHAT'S NEW?



Tough as a Mother launches “Tougher Together” online support group for moms exploring substance use recovery

THE DENVER POST—Tough as a Mother, a public awareness campaign working to humanize and destigmatize the struggle of maternal substance misuse, announced the launch of “Tougher Together,” a no-cost online support group for Colorado pregnant and parenting moms interested in exploring and strengthening their recovery journey. Tough as a Mother was created with the goal of connecting moms to treatment and recovery support in their communities and the Tougher Together support group is the campaign’s first foray into direct community services.

[READ MORE](#)

NIH and FDA leaders call for more research, lower barriers to improve and implement drug-checking tools amid overdose epidemic

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE (NIDA)—Tools such as fentanyl test strips hold promise to reduce drug-related harms and save lives.

[READ MORE](#)

HHS Publishes National Model Standards For Substance Use, Mental Health, And Family Peer Worker Certifications

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—HHS, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), today published National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification for substance use, mental health, and family peer workers. The national model standards were created to accelerate universal adoption, recognition, and integration of the peer workforce across all elements of the healthcare system. A peer worker is someone who, through their own lived experience of addressing a substance use or mental health issue, works to help others.

[READ MORE](#)

RECORDING: The Impacts Of Opioid Addiction On The Rural Workforce

Hosted by the Office of Workforce Investment, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Appalachian Regional Commission, and the First Tennessee Development District and its partners, this webinar discusses the impact of opioid addiction on the rural workforce, as well as the resources available to support recovery.





THANK YOU FOR READING!

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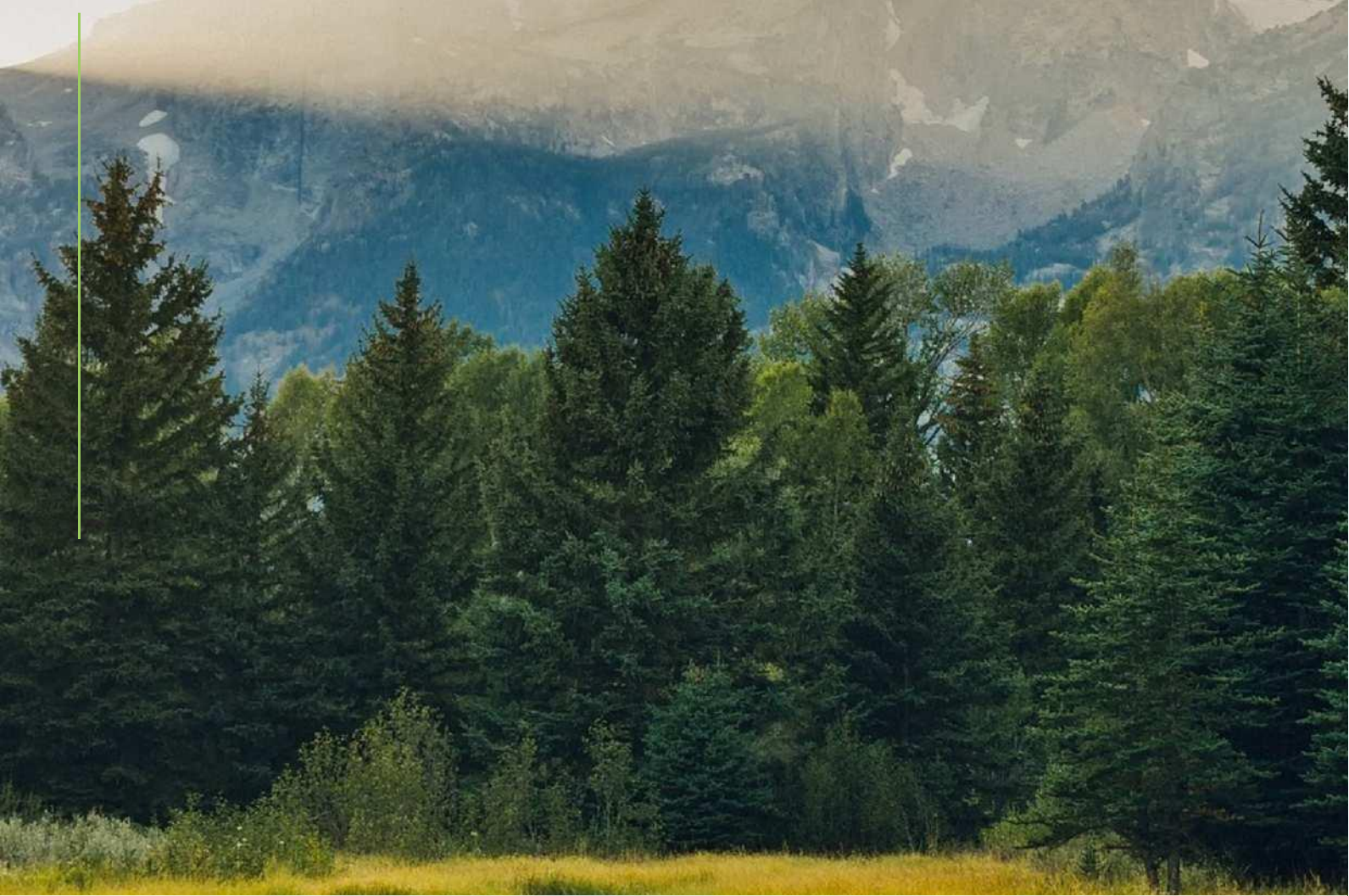
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IN THIS EDITION:

MP ROTAC WEBINAR:
UNDERSTANDING
FENTANYL (PART I)
PRESENTED BY USU
EXTENSION

NEW SAMHSA ADVISORY:
CBD – POTENTIAL HARMS,
SIDE EFFECTS, AND
UNKNOWN

FEATURED RESOURCES:
BREASTFEEDING WITH
SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEATURED WEBINAR (PART I): UNDERSTANDING FENTANYL

The Mountain Plains Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (MP ROTAC) is proud to partner with the Utah State University Extension on the first of two webinars discussing Fentanyl in school settings. Recent data shows illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) is an increasing contributor to the high rates of opioid overdose. Most worrisome is the potential impact on school-aged youth who may not be aware of the risks. This presentation will provide a background on IMF, and discuss signs, symptoms, and consequences of use. Participants will also learn about current trends and the prevalence of substance use amongst youth and discuss the do's and don'ts of addressing and preventing substance misuse among youth by utilizing evidence-based prevention strategies.

August 4, 9:00 a.m. MST

REGISTER

COMING SOON  **PART II**

Keep an eye on your inbox for information on the next installment of the two part series: Diving into the Do's and Don'ts of Effective Prevention

WEBINAR: CANNABIDIOL (CBD) POTENTIAL HARMS, SIDE EFFECTS, AND UNKNOWNNS

Join the Prevention Technology Transfer Center's Cannabis Risk Working Group and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Evidence Based Resource Center for a webinar exploring a newly released SAMHSA brief on CBD (brief linked below). CBD products are often marketed for a variety of different conditions; however, there is limited evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of over-the-counter, non-FDA-approved products for many of these uses. During this webinar, participants will learn about the biological and physiological effects of CBD, the risks and harms of CBD use, and common misconceptions about CBD.

August 8, 12:30 p.m. MST

REGISTER

SAMHSA ADVISORY: CBD – POTENTIAL HARMS, SIDE EFFECTS, AND UNKNOWNNS



Check out this advisory to learn about how CBD is derived and how it differs from delta-9 THC and other cannabinoids. This advisory focuses on the risks, harms, and common misconceptions about CBD.

AROUND THE REGION

FEATURED

MINDFUL MONDAY SERIES: INTENTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICES

The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center is hosting a series of virtual mindfulness training sessions occurring bi-weekly throughout the summer. Attend the events to learn about the benefits of mindfulness practice. Participants will have the opportunity to perform mindfulness activities and obtain a variety of tools to apply personally and professionally. The next session occurs August 1 at 12:00 p.m. MST.

REGISTER FOR THE SERIES

WEBINAR: EXPANDING DEFINITIONS OF RECOVERY: EXAMINING THE MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Join the Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center on August 16 at 12:30 p.m. MST for a webinar discussing the many pathways to recovery. Participants will learn about the benefits of reductions in drinking alcohol in clinical trial data, and evaluate the range of positive outcomes corresponding to non-abstinent reductions in drinking alcohol and maintenance of non-abstinent recovery over time. Key limitations of an abstinence-only model for the treatment of alcohol use disorder from a public health perspective will also be discussed.

REGISTER

2023

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Extension



RESOURCE REVIEW

SAMHSA ADVISORY: DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS (DTx) FOR MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Authored by SAMHSA, this advisory includes information on DTx and their benefits in behavioral health. Additionally, information is included surrounding research, regulatory, and reimbursement implications, and selection and implementation considerations.

[ACCESS THE ADVISORY](#)

REPORT: COMMUNITY MEMBER PERSPECTIVES ON ADAPTING THE CASCADE OF CARE FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD) FOR A TRIBAL NATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Check out this research report exploring the potential efficacy of the OUD Cascade of Care model for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

NEW

REPORT: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESSNESS AMONG U.S. VETERANS

Check out this brand new publication released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The report includes information on individual-level factors associated with homelessness among Veterans, and includes information about opioid and substance use disorders among Veterans experiencing homelessness.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: BREASTFEEDING WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD)

A SHORT GUIDE TO BREASTFEEDING AND SUBSTANCE USE

This guide, developed by the Centre of Excellence for Women's Health in 2021, is a resource for providers to engage in conversations with new moms. The resource includes areas in which the new mom can explore her substance use as it relates to nursing and parenting.

[ACCESS THE GUIDE](#)

GUIDELINES FOR BREASTFEEDING AND SUBSTANCE USE OR SUD

The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine has clinical guidelines, updated in 2015, for breastfeeding and substance use/SUD. This article identifies medications and illicit drugs that are passed through breastmilk to the infant.

[READ MORE](#)

CARING FOR WOMEN WITH OUD: A TOOLKIT FOR ORGANIZATION LEADERS AND PROVIDERS

[ACCESS TOOLKIT](#)

PRESENTATION: BREASTFEEDING AND SUBSTANCE USE

The Colorado Perinatal Substance Use Integration Conference included a session in May 2023 on Breastfeeding and Substance Use, including recommendations from leading medical organizations. This presentation identifies which drugs are safe and which drugs should not be passed to the infant through breastmilk.

[VIEW SLIDES](#)

HRSA'S HOME VISITING PROGRAM: SUPPORTING FAMILIES IMPACTED BY OPIOID USE AND NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

Published by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), this resource provides information about the opioid epidemic, OUD, and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), and includes a section on breastfeeding.

[ACCESS RESOURCE](#)

Interested In learning more about buprenorphine and breastfeeding? Click here to check out SAMHSA's website!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WYOMING STATE OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM



Shifa Hamid, Program Coordinator

What do you see as the most important role your program plays in the state?

To spread awareness and information that recovery is possible for folks in Wyoming. There is a lot of stigma surrounding people who use drugs, but that stigma does not have to be a barrier to receive help. No one has to die from the disease of addiction, there are resources available for people to find treatment and recovery services in every county of the state.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Wyoming's State Opioid Response Program is funded by SAMHSA and provides support and resources to individuals with or affected by OUD through efforts of prevention, harm reduction, recovery, and treatment services. For example, in Wyoming there are several practitioners who participate in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, which provide medications such as buprenorphine or suboxone to individuals with OUD. Of importance in Wyoming is to address the opioid crisis across this frontier state, and within disparate populations, including Native Americans and justice involved individuals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Agencies, businesses, and organizations in Wyoming can order NARCAN® for free! Check out the link below for more information

Check out their website!



WHAT'S NEW?



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Announces Nearly \$9 Million to Increase the Number of SUD Clinicians in Underserved Communities

HHS—Through HRSA, HHS announced awards of approximately \$9 million to strengthen and expand the mental health and substance use workforce in underserved and rural communities. The funding will provide support to 20 grantees to train health care providers to provide care for individuals in need of mental health and substance use services.

[READ MORE](#)

HHS Distributes \$47.8 Million in Grant Funding for Programs Expanding Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Addressing Other Facets of Overdose and Substance Use

HHS—The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is announcing awards in five grant programs devoted to combating multiple facets of substance misuse and the nation's overdose epidemic. The grant awards total up to \$47.8 million.

[READ MORE](#)

Addressing The Opioid Crisis: A Look At The Evolving Landscape Of Federal OUD Treatment Policies

KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION—Opioid overdose deaths, primarily driven by fentanyl, have surged during the pandemic, exposing significant gaps in access to and availability of treatment. From 2016 to 2021, opioid overdose deaths nearly doubled, from 42,249 to 80,411. By 2021, these deaths accounted for 75% of all fatal drug overdoses, up from 66% in 2016. Rises in overdose deaths have been particularly sharp among people of color and young people. Policy efforts have focused on enhancing access to medications for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment, which can substantially reduce overdose and mortality rates. Yet, approximately 75% of people with OUD do not receive the recommended treatment, and treatment rates are generally lower among people of color and adolescents.

[READ MORE](#)

Only 1 In 4 Adolescent Treatment Facilities Offer Buprenorphine For Opioid Use Disorder

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH—Only 1 in 4 residential addiction treatment facilities caring for U.S. adolescents under 18 years old offer buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorder, according to a new study (link is external). Only 1 in 8 offer buprenorphine for ongoing treatment. These findings highlight a significant gap in access to evidence-based addiction treatment among young people.



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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](#)




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