Updates and reminders regarding NMORC efforts to support and promote Substance and Opioid Use Disorder events, resources and information. Links provided will connect you to associated pages with more information, such as registration pages, full FOAs, or complete documents.

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General Announcements

2026 Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit

Join Us at the 2026 Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit

The Michigan Center for Rural Health and the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium invite you to the annual **Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit**, taking place on **Thursday, July 16, 2026, in Gaylord, MI.** This year's theme is **Navigating the Next Era of Rural Health.**

A Day of Learning, Connection, and Impact

The day opens with remarks and an NMORC program update from Project Director Joyce Fetrow, setting the stage for a robust program that spans lived experience, clinical practice, harm reduction, and statewide policy.

Attendees will hear from **Carlos Vivero and Bryce Fox**, who will share their personal stories of recovery and renewal in a session titled From Survival to Purpose: A Journey Through Recovery and Renewal. Their voices reflect the heart of what this summit is all about, centering lived experience as a driver of change.

Community Service **Trooper Corey Hebner of the Michigan State Police** will provide a timely update on kratom and other emerging drug trends, offering frontline perspective on the evolving substance use landscape.

Stephanie Rahilly of Life EMS will present on behavioral health transport, highlighting innovative and proven approaches to connecting people in crisis with the care they need.

The afternoon features an interactive **Hot Topics and Ask the Clinician Panel**, moderated by **David McGreaham, MD**, Medical Director for NMORC, giving attendees a chance to bring their most pressing clinical questions to the table.

From the **Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Lauren Hodson, MPH, CPRC, and Mary Aguirre, DNP, MSN RN** -both Harm Reduction Analysts-will present on employing people with substance use and lived experience, exploring how organizations can meaningfully integrate peer voices into their workforce.

Closing out the day, **Brandon Hool, MPH, and Katie Abraham, MPH, also from MDHHS**, will deliver Michigan's Overdose Strategy and Impact Update, providing a statewide look at policy progress and outcomes.

The summit also includes the **Rural Recovery Hero Award Presentation**, honoring a community member whose dedication is making a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by substance use disorder across Northern Michigan.

We hope to see you there!

To access the agenda, **click here.**

Register Now

New Behavioral Health Workforce Training

Michigan Center for Rural Health has a **new offering**-an **On-Demand Behavioral Health Workforce Training**! This brand-new program is designed to support clinical staff at organizations that provide behavioral health or substance use disorder services to rural communities across Michigan. Available in both in-person and virtual formats, these free **one-hour** trainings can be scheduled to fit your team's needs. Topics cover a wide range of essential clinical skills, including Assessments, Treatment Planning, Documentation, Medical Necessity in Addiction Treatment and ASAM 4th Edition Updates, Discharge Planning, and Crisis Interventions & Safety Planning. This program is available to organizations located in rural counties in the Lower Peninsula or those serving clients who live in rural counties. To request a training or learn more, contact **Gennie Groover** at **genevieve.groover@affiliate.msu.edu.** Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your team's skills- at no cost to you!

Download & Share

New Information Brief

7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) is a powerful psychoactive alkaloid—a naturally occurring chemical found mostly in plants. 7-OH is found in trace amounts in the leaves of the Southeast Asian plant commonly known as kratom. Products sold as kratom may have 7-OH added, greatly increasing their risk. 7-OH may change the breakdown of prescription medications and other drugs such as nicotine.

Download the new Information Brief resource from RCORP— **7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH): What You Need to Know**

New State Data Shows Michigan's Investment in Harm Reduction Is Saving Lives

A new summary report from the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)** makes a compelling case: investing in harm reduction works. The report, The Measurable Impacts of Investing in Harm Reduction: 2018–2024, documents the real-world outcomes of funding 39 harm reduction agencies (HRAs) across Michigan over a six-year period, and the numbers are striking.

What Are Harm Reduction Agencies?
Harm reduction is a public health approach that uses practical strategies to reduce the negative impacts of drug use, such as preventing overdose deaths and limiting the spread of infections. The HRAs supported by MDHHS provide a range of services to people who use drugs, including safer use supplies, fentanyl test strips, naloxone (an opioid overdose reversal medication), infectious disease testing, referrals to treatment and services, health education, and wound care. Importantly, research shows that access to harm reduction services does not increase drug use. People who connect with HRAs are five times more likely to access substance use disorder and recovery services, and three times as likely to reduce or fully stop their use. HRAs are also associated with up to 50% reductions in the prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C.

The Impact: Lives Saved, Hospitalizations Avoided, Costs Reduced
The data from 2018–2024 tells a powerful story across four key areas:

Overdose Deaths: Based on model estimates, naloxone distribution through HRAs is associated with approximately 6,000 lives saved over this period. While overdose deaths rose statewide — peaking at 5,020 in 2023 — the actual number of deaths remained well below what models project would have occurred without naloxone distribution.
Hospitalizations. Without harm reduction efforts, Michigan may have seen more than 13,000 additional hospitalizations related to injection drug use between 2018 and 2024. Actual hospitalizations declined significantly compared to estimated figures had no HRAs been in place.

Emergency Department Visits: Harm reduction is associated with an estimated 23,400 emergency department visits averted from 2018 to 2024 — a meaningful reduction in burden on Michigan's healthcare system.

Hepatitis C Infections: The combination of HRA services with Medicaid initiatives to treat people living with hepatitis C virus (HCV) is associated with an estimated 7,800 HCV cases prevented over the same period.

Why This Matters for Rural Michigan
MDHHS currently supports 39 harm reduction agencies operating 159 locations across 63 Michigan counties. Without continued investment, these agencies would cease to operate, leaving an estimated 372,000 Michigan residents who use drugs at increased risk of infections, injuries, overdose, and death. Additionally, closure of HRAs would likely lead to increased healthcare costs and higher risk for infectious disease outbreaks statewide.
For more information about harm reduction efforts in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/SSP.

General Education, Training & Resources

Traverse City Police Department and the Grand Traverse Addiction and Recovery Council host RESILIENCE Night
The event is designed to bring the community together while promoting awareness, connection, and support around substance use and recovery. The event will feature interactive activities for all ages, community partner booths, live music from artists in recovery, and a variety of attractions designed to engage attendees throughout the evening.

The RESILIENCE Program is a collaborative, community-based initiative led by the Traverse City Police Department that connects individuals experiencing challenges related to substance use, mental health, or other life circumstances with local resources and support services. The program works with over 60 partner agencies to reduce barriers, improve well-being, and strengthen coordination of care within the community. View the program flyer **here.**

Event Details:
Date: Wednesday, September 16
Time: 4:00–8:00 PM
Location: Hull Park, Traverse City

Saginaw Valley State University Announces New Substance Use Disorder Project Echo sessions

SVSU announces their Cycle 10 Substance Use Disorder ECHO! Cycle 10 will start on July 1st, 2026, and continue every first and third Wednesday of the month until July 21st, 2027. The sessions will be from 12:00pm-1:30pm.

To register for Project ECHO follow the link to **this survey.**

Michigan Overdose Prevention Coalition releases a new toolkit. Whether you're in a conversation with a community leader, or you come across someone who wants to help but isn't sure where to start or doesn't quite have the language for it yet, MOPC's Local Policy Change Toolkit is a resource you can use and share. Access the toolkit **here.**

Join the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** for the 2026 Michigan SUD Prevention Coalitions Conference, a one-day event designed to empower and enhance Michigan's prevention coalitions. This year's theme, Strengthening Prevention Coalitions for Lasting Impact, focuses on the importance of the following key topic areas for building effective and enduring coalitions: Capacity & Leadership, Data & Evaluation, and Strategic Planning & Sustainability.

Date: Tuesday, July 14th
Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Location: Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant
Register here.

Michigan Center for Rural Health offers a robust docket of educational opportunities for many different professions through Grand Rounds, Project ECHO and EMS Continuing Education. For more information, follow this **link.**

NORTHERN MICHIGAN NMORC OPIOID RESPONSE CONSORTIUM

Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) is a project of the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH). This effort was funded through the RCORP grant program under the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). More information on MCRH may be found at: ***www.mcrh.msu.edu***

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