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PROGRAM

RURAL HARM REDUCTION: SPOTLIGHT ON EDGECOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Launched in May 2023, the Edgecombe County Community Paramedic Program (ECCPP) is an innovative, tailored harm reduction program primarily funded through opioid settlement dollars, although it has also drawn on funding from the state's local management entities. The ECCPP is a partnership between the county's emergency medical services and public health department. Two paramedics provide a variety of mobile overdose response and harm reduction services and even some primary health care services five to six days per week.



RESEARCH & REPORTS

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE AND PERCEIVED SOCIETAL SUBSTANCE USE STIGMA IN A MICHIGAN-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION FOCUSED COMMUNITY

Cultural factors including religion, politics, and urbanicity may shape the prevalence and nature of substance use disorders (SUD) stigma. However, limited research explores how culture shapes stigma, specifically within mental health and addiction-focused communities. This study examines SUD-related stigma and personal beliefs about drug use among community collaborators who provide services to people with substance use disorders (PWSUDs) and those affected by the opioid crisis, directly or indirectly.

RURAL HOUSELESSNESS AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES: RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL RURAL OPIOID INITIATIVE

Over the last two decades, both houselessness and drug-related epidemics have expanded from urban to rural regions across the United States. However, our understanding of the relationship between rural houselessness, drug use, and drug-related harms has not kept pace. The current study addresses this gap by describing houselessness among a large cohort of people who use drugs from rural communities.

RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the [Rural Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a cross-sector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

BEYOND URBAN CENTERS: INVESTIGATING GENERAL STRAIN THEORY AND OPIOID USE AMONG RURAL ADOLESCENTS

The opioid epidemic has devastated rural America, including adolescents that reside in these regions, yet studies that focus on this population remain scarce. This study examined the relationship between various strains and substance use among rural adolescents in the United States, focusing on opioid use during the early stages of the opioid epidemic. Drawing on general strain theory (GST), the research examines the influence of different forms of victimization, homelessness, and poor health status on adolescent opioid use.

WEBINARS

TELLING YOUR STORY: COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT

In this webinar by the Fletcher Group, Dr. Matthew Johnson shares valuable tips on facing the number one challenge people fear the most: public speaking. Recovery allies can watch this video to learn how to become better public speakers and promote their good work with maximum impact. The webinar includes helpful information such as:

- How to get to know your audience (20:45)
- Technical tips such as using vocal variety, eye contact, and body language (23:35)
- Types of stories (38:20)
- Crafting your story (45:31)
- Suggestions for using sensitive stories (54:11)

SHERIFFS' COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM: REDUCING THE CRIMINALITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



December 10th, 1:00 pm ET

By utilizing Community Outreach Coordinators embedded within the rural Sheriffs' Offices in the Florida Panhandle, Northwest Florida (NWF) Health Network has been able to assist in diverting those with behavioral health needs away from the criminal justice system by linking the community to resources.



This webinar hosted by the Justice Clearinghouse explores the importance of bridging the gap between law enforcement and social service agencies, integrating Community Outreach Coordinators within Sheriff's Offices, and implementing a multidisciplinary approach to behavioral health issues by leveraging resources in the criminal justice

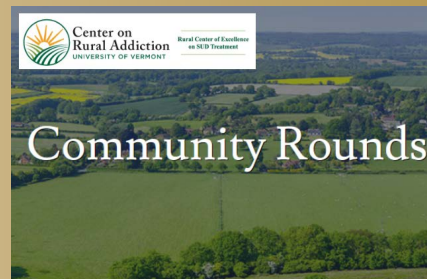
REGISTER NOW >

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO MEDICATION FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER ACCESS AT RURAL COMMUNITY PHARMACIES



December 11th, 12:00 pm ET

This presentation from the Center on Rural Addiction - Community Rounds Workshop Series will discuss barriers to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) access at community pharmacies, including how this issue affects members of rural communities. The webinar will explore the barriers that impact MOUD dispensing in rural community pharmacies, how barriers to pharmacy-based MOUD access impact members of rural communities, how prescribers can work with rural pharmacies to support MOUD access, and ways to identify resources that can be used to increase MOUD access at community pharmacies.

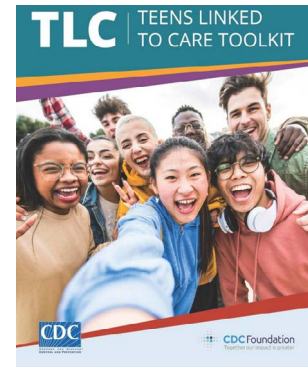


REGISTER NOW >

RESOURCES

TEENS LINKED TO CARE: SUPPORTING RURAL YOUTH

Teens Linked to Care (TLC) was a multi-year effort designed to develop, assess, and implement prevention strategies for addressing substance use and sexual risk among youth in high-risk rural communities. Once created, the framework was implemented and evaluated to determine if any positive changes occurred because of TLC. The TLC Toolkit provides schools with instructions on how to implement a program to address youth HIV, STDs, pregnancy, mental health challenges, and high-risk substance use.



WARM HANDOFF INTERVENTIONS

Warm handoff interventions and community paramedicine programs are critical tools for healthcare providers and community organizations to cover gaps in healthcare services for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs). This website is a resource for stakeholders interested in the use of warm handoff and community paramedicine programs to help people with SUDs.

