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D.C. Update: New State opioid prevention campaign, SUD loan repayment, and more

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## News from the States

### Arizona Department of Health Services launches campaign to raise awareness among youth of dangers associated with opioid misuse

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), in partnership with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), recently launched a new public awareness campaign for Arizona youth, alerting them that "getting in is easier than getting out" of opioid misuse and addiction. The campaign aims to empower youth to make healthy decisions and provides strategies and resources to prevent dangerous use of opioids.



The prevention campaign targets youth, ages 12-17, using graphic imagery to demonstrate consequences of opioid misuse and addiction. A companion [website](#) educates teens on how opioids work on the brain, the dangers of opioid misuse and addiction, steps to avoid misusing opioids, and how to seek help or treatment. The campaign videos will appear on teens' social media platforms, streaming music services, and [YouTube](#).

## Around the Agencies

### HRSA launches SUD workforce loan repayment program

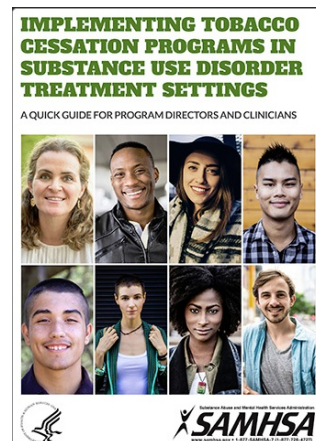
The Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Dr. George Sigounas, recently blogged about the launch of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#). While the NHSC program has existed for 40 years, the loan repayment program specifically for SUD professionals is a new one, supporting the recruitment and retention of health professionals needed in underserved areas to expand access to SUD treatment and prevent overdose deaths. According to the [application](#), the following disciplines and specialties are eligible to apply to the NHSC SUD Workforce Loan Repayment Program: physicians; nurse practitioners; certified nurse midwives; physician assistants; behavioral health professionals; substance use disorder counselors; registered nurses; and, pharmacists. The 2019 application deadline is February 21.

### NIMH researchers co-author report on how to implement universal suicide risk screening of youth in medical settings

A new [report](#), authored in part by researchers

### SAMHSA blog post: "New Year's Resolution 2019: Tobacco-Free Recovery"

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published a new blog post, "[New Year's Resolution 2019: Tobacco-Free Recovery](#)," noting that for those with substance use disorders, smoking cessation is associated with increased odds of long-term recovery. Based on this correlation, SAMHSA developed the recently released toolkit, "[Implementing Tobacco Cessation Programs in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings](#)" to aid in the integration of tobacco treatment in behavioral healthcare treatment. The toolkit contains an overview of the challenges associated with tobacco cessation and the benefits of being tobacco-free for those with substance use disorders. It also includes tips that can be used in substance use disorder treatment programs



at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), provides guidance on how to implement universal suicide risk screening of youth in medical settings. The report describes a way for hospitals to address the rising suicide rate in a way that is flexible and mindful of limited resources. According to an [NIMH press release](#) on the report, although screening of all patients presenting to medical settings be screened for suicide risk is recommended, universal screening can present a strain on the resources of hospitals and other health care facilities.

The new report, published in *Psychosomatics*, presents a new three-tiered clinical pathway system as a flexible and resource-conscious way to implement universal suicide risk screening within pediatric health care settings. The three tiers are: 1) an initial screen of all youth using the NIMH Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) tool; 2) a brief suicide safety assessment (BSSA), which takes about 10-15 minutes to administer; and 3) if deemed necessary during the BSSA, a full comprehensive safety evaluation by a licensed mental health provider.

to implement tobacco cessation programs of their own.

### **New national SAMHSA project aims to improve understanding and utilization of federal health privacy laws**

The [Center of Excellence \(CoE\) for Protected Health Information \(PHI\)](#) is administered by Cicatelli Associates Inc. (CAI), in partnership with the Legal Action Center (LAC) and is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Over the next five years, the CoE for PHI is charged with developing and disseminating resources, training and technical assistance to improve understanding and application of federal privacy laws and regulations for persons seeking or receiving treatment for substance use disorders and mental illness. The CoE will respond to the needs of various target audiences, including consumers, families, healthcare providers in integrated care settings and specialty mental health and substance use disorder practices, educational institutions, and State agencies. NASADAD will provide input and support to the CoE for PHI.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Rx Summit to be held April 22-25 in Atlanta, GA**

The 2019 Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit is the annual event for addressing the opioid crisis. Government officials, first responders, law enforcement personnel, clinicians, physicians, nurses, educators, public health and prevention officials, and families and people in recovery are represented and discuss solutions for addressing the opioid epidemic and healing our communities. The Rx Summit agenda is designed with timely and relevant information to address what is working in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The 2019 Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, April 22–25. Visit the [Summit website](#) to explore the Summit's comprehensive curriculum spearheaded by field experts and leading organizations engaged in producing the nation's largest and most recognized conference addressing the opioid crisis.