

NMEP



*Resources to Address
the Opioid Epidemic
for Faith-based and
Community
Organizations*

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Opioid Toolkit

- Hope and Healing: A practical toolkit for faith and community leaders in the face of the opioid epidemic
- <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/partnerships/opioid-toolkit/index.html>
- Each day we are losing more than 91 Americans to opioid overdoses

Opioid Toolkit

Practical ways your community may consider bringing hope and healing to those in need:

1. Open Your Doors
2. Increase Awareness
3. Build Community Capacity
4. Rebuild and Restore
5. Get Ahead of the Problem
6. Connect and Collaborate

Open Your Doors

- Offer your space for weekly recovery programs and/or self-help support groups for people with addiction or for their families needing support
- Boldly post your recovery program or self-help support group schedule
- Drive members of the community to treatment and recovery programs such as AA, NA, Al-Anon, Alateen
- Be a resource and connect people to the help they need.
- When offering public or congregational prayer, particularly for the sick, please pray for people who suffer from addiction/opioid use disorder.

Increase Awareness

Your community can partner with your local public health office, hospitals, community health centers, or nonprofit service organizations to host education events on:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Addiction as a Disease and Long-Term Chronic Condition
- Pain Management
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Safe Drug Disposal
- Good Samaritan Laws

Build Community Capacity

Your community can partner with providers to deliver capacity-building trainings such as:

- Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- How to Navigate the Substance Use Disorder System of Care
- Motivational Interviewing
- Emergency Response
- Peer Recovery Models
- Mental Health First Aid
- Trauma-Informed Approached and Trauma-Specific Interventions

Rebuild and Restore

Your community can restore life-giving essentials by:

- Providing help with employment readiness, housing, transportation, food, clothing, or child care and support for recovering persons and their families as they overcome the consequences of addiction.
- Designating a community leader to connect people to essential services through a created database or United Way 2-1-1.
- Offering life readiness and coaching programs for reentering formerly incarcerated citizens.
- Coaching families on financial management.

Get Ahead of the Problem

Consider offering programs and services that support families and empower youth that:

- Focus on prevention and offer positive parenting programs and programs that support strong relationships and families.
- Offer mentoring programs to support children of parents in active addiction.
- Gather resources to support local foster families as they meet the needs of children in foster care.
- Host a faith-based recovery or support program for young people in your congregation.

Connect and Collaborate

Join local substance abuse prevention coalitions to inform, connect and strengthen your efforts.

- Visit Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
- Join or start a Recovery Community Organization
- Contact your regional public health department, HHS Regional Offices, or SAMHSA Regional Offices.

Federal Resources

- HHS Partnership Center Comprehensive List of Federal Resources
- HHS Opioid Website
- SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit
- SAMHSA's Decisions in Recovery: Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
- NIDA's Step by Step Guidelines
- CDC's Opioid Basics
- NIDA's Signs of Substance Abuse
- Pathways to Safer Opioid Use Health.gov
- CDC's Guideline Resources: Patient and Partner Tools

For More Information

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