



# Emerging Drug Trends Symposium

November 19, 2024

<p>7:30am 7:45-8:45am</p>	<p><b>Registration Open</b>  <b>Continental Breakfast Available</b></p>
<p>8:45am – 9:00am</p>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Latika Davis-Jones, PhD, MPH, MSW; Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs</b></li> <li>• <b>Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH; Secretary, PA Department of Human Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP; Secretary, PA Department of Health</b></li> </ul>
<p>9:00 am – 10:15am</p>	<p><b>Drug and Overdose Trend Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Highlights from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Tilda Farhat, Ph.D., MPH, Assistant Director, Office of Translational Research, Office of National Drug Control Policy</b>        The Office of National Drug Control Policy, or ONDCP, is a component of the Executive Office of the President, like the National Security Council, the Domestic Policy Council, and the Council of Economic Advisors. This positioning is critical to ONDCP’s role, as we work across federal agencies to implement the President’s National Drug Control Strategy. While ONDCP is a small agency, ONDCP is able to harness a lot of resources through collaboration with the many federal partners that are designated as Drug Control Agencies. This session is designed to describe what ONDCP is and what it does, review current trends and National Drug Control Strategy priorities, delineate federal initiatives related to addressing drug use, and briefly explain ONDCP’s emerging drug threats policy and framework.</li> <li>• <b>SAMSHA Initiatives, Tom Coderre, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, SAMSHA</b>        Hear more about SAMSHA initiatives on SUD prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support services. SAMSHA’s mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Emerging Drug Trends in Pennsylvania</b>  <b>Ashley Bolton, MPH, Director, and Carrie Thomas-Goetz, Ph.D., Senior Epidemiologist, Office of Drug Surveillance and Misue Prevention, PA Dept. of Health</b>        This session will highlight trends in both fatal and nonfatal overdose data and highlight disparities in overdose rates among Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities across the state. It will also provide information on emerging trends in the ever-changing drug supply in Pennsylvania.</li> </ul>

10:15am – 10:30am	<b>Break, Visit Resource Tables in Lobby, and Select Breakout Session</b>
10:30am – 11:15am <b>Breakout Session</b>	<p><b>2024 Penn State Health, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Drug Trends</b>  <b>Taffy Anderson, MD, Asst. Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Addiction Medicine Physician, Penn State Health, Penn State College of Medicine, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center; Dr. Bhavna Bali, Asst. Professor of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine, Assoc. Program Director Interdisciplinary Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program, Penn State Health; Donald Dissinger, MSN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP, Penn State Health, Penn State College of Medicine, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center</b></p> <p>Pennsylvania is at the center of the drug overdose crisis, with one of the highest number of overdose deaths recorded during the COVID pandemic. Although there has been a recent decline in fatalities, the variety of illicit substances continues to rise. This panel will discuss current drug trends observed at Penn State Health, focusing on both inpatient and outpatient services, as well as the addiction services they provide. The panel will also discuss Penn State Health's new Maternal Substance Use Disorder Program and review current drug trends in pregnant persons.</p>
10:30am – 11:15am <b>Breakout Session</b>	<p><b>Neuroplasticity Trends</b>  <b>Ken Martz, Psy.D., MBA, President, PA Association of Addictions Professionals</b></p> <p>Explore how emerging insights into neuroplasticity can transform addiction treatment. This session will focus on how understanding and applying the brain's ability to form new neural pathways can enhance both clinical practice and client outcomes. By leveraging these cutting-edge techniques, drug and alcohol professionals can more effectively support lasting change, aligning therapeutic interventions with how the brain naturally learns and adapts. You'll gain practical tools and strategies that can be applied directly to your practice, fostering improved recovery outcomes and promoting resilience in clients, as well as implications for policy and funding. Take a deep dive into innovative approaches that challenge conventional thinking and inspire shifts in treatment practices and policy, ensuring you stay ahead of the curve in the evolving field of addiction treatment.</p>
10:30am – 11:15am <b>Breakout Session</b>	<p><b>Marijuana Trends Amongst Youth</b>  <b>David Fialko, Prevention Specialist, Council SEPA</b></p> <p>This session considers how today's legal marijuana landscape and market impacts adolescent development. In 2023, U.S. medical and adult use marijuana retail sales surpassed \$33 billion. In 2024, sales are expected to surpass \$38.5 billion, topping chocolate, eggs and craft beer! The U.S. market for Delta-8/Delta10 THC and other hemp-derived cannabinoids has increased 1,283% between 2020 and 2023, surpassing \$2.8 billion in 2023. Currently, 55 million Americans ages 12 and older report using marijuana products within the past year, with more than half of all Americans viewing marijuana use as socially acceptable. Regardless of your stance on the issue, this session will offer the opportunity to discuss and explore marijuana's current trends (forms of use/purity) amongst adolescent populations, how legalization impacts adolescent use, and the physical and psychological health risks associated with early initiation of marijuana products.</p>
10:30am – 11:15am <b>Breakout Session</b>	<p><b>The Nexus of Addiction: From Corner to the Cruiser, Quitting to Community</b>  <b>Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner, York City Police Department</b></p> <p>Rebellion, Response, Re-Entry, Renewal—this session will look at how to provide the best support for the best outcome. We will discuss the “crucial conversations” between dealers, police, consumers, interventionists and advocates. We will also engage in an open dialogue about what draws people “out there,” what’s waiting for them (the system or the grave), what brings people back, and how to best support them when they return. We’ll look at causation, intervention, intersects and outcomes—what can we learn, accomplish, and prevent if/when lanes collide and when we all start talking and working together.</p>
11:15am – 11:30am	<b>Break, Visit Resource Tables in Lobby, and Select Breakout Session</b>

<p><b>11:30am – 12:15pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Improving Care Through Implementation of Updated Regulations</b>  <b>Patti Juliana, Ph.D., LCSW, Director, Division of Pharmacologic Therapies, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA</b></p> <p>This presentation will discuss the opportunities for improving care for people with opioid use disorder that are possible as opioid treatment programs (OTPs) implement the updated 42 CFR Part 8 regulations. This presentation will review the current substance use landscape, gaps in treatment, and SAMHSA’s efforts to address the overdose crisis as a context for the revisions. Dr. Juliana will also review key revisions to the regulations and how they serve to facilitate collaboration and coordination of care.</p>
<p><b>11:30am – 12:15pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Vaping: What We Know and What We Don’t Know</b>  <b>Ryan Coffman, Tobacco Policy and Control Manager, Phila. Department of Public Health</b></p> <p>A combination of online advertising, the use of flavors in vaporized extracts, and low harm perception have contributed to a growing popularity in vaping. This interactive workshop provides an overview of the use of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices with a special focus on individuals with mental and substance use disorders. Is vaping a viable alternatives to combustible tobacco? Does it really help people to stop smoking cigarettes? Should we consider vaping as a harm reduction method? Is vaping safer for medical marijuana patients than other methods of consumption? Data will be reviewed to explore these questions and to identify the impact of vaping on the physical and mental health of youth and adults in PA.</p>
<p><b>11:30am – 12:15pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Trends in PA Substance Use</b>  <b>Michael Lynch, MD, Senior Medical Director, UPMC</b></p> <p>This session will provide a brief summary of substance use and overdose trends followed by a review of toxicity and treatment of specific substances including synthetic opioids, adulterants, stimulants, cannabinoids, tianeptine, and kratom. We will also discuss opportunities to improve treatment and transitions throughout the continuum of care.</p>
<p><b>11:30am – 12:15pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>A Tale of Two Vending Machines: Utilization, Reach, and Acceptability of Harm Reduction Vending Machines in Central Pennsylvania</b>  <b>Jennifer Murphy, Professor of Criminal Justice, Penn State Berks; Alice Zhang, Physician, Penn State College of Medicine; Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Director of Planning and Resource Development, Council on Chemical Abuse, Berks County</b></p> <p>Using vending machines as a low-barrier access method for harm reduction has become increasingly popular in recent years in the United States. In May 2024, our team implemented two “smart” harm reduction vending machines in Harrisburg and Reading. These vending machines provide harm reduction and other health-related items for free to the community and connect individuals to care and treatment through an interactive touchscreen. While the two vending machines dispense similar items, their utilization, reach, and acceptability have varied due to their different locations—one outside an emergency department in an urban environment and one in a community organization within a predominantly Hispanic community. Quantitative data were collected through the vending machine interface and its cloud-based dashboard to capture items dispensed, usage, and user demographics and their answers to anonymous survey questions. Focus groups were conducted with users and surrounding community organizations to evaluate the user experiences and perceptions. We will present data from the vending machines’ first six months of operation, compare and contrast the two vending machines, and evaluate factors contributing to these differences.</p>
<p><b>11:30am – 12:15pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Peer Support and the Criminal Justice System</b>  <b>Candice Crosgrove, Chief Programming Officer; Anitra Lyles, Director of Community Services; Kayla Milton, Sr. Program Manager; Stephanie Boltich, Lead Certified Recovery Specialist; David Shelton, Peer Support Specialist/CRS; Mark Anger, Certified Recovery Specialist Supervisor; Passages to Recovery, Inc.</b></p> <p>This presentation highlights that individuals with lived experiences of the criminal justice system are uniquely qualified to provide effective, empathetic support to those currently on probation.</p>

	<p>The peer support model emphasizes building trust, accountability, and personal growth while addressing common challenges such as mental health issues, substance abuse, and social stigma. The program aims to collaborate with probation officers, mental health professionals, and community organizations to offer a holistic approach to rehabilitation. It also seeks to provide training for peer support specialists, equipping them with the necessary skills to assist probationers in navigating legal requirements, securing employment, and managing their well-being. The program stresses the importance of ongoing evaluation to measure the impact on reducing probation violations and supporting successful re-entry into the community.</p>
<p><b>12:15pm– 1:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch: please note a session will be in the ballroom prior to lunch. If it is not finished when you arrive, please quietly take a seat. The hotel staff will let you know when it is time for your table to visit the lunch buffet.</b></p>
<p><b>1:15 – 2:00 pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Evolving Overdose Response: Adapting to Sedatives in Philadelphia’s Drug Supply</b> <b>Rose Laurano, Harm Reduction Manager, and Dr. Daniel Teixeira da Silva, Medical Director, Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction, City of Philadelphia</b></p> <p>As Philadelphia, illicit drug landscape changes, so much our approach to overdose response. Since 2018, the sedative xylazine has become increasingly prevalent in the dope supply, and more recently medetomidine (another sedative), has also been progressively found. These sedatives impact people who use drugs in ways that opioids do not, complicating both the recognition of overdose symptoms and the perceived effectiveness of naloxone administration. While much attention has been given to the wounds associated with xylazine, there is an urgent need to focus on identifying and managing sedative-involved overdoses. This session will explore how previous overdose response guidelines fall short and highlight the critical shifts required in education and training to meet the evolving needs. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of these sedatives’ effects and learn strategies to adapt overdose interventions accordingly.</p>
<p><b>1:15 – 2:00 pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Vaping Prevention Services in Non-Traditional Settings, Raquel Huggins, Public Health Project Manager and Dr. Jose’ Nicholas Polanco, Project Manager, Latino Connection</b></p> <p>This presentation highlights the successful and impactful experiences the Latino Connection’s Tobacco Control and Prevention team has had bringing vaping prevention curriculum and resources into non-traditional settings. It also outlines the reasons youth are vaping, the benefits of non-punitive consequences, and how to bring resources into these settings effectively. We will discuss our successful approaches of working with sports teams, youth detention centers, and extracurricular activities.</p>
<p><b>1:15 – 2:00 pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Treatment Court Program Participation</b> <b>Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD, Assoc. Professor, Temple University College of Public Health</b></p> <p>People arrested for substance use can be sentenced to traditional correctional facilities or, in some cases, participate in treatment court programs – specialized dockets that address underlying issues which may contribute to criminal behavior. From 2019 - 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded a team of experts in biostatistical analysis, legal epidemiology, medicine, modeling, and qualitative methods from Temple University, Indiana University, and the University of Pittsburgh to determine whether interventions offered by adult treatment courts are associated with positive health and societal outcomes. The researchers studied 530 people who were eligible to participate in 30 Indiana treatment courts from 1/01/2018 - 06/30/2021. The comparison groups were 350 people who completed a treatment court program versus 180 people who were eligible to participate in a treatment court program but did not. During this session, results, findings, and recommendations will be shared concerning participant demographics, offered interventions, and associations between treatment court participation and EMS calls, emergency department visits, death, and re-arrest data. The audience will also be introduced to legal epidemiology and be engaged in brainstorming for future research projects.</p>

<p><b>1:15 – 2:00 pm Breakout Session</b></p>	<p><b>Beyond the Headlines: Drug Trend Insights from Pennsylvania and Beyond</b>  <b>Tamar Wallace, Public Health Analyst,</b>  <b>Overdose Response Strategy, Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA</b></p> <p>This presentation provides an in-depth analysis of current and emerging drug trends, highlighting the ongoing impact of traditional drugs, particularly opioids, as the primary drivers of overdose fatalities. With a focus on Pennsylvania and supported by national data, we'll examine the dominance of opioids and stimulants in the illicit drug supply and discuss the rise of novel psychoactive substances and emerging substances of interest. Leveraging data from law enforcement and toxicology lab sources, participants will gain a clear understanding of the evolving drug landscape, equipping them with knowledge to enhance prevention, intervention, and policy efforts in their communities.</p>
<p><b>2:00 – 2:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Break, Visit Resource Tables in Lobby</b></p>
<p><b>2:15 – 2:35 pm</b></p> <p><b>2:35 – 3:05 pm</b></p> <p><b>3:05-3:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Harm Reduction</b></p> <p><b>Community Engagement</b>  <b>Brittany Shutz, Executive Director – York Opioid Collaborative</b></p> <p>This presentation will discuss key strategies to engage the community in delivery of harm reduction approaches, including community Narcan distribution, overdose prevention education, street outreach, cross-sector collaboration, and more. We will cover the role of broader community engagement to build support and capacity for harm reduction strategies. Harm reduction is a practical approach that incorporates community-driven public health strategies working to address broad health and social issues. Harm reduction programs and services offer critical linkage to treatment and other services for substance use.</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion: A Bridge to Treatment</b>  <b>Alice Bell, Overdose Prevention Project Director, Prevention Point Pittsburgh</b>  <b>Kate Favata, Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads Treatment Centers</b>  <b>Carla Sofronski, Executive Director, PA Harm Reduction Network</b>  <b>Moderated by Latika Davis-Jones, PhD, MPH, MSW; Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs</b></p> <p>This panel will describe how harm reduction is an important part of addressing substance use disorders through empowering people to reach their own goals on their own terms, how harm reduction organizations are meeting people where they are can serve as a conduit to additional health and social services, and how we can all work together to expand access to harm reduction services and approaches across Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Audience Feedback/Closing Remarks, Margaret Eckles-Ray, BA, CADC, CRS, Special Assistant to the Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs</b></p>