

## February 13, 2023

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter. We are excited to share research, resources and news from The UVM Center on Rural Addiction (UVM CORA).

## **Selected UVM CORA Offerings**

## **Clinicians Available for Direct Consultation**

The **UVM CORA Clinician Office Hours** program offers free virtual consultation with clinicians who specialize in the evaluation and management of substance use disorders (SUDs). Practitioners in <u>any HRSA-designated rural area</u> across the country are eligible to take advantage of this unique opportunity.



Our clinicians can address a spectrum of SUD treatment-related topics including specific substances (e.g. opioids, stimulants, alcohol, tobacco), special populations (e.g. adolescents, pregnant people), evidence-based practices (e.g. medication for opioid use disorder, harm reduction, contingency management, motivational interviewing), and many other topics.

To register, you will select your preferred session date, describe the SUD-related issue to be discussed with the clinicians, and provide background details about your role and work setting. If the session you selected is full, you can choose from alternate dates, scheduled up to four weeks in advance.

Clinician Office Hours sessions are held Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm EST Registration closes 24 hours before the session <u>More Information & Register</u>

## **New Reports**

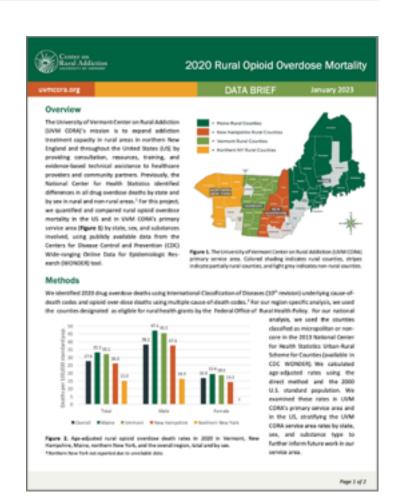


Increased Fatal Overdoses Involving Stimulants and Fentanyl

Each quarter, UVM CORA publishes synopses of key research papers. In this spotlight, we explore rising fatal overdoses involving stimulants in rural U.S. counties, and the presence of fentanyl in many of these cases. <u>Click here</u> or on the image to access the document.

## 2020 Rural Opioid Overdose Mortality

In this new UVM CORA data brief we leverage data from <u>CDC WONDER</u> to examine rural opioid overdose mortality rates (2020) in our primary service area (Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Northern New York) and nationally. Within the UVM CORA service area, we also look at rural opioid overdose mortality rates by state, sex, and substances involved in the overdose. <u>Click here</u> or on the image to access the document.



## **Technical Assistance at UVM CORA**

## **AIDS Project of Southern Vermont**

UVM CORA meets with many organizations to learn about their unique needs and to offer them technical assistance (TA) in the form of connections, resources, and supplies. Below we detail our work with one organization.

<u>AIDS Project of Southern Vermont</u> is a regional AIDS service organization providing HIV prevention and syringe services, services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and HIV and hepatitis C testing. The organization is the recipient of a HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Grant.

UVM CORA has worked extensively with Sue Conley (pictured below), who is the organization's Harm Reduction Program Manager.

We first met the folks at AIDS Project in 2020, early in UVM CORA's tenure. We discussed stigma, harm reduction, and hepatitis C and HIV prevention. UVM CORA provided AIDS Project with intranasal naloxone and fentanyl test strips. Said Sue Conley, the relationship "just blossomed from there."

In the spring of 2022, AIDS Project reported they had begun providing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) as part of their syringe services program, and that their mobile clinic was up and running for three sites (Brattleboro, Bennington, Bellows Falls). Sue asked UVM CORA to send infection prevention supplies, locking backpacks for people with insecure housing for take-home MOUD, intranasal naloxone, and <u>secure storage</u> <u>dispensing devices</u>.

Between September, 2020 and December, 2022 UVM CORA has been able to provide AIDS Project of Southern Vermont with consultation and many supplies. Sue said, "CORA has just been an unbelievable lifesaver for us."

**Total Supplies Desseminated** 

- 342 Doses of Intranasal Naloxone
- 1,300 Fentanyl Test Strips
- 400 FTS Pocket Guides
- 20 Telehealth Supplies
- 6 Minute Cards
- 20 Locking Backpacks 10 Secure Storage Dispensing
- Devices100 Secure Storage Dispensing
- Device Safety Seals
- 50 Breathing Barriers
- 148 Antibiotic Ointment Bottles
- 600 Gauze Pads
- 300 Bandages
- 3 Lockboxes



Sue described how much Telehealth supplies from UVM CORA helped the people she serves. She provided a quote from one of her clients:

"I've had a job lined up, and the manager is willing to give me more hours if I have a working phone. You have no idea what you just did for me by giving me a phone. This phone is going to give me a job and hopefully a place to stay so that I don't have to sleep outside anymore."

### More from Sue:

"What I love about this work are the people we serve. I learn from them every day and I care so deeply for them. I feel privileged to help them and know that they have a place where they can come and feel loved, respected, and not judged."

### To contact UVM CORA about technical assistance, click HERE

## **News from the Field**

Removal of the DATA-Waiver (X-Waiver) Requirement for Buprenorphine Prescribers Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration – On December 29, 2022, Congress eliminated the DATA-Waiver program. As a follow-up to these changes, new training requirements for all prescribers registering or renewing a DEA certificate will go into effect on June 21, 2023.

Although the waiver program is no longer in effect, stipends are still available to help defray previous training costs:

- UVM CORA still offers \$750 to each provider who obtained a DATA-
  - Waiver. Contact cora@uvm.edu
- HRSA still offers \$3,000 to each provider who obtained a DATA-Waiver after
- 1/1/2019. Contact DATA2000WaiverPayments@hrsa.gov

### Lack of Person-Centered Research Impedes Rural Access to OUD Meds

**Filter** – Across the United States, people face many barriers to accessing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), and this is often particularly pronounced in rural parts of the country given a slew of hurdles such as limited health care provider knowledge, a dearth of services in harm reduction "deserts", and stigma surrounding substance use.

### Twelve NC counties expand harm reduction services

**NC Health News** – As opioid settlement funds funnel to North Carolina counties, some have developed plans to target resources to naloxone distribution, syringe services programs and peer support.

## **UVM CORA News**

### Naloxone Vending Machine Application Open

In our ongoing efforts to provide evidence-based harm reduction resources for rural communities, UVM CORA has been authorized to distribute five <u>intranasal naloxone</u> <u>vending machines</u> to rural health organizations that serve rural communities in **Vermont**, **New Hampshire, Maine, and Northern New York**.

The overarching goal of this pilot program is to increase access to harm reduction materials for emergency uses and for individuals who may not otherwise engage in services. The intranasal naloxone vending machines provided through this pilot program will be placed in centralized locations in rural communities in Northern New England to provide convenient access to intranasal naloxone.

Application closing on Friday, March 3, 2023 More Information & Apply

# Congratulations to Stacey Sigmon, Ph.D., UVM CORA's Director and Principal Investigator



Dr. Sigmon was awarded the **2023 Gender Equity Outstanding Achievement in Medicine and Science Award**. From the Office of the Dean: "This award will be given to a woman or gender diverse faculty member within the Larner College of Medicine who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in medicine and science through research, education, or service."

### **Upcoming Community Rounds Session**

### Illicit Drug Supply: Fentanyl and Xylazine

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 22nd from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET** for a UVM CORA Community Rounds Workshop Series session, *Illicit Drug Supply: Fentanyl and Xylazine*. Our speaker is **Richard Rawson, PhD**, Research Professor at the Vermont Center for Behavior and Health at UVM and a Professor Emeritus at the UCLA Department of Psychiatry. This presentation will explore current information about fentanyl and xylazine including: drug supply information, pharmacology, clinical effects, medical impacts, harm reduction and treatment information. Considerations for rural populations will be discussed.

### **REGISTER HERE**

**Can't make it?** Watch the webinar recording to claim Continuing Education credits within one month of the live event. <u>Subscribe to our mailing list</u> (if you haven't already) and you will automatically receive the recording later!

### **Highlighted UVM CORA Publications**

**Rawson, R. A**., Erath, T. G., Chalk, M., Clark, H. W., McDaid, C., Wattenberg, S., Roll, J. M., McDonell, M. G., Parent, S., & Freese, T. E. (2023). Contingency Management for Stimulant Use Disorder: Progress, Challenges, and Recommendations. *The Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*, 10.1097/JAC.0000000000000450. Advance online publication. <u>https://doi.org/10.1097/JAC.00000000000450</u>

West, J. C., Burt, K. B., **Klemperer, E. M.**, Chen, H. L., & Villanti, A. C. (2023). Latent Classes of Perceived Addictiveness Predict Marijuana, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use in Youth and Young Adults. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 1–11. Advance online publication. <u>https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2023.2167497</u>.

Wiley, R. C., Oliver, A. C., Snow, M. B., Bunn, J. Y., Barrows, A. J., Tidey, J. W., Lee, D. C., Sigmon, S. C., Gaalema, D. E., Heil, S. H., Markesich, C., Villanti, A. C., & Higgins, S. T. (2023). The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Smoking Among Vulnerable
Populations. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, *25*(2), 282–290. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntac135</u>.

## Don't Miss...

### Virtual and In-Person Events (all are listed in EST)

Faces & Voices of Recovery

Training: OUR STORIES HAVE POWER February 14 – February 15, 2023, 12:00-5:00 pm

Friends of Recovery Vermont Webinar: <u>Recovery Day 2023</u> February 15, 2023, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Webinar: FDA Briefing on Tobacco Product Regulation: Menthol and Flavored Tobacco February 15, 2023, 1:00-2:00 pm

Session 4 of Addressing Opioid Use Disorders in Rural Communities Webinar: Addressing Substance Use Disorder Workforce Issues in Rural Communities: Challenges and Opportunities February 15, 2023, 3:00-4:00 pm

Advanced OUD X-Waiver Team Learning Collaborative Meeting: <u>AXL Workshop: MOUD Care Settings & Patient Treatment Matching</u> February 23, 2023, 12:00-1:00 pm

Northern Area Health Education Center Webinar: <u>HIV, Substance Use, and Social Justice</u> February 23, 2023, 12:00-1:00 pm

Howard Center Webinar: <u>The Spirit of Harm Reduction</u> March 8, 2023, 12:00-2:00pm

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) San Antonio, TX: <u>Annual Meeting</u> March 1 – 4, 2023

**Rx and Illicit Drug Summit** Atlanta, GA: <u>https://www.rx-summit.com/</u> April 10 – 13, 2023

### Resources

## National Nurse-Led Care Consortium <u>The Intersection of Tobacco and Opioid Use Disorder: A Guide for Health Center Providers</u>

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) Meeting Substance Use and Social Service Needs in Communities of Color

UR Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence <u>Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Primary Care: A Practical Solution to an Urgent Need</u>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Community Engagement: An Essential Component of an Effective and Equitable Substance Use Prevention System

Vermont Department of Health Alcohol-Related Deaths Among Vermonters

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

Funding Opportunity: Integrated Substance Use Disorder Training Program (ISTP)

## **Important Services**

### **Rural Centers of Excellence**

UVM CORA is proud to serve alongside two other Rural Centers of Excellence! See below to learn more about them.

### The Fletcher Group January 2023 Newsletter

UR Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence Winter 2023 Newsletter

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



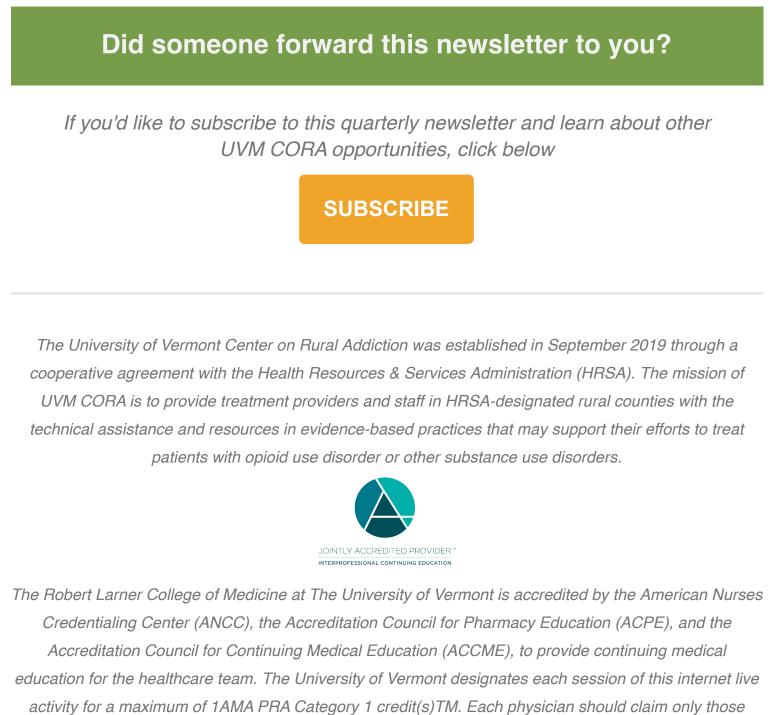
988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the <u>988 Suicide &</u> <u>Crisis Lifeline</u>) and is now active across the United States.

## **Support from UVM CORA**

To request a presentation or educational resources, <u>CLICK HERE</u>

To request technical assistance, CLICK HERE

Questions? Email us HERE



Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), to provide continuing medical education for the healthcare team. The University of Vermont designates each session of this internet live activity for a maximum of 1AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)TM. Each physician should claim only those credits commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1 Nursing Contact Hours. As a Jointly Accredited Organization, The Robert Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. The University of Vermont maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 1 general continuing education credits

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