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ND Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Team Newsletter Quarter 1, 2026

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National ORS Program Updates

The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) is a nationally coordinated, cross-sector collaboration between the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, or HIDTA, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the CDC. The mission of the ORS is to help communities reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses by connecting public health and public safety agencies, sharing information and pertinent intelligence and supporting effective* strategies.

- <https://orsprogram.org>

** The term “effective” encompasses both “evidence-based” and “promising” practices in the context of overdose prevention.*

ORS Trends, Analysis & Threats (TAT) Webinars:

The ORS Trends, Analysis & Threats webinars are a bi-monthly series delivering briefings on current and emerging drug trends from experts with leading forensic and toxicology labs. These webinars are open to any interested professionals throughout the country working in public safety, public health or other disciplines to prevent overdoses.

Upcoming Schedule:

- May 6, 2026 at 2:00 PM EST
- July 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM EST
- September 2, 2026 at 2:00 PM EST

Register for the TAT mailing list: [ORS Trends, Analysis, & Threats Mailing List](#)

ND ORS Team Updates

What have we been up to this quarter?

The ND ORS team was accepted to present a breakout session at the ND Public Health Conference in Bismarck where we will discuss emerging substance trends and the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). This conference will be held between May 5-7th. We also registered for the 2026 ORS Conference in St. Louis May 12-14th. We met with new agencies and coalitions, created this newsletter, engaged in professional development and more.

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Events

April 25, 2026 National DEA Take Back Day:

- <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>

May 5-7, 2026 ND Public Health Conference in Bismarck, ND

- <https://bismarckstate.edu/continuingeducation/professional/Conferences/ndphc/>

May 12-14, 2026 Overdose Response Strategy Conference in St. Louis, MO

- <https://orsprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ORS-Annual-Conference-Flyer-1.pdf>

Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)

ODMAP provides near real-time suspected overdose data across jurisdictions to support public safety and public health efforts to mobilize an immediate response to a sudden increase, or spike, in overdose events. ODMAP links first responders and relevant record management systems to a mapping tool to track overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions.

Each agency wishing to use the system will sign a participation agreement, which is designed to protect the data within the system. Once signed, they can begin uploading data in near real-time through a variety of methodologies. They can also get access to the National Map, which allows select users to view nationwide data and create custom visualizations. ODMAP is only available to government (federal, state, local, or tribal) agencies serving the interests of public safety and public health.

(ODMAP, 2026)

ODMAP Registrations

(as of March 2026)

- Pending approval agencies: 3
- Approved agencies: 11
- Total: 14

*Data Source: ODMAP

- For more information, please contact the ND ORS team (information at the end of the newsletter) and/or visit the ODMAP webpage: <https://www.odmap.org>
- To request agency access: <https://www.odmap.org/AgencyAccess/RequestForm>

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Trends and Updates

2025 Top 10 Seized Drug Compounds (reported March 2026)	Q1 2026 Crime Lab Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methamphetamine – 2380• Fentanyl – 782• Marijuana – 266• Cocaine – 284• delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - 265• Lidocaine – 203• Xylazine – 148• para-Fluorofentanyl – 101• Heroin – 77• Psilocyn (Substituted Tryptamine) – 70 <p>*Data Source: ND Forensic Crime Unit/Crime Laboratory Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in counterfeit tablets• Increase in powdered samples• Most common analyte continues to be Fentanyl• Mushroom products and Hemp products• Kratom & 7-OH Mitragynine products-- concerns increasing• More inconsistencies within same bag/item of counterfeit tablets (i.e. no controlled substances present or very low levels; different analytes or combinations)• BTMPS is decreasing in counterfeit tablet cases• Carfentanil increasing• Identified 1st Orphine compound in a case <p>*Data Source: ND Forensic Crime Unit/Crime Laboratory Division</p>

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Training Opportunities

The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) and CCP Toolkit

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/technical-assistance/dtac/ccp>

NACo Public Health Leadership Academy

- The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the de Beaumont Foundation, announces a call for applications to the inaugural Public Health Leadership Academy to strengthen county leadership in advancing public health. This cohort-based program will support county elected officials and public health leaders from 12 counties to build knowledge and shared understanding, strengthen collaboration and develop actionable strategies to improve public health in their communities. The Academy is part of NACo's broader Public Health Leadership Initiative which includes virtual and in-person events and best practice briefs to help counties address communities' most pressing public health challenges.

The Academy is designed to:

- Strengthen understanding of public health concepts and systems and the roles counties play in advancing public health
- Foster collaboration between county elected officials and public health leaders
- Build awareness of local public-sector and community-based partners and identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration
- Support informed policy, program and budget decisions tailored to local needs
- Equip participants with tools and skills to develop and implement a county-specific public health action plan

Through virtual and in-person learning, technical assistance and peer exchange, teams will leave the Academy with new strategies to improve health outcomes, a fully developed action plan to address a health priority within their county and teams will be recognized as public health champions among their peers.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- Announcement of selected teams: The week of March 30, 2026
- Academy dates: April 6 - August 31, 2026
- Virtual sessions: May 13 and 20, 2026 from 3:00-4:00 pm ET and two additional virtual sessions scheduled following cohort selection
- In-person convening: June 3-5, 2026 (required)

- <https://www.naco.org/program/public-health-leadership-initiative>

(National Association of Counties, 2026)

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Webinar: 10-part NNPHI Webinar: Investigating and Certifying Drug-Caused and Related Deaths: 2026 Updates and Challenges

- The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Network of Public Health Institute (NNPHI), and the Public Health Institute (PHI), is hosting a new series focusing attention on drug-caused and drug-related deaths in the United States.
- Drug-caused and related deaths remain among the most scientifically and operationally complex case types encountered in medicolegal and forensic practice. As the drug landscape continues to evolve, professionals across investigation, toxicology and forensic pathology face increasing challenges in recognizing, interpreting, and certifying drug involvement in death. This 10-part webinar series brings together Medicolegal Death Investigators, forensic toxicologists, forensic pathologists and medical examiners for a practical, case-informed exploration of the issues shaping drug death investigation today. Participants may earn FREE CME (Continuing Medical Education) and CE (Continuing Education) credits, providing valuable continuing education at no cost.
 - <https://www.cfsre.org/education/continuing-professional-education/online-live-education/investigating-and-certifying-drug-caused-and-related-deaths-2026-updates-and-challenges>

(The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, 2026)

Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Bulletins and Other Reports

Midwest HIDTA--North Dakota Overdose Report 2025 available on LinkedIn or on their webpage under Resources shared below:

- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/midwest-hidta_north-dakota-overdose-report-activity-7420127269739917312-m0LN?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACVwnZoBmoU1MDkH5yWOFHQn-K1J-txej0g
- <https://midwesthidta.org/resources>

Visual and Literary Resources (Article titles are hyperlinked):

Article: [*The efficacy and safety of cannabinoids for the treatment of mental disorders and substance use disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis*](#)

Resource: [*Overdose Spike Preparedness Exercise Tabletop in a Box*](#)

Article: [*Communicating Rural Public Health*](#)

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Article: [Alcohol abstinence enables regeneration even in advanced liver cirrhosis](#)

Article: [To Support People Affected by Substance Use Disorders, Jurisdictions Should Measure Recovery](#)

Article: [Rethinking how we measure recovery from substance use](#)

Article: [Kratom 101: What You Need to Know by Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#)

Article: [U.S. Psychedelic Use and Microdosing in 2025: Insights from a Probability-Based and Nationally Representative Survey](#)

Article: [Methadone Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder has Increased, but Access Gaps Persist](#)

Article: [Emergence of Medetomidine in the Illicit Drug Supply: Implications for Emergency Care and Withdrawal Management in the Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)

Article: [National Methadone Access and Quality Commission Established to Improve Access To High-Quality, Patient-Centered, Evidence-Based Treatment for OUD](#)

Article: [Senate Releases FY2026 Funding Bills for Key Substance Use and Justice Agencies and Programs](#)

Article: [Meth inflames and stimulates your brain through similar pathways – new research offers potential avenue to treat meth addiction](#)

Article: [National Methadone Access and Quality Commission Established to Improve Access To High-Quality, Patient-Centered, Evidence-Based Treatment for OUD](#)

Video: [PBS VIDEO: RFK Jr. and others launch new addiction and homelessness initiative](#)

Article: [Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency \(updated 2/5/26\): Registering Emergency Medical Services Agencies Under the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017](#)

Executive Order 1/29/26: [Addressing Addiction through the Great American Recovery Initiative](#)
[Tianeptine Fact Sheet](#)

Article: [Proportion of Fentanyl Reports in Illicit Drug Seizures and Opioid Mortality](#)

Funding/Grants

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative Grant

- FY25 Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative
 - Open: February 19, 2026
 - Close: April 6, 2026

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- <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2025-172486>

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)-Impact

- Estimated to open Feb 23
- Estimated to close April 22
- Estimated award date Aug 1
- Estimated project start date Sept 1
 - <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361000>

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)-Planning

- Estimated to open Feb 25
- Estimated to close April 27
- Estimated award date Aug 1
- Estimated project start date Sept 1
 - <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361000>

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

- Year 1 NOFO: <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/6fa7ddfb-2a41-4eb3-b567-96be8c60f640>
- Year 6 NOFO: <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/58540df0-ee28-49e8-95fa-557995041e7e>

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