

— Atlanta, GA • March 28-31, 2016 —  
**NATIONAL**  
**Rx DRUG ABUSE & HEROIN**  
**SUMMIT**  
NationalRxDrugAbuseSummit.org

*The largest national collaboration for those impacted by Rx drug abuse & heroin use.*

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## Summit Spotlight:

### [Clinical breakout sessions announced](#)

Descriptions of the six [Clinical Track](#) breakout sessions to be offered at the **2016 National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit** are now available.

The [Clinical Track](#) will equip physicians, dentists and other healthcare professionals to employ the latest federal prescribing guidelines and coordinated care plans for chronic pain, consider alternative prescribing practices and chronic pain treatments, engage patients in treatment following overdose reversal, and work with special populations. Attendees will hear from clinicians, researchers and public health officials about strategies that are being proven effective or showing great promise.

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## Top Stories in the News:

*Disclaimer: Articles and links within articles do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit or Operation UNITE.*

### [Anatomy of Addiction: How heroin and opioids hijack the brain](#)

*National Public Radio*

Jack O'Connor is one of an estimated 2.5 million Americans addicted to opioids and heroin, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Over three years, he detoxed from prescription painkillers - and heroin - more than 20 times. Each time, he started using again.

So why is it so hard for opioid addicts to quit? You can boil it down to two crucial bits of science: the powerful nature of opioids and the neuroscience behind how addiction hijacks the brain.

[Read Story](#)

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## [Drug distributors under fire in West Virginia painkiller epidemic](#)

*Jim Axelrod and Ashley Velie, CBS News*

The state of West Virginia is suing pharmacies and drug distributors accused of making millions pushing narcotics to anyone who wants them. No state has had more trouble with prescription pain pills, and no town more trouble than Kermit -- population 400.

Undercover video of Kermit's main pharmacy shows scores of people picking up prescriptions inside and at the drive-through window.

"They filled more scripts for oxycodone than all but 21 pharmacies in America," said Jim Cagle, who represents the state in the groundbreaking lawsuit against pill mills and wholesale drug distributors. "What you have is some bad doctors, and pharmacies who are willing to turn a blind eye because of the money that's involved."

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## [Opioid abuse leading to more children sent into foster care](#)

*Join Together*

More children are being sent into foster care as a result of the abuse of heroin and opioid painkillers, [The Wall Street Journal](#) reports. Officials say opioid abuse is straining child welfare agencies.

The number of children in foster care in the United States rose 3.5 percent from 2013 to 2014, reaching 415,129 in September 2014. While national data do not measure how many children arrive in foster care because of their parents' drug use, some state and local officials say opioid addiction is a likely factor in the increase.

[Read Story](#)

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## [National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week](#)

*DrugAbuse.gov*

National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW) is a national health observance for teens to promote local events that use National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) science to SHATTER THE MYTHS about drugs. NIDA for Teens is now partnering with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to include alcohol information

for teens in community events.

Learn how you can plan, promote and host an event for the week of January 25-31 using free materials available at NDAFW's online guide.

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