

— 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:

Third-Party Payer breakout sessions announced

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

Topics in the [Third-Party Payer Track](#) will include ensuring access to quality treatment for substance use disorders, identifying and helping at-risk patients, promoting safe prescribing practices, and reviewing state responses, such as establishing workers' compensation formularies and Medicaid lock-in programs.

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Newsletter format changed to be more mobile-friendly

To enhance your experience with the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit eNewsletter, we have switched to a mobile-friendly format. The design elements will enable readers to keep up-to-date with the latest news when using desktop, laptop or a mobile device. Also, the use of buttons for story links will make it easier for you to access the full articles.

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.

[Most who OD on opioids are able to get new prescriptions](#)

More than 90 percent of people who survived a prescription opioid overdose were able to obtain another prescription for the very drugs that nearly killed them, according to a [Boston Medical Center study](#) of chronic pain treatment published December 28, 2015.

Amid nationwide alarm over soaring overdose deaths, the study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* is believed to be the first to ask: What happens to those who survive?

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[Florida pill mill crackdown also may have curbed heroin deaths, researchers find](#)

Lenny Bernstein, The Washington Post

Law enforcement and public health authorities have said that attempts to curb the illicit use of prescription opioids may have fueled increased use of heroin, which is generally cheaper and widely available on the street. Some even believe that drug cartels have taken advantage of government efforts to crack down on "pill mills" - which dispense prescription narcotics with few controls - by flooding the eastern United States with heroin.

But a study released December 21 shows that one state, Florida, was able to reduce deaths from prescription opioids and slow the rise in heroin deaths, at least for a couple of years in the case of the street drug, by enacting laws to regulate pain clinics and enforcing them rigorously.

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[New California database to help doctors spot Rx drug abuse](#)

April Dembosky, KQED News

Long plagued by technical problems, California's prescription drug database has finally been overhauled. State officials will fully launch the new system Friday, Jan. 8, when all doctors will be automatically upgraded to the new system.

Pharmacists are required to report all drugs they dispense in the state's prescription drug database, known as the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System, or CURES.

But neither pharmacists nor doctors are required to check the database before dispensing or writing new prescriptions.

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[Newborns are the most vulnerable victims of opioid epidemic](#)

Duff Wilson and John Shiffman, Reuters

In America, a baby is born dependent on opioids every 19 minutes. But doctors aren't alerting social services to thousands of these infants, many of whom come to harm in families shattered by narcotics.

More than 130,000 other children born in the United States in the last decade were born drug-dependent, inherited from a mother battling addiction.

A 12-year-old federal law calls on states to take steps to safeguard babies after they leave the hospital. That effort is failing across the nation, a Reuters investigation has found, endangering a generation of children born into America's growing addiction to heroin and opioids.

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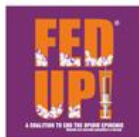
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