

— 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:

### [Last chance for registration discount to Summit](#)

**Monday, February 29**, will be the final day to receive a **\$100 discount** off registration fees for the **2016 National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**, to be held March 28-31, 2016 in Atlanta.

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### [Federal officials to open Summit Tuesday morning](#)

Officials leading the national response to the Rx drug abuse and heroin crisis will address attendees during the **Opening General Session** on Tuesday, March 29.

**Michael Botticelli**, director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, **Dr. Francis Collins**, director of the National Institutes of Health, **Kana Enomoto**, acting administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a top official from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Congressman **Harold "Hal" Rogers** (KY-5th) will discuss current policies to support public health, education, prevention and treatment initiatives.

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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.*

## [Governors devise bipartisan effort to reduce opioid abuse](#)

*Robert Pear, The New York Times*

Alarmed at an epidemic of drug overdose deaths, the National Governors Association decided over the weekend (February 20-21) to devise treatment protocols to reduce the use of opioid painkillers.

The guidelines are likely to include numerical limits on prescriptions, or other restrictions, governors said.

Bipartisan concern about the abuse of addictive pain medications unexpectedly dominated sessions of the National Governors Association, and governors said they would take their concerns to the White House, where they are scheduled to hold a business meeting with President Obama on February 22.

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## [Shortage of addiction counselors further strained by opioid epidemic](#)

*Emily Corwin, National Public Radio*

As the drug-related death toll rises in the United States, communities are trying to open more treatment beds. But an ongoing labor shortage among drug treatment staff is slowing those efforts.

Each year, roughly one of every four substance-abuse clinicians nationally chooses to leave the job, according to recent research. And that's not just turnover - leaving one job for another in the same field. As an Institute of Medicine report documented in 2006, there's been a shortage of addiction workers for decades. And the demand is only increasing; the Affordable Care Act and other federal laws have given millions more people insurance to help them pay for those services. If only there were enough counselors to treat them.

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## [Drug addiction program keeps mom, kids together](#)

*Marisa Kwiatowski, Indy Star*

For four years, ShaLyn Arnold lost herself in a haze of drugs. Two of her children moved in with a grandparent. The Indiana Department of Child Services intervened with Arnold's other two children.

That intervention enabled the 26-year-old to participate in a relatively new residential addictions treatment program that she hopes will keep her clean.

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## [Agriculture Secretary has experienced addiction within his family](#)

Robin Young, Here & Now

U.S. Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** has been tasked by President Obama with tackling heroin and opioid abuse in rural America. It turns out he has some personal experience with that problem in his family. Secretary Vilsack talks with Here & Now's Robin Young about the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agenda for 2016.

Secretary Vilsack is the [Welcome Keynote](#) Speaker for the Summit on Monday, March 28.

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