

— 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:

[President to speak at Summit](#)

[President Barack Obama](#) announced March 22 that he would speak at the Summit on **Tuesday, March 29**. Details of the President's visit are still being finalized. Watch for announcements on the Summit website or by downloading the Summit's Mobile App at eventmobi.com/2016rx.

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[Monday's opening session to include panel discussion](#)

U.S. Senator [Joe Manchin](#) (D-WV) and West Virginia Governor [Earl Ray Tomblin](#) will join U.S. Secretary of Agriculture [Tom Vilsack](#) for a panel discussion during the Summit's opening session on Monday, March 28. Last year, West Virginia hosted a Town Hall meeting with President Barack Obama where a number of new public and private sector actions to address the epidemic were announced. Among these actions is the USDA's new "Rural America Opioid Initiative," headed by Secretary Vilsack.

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[A Q&A with Congressman Hal Rogers](#)

Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-5th) is the co-founder and co-chair of the U.S. House Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse. It was his leadership and vision that led to the creation of Operation UNITE, host of the fifth annual National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit. We posed a few questions to Congressman Rogers

about this year's Summit.

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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.

[FDA announces enhanced warnings for immediate-release opioid medications related to risks of misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose and death; new safety warnings required](#)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

In a continuing effort to educate prescribers and patients about the potential risks related to opioid use, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced March 22 required class-wide safety labeling changes for immediate-release (IR) opioid pain medications. Among the changes, the FDA is requiring a new boxed warning about the serious risks of misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose and death. Today's actions are among a number of steps the agency recently outlined in a plan to reassess its approach to opioid medications. The plan is focused on policies aimed at reversing the epidemic, while still providing patients in pain access to effective relief.

The FDA is also requiring several additional safety labeling changes across all prescription opioid products to include additional information on the risk of these medications. This is part of the agency's overall effort to help inform prescribers about the importance of balancing the serious risks of opioids with their role in managing pain.

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[Breaking Point: Heroin In America](#)

David Muir, ABC News 20/20 Investigates

In suburban neighborhoods across America the calls are coming in: "It's an overdose." New Hampshire has one of the highest rates of overdose deaths, and ranks 49th among states for access to treatment. This ABC special, compiled over the course of a year, documents the disease that knows no boundaries and shows the progression from prescription pills to heroin. "There isn't a single part of any community that is untouched."

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[Overprescribing of opioids to pediatric patients leads to abuse](#)

"It's a national catastrophe." That's how Myron Yaster, MD, the Richard J. Traystman Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, in Baltimore, described the nation's overprescribing of opioids to pediatric patients, an epidemic whose myriad ripple effects may ultimately contribute to the growing problem of nonmedical use of prescription opioids, particularly in the young. Indeed, Dr. Yaster and colleagues found that while patients averaged three-dozen leftover pills at the end of their treatment, the overwhelming majority did not know what to do with the remaining medicine.

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