

California Opioid Safety Network January Digest

Greetings!

We are thrilled to announce that 23 regional coalitions, representing 31 counties, have been accepted into the new Accelerator Program (see full list below). The added breadth and depth of the California Opioid Safety Network is significant: coalitions are active and gaining strength in more than half of California's counties.

Each coalition in the Accelerator Program will receive tailored support to build the awareness, camaraderie, and grit we need to lead our communities toward opioid safety. In addition to a "bullpen" of subject matter experts, these coalitions will receive expert coaching and an array of resources and support, including virtual learning events, publications, website tools and ad hoc help with requests.

February 27 marks the official launch of the Accelerator Program. In the coming months, we will welcome a cohort of VISTA members, who will each be matched with a coalition, and gain invaluable experience as they help tackle the epidemic.

Please note that all coalitions and interested stakeholders will continue to be invited and have access to webinars, tools and materials developed by the California Opioid Safety Network!

- Alameda
- Butte-Glenn
- Contra Costa
- Humboldt
- Imperial
- Lake
- Los Angeles
- Marin
- Mendocino
- Monterey
- Northern Sierra (Plumas, Sierra, Lassen, Modoc)
- Placer-Nevada
- Redwood Community (Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Yolo)
- Riverside-San Bernardino
- Sacramento
- San Benito
- San Diego
- San Joaquin
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Siskiyou
- Tuolumne



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News You Can Reuse

In an effort to be part of the cure, doctors at some of the largest hospital chains have begun to issue an uncomfortable warning to patients: You're going to feel some pain. ([California Healthline](#))

The VA is prescribing fewer opioids, a tremendous turnaround. ([Pacific Standard](#))

A San Diego physician, Roneet Lev, studied the prescriptions and medications responsible for 254 overdose deaths. She also sent letters to her colleagues, informing them that one of their recent patients had died from a drug overdose. ([San Diego Union Tribune](#))

While some pharmacists are ambivalent about dispensing Naloxone, Prof. Talia Puzantian is determined to teach pharmacy students that Naloxone is effective, safe and worth their effort. ([Kaiser Health News](#))

Bay Area public health officials have begun receiving shipments of Naloxone in the first state-funded effort to get the emergency antidote to local health departments across California. ([SF Chronicle](#))

In the nation's first opioid court in Buffalo, NY, Judge Craig D. Hannah recognizes that failure is part of the recovery process. Other court systems are watching Buffalo as a potential model. ([New York Times](#))

Claire Sterk, president of Emory University and a professor of public health, calls for an end to stigma, shame, punishment and incarceration, and asks us to zero in on how the opioid crisis is affecting young people. ([CNN](#), Opinion)

PBS's new one-hour program traces the causes behind the unprecedented growth in the use of prescription opioids and includes a community engagement toolkit for public television stations or interested organizations to help build awareness and share resources. ([PBS](#))

The *New York Times* is reaching out to its readership with [a new survey](#) called Help Shape the Times' Opioid Coverage. It is full of good questions. Your insights are important and may be useful. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Opportunities & Resources

Register for a free one-hour [webinar](#) to be held on February 14, courtesy of **Project SHOUT** (Support for Hospital Opioid Use Treatment), which helps hospitals start buprenorphine and methadone services.



CDPH Opioid Surveillance Dashboard: Updates

The state's [opioid overdose dashboard](#) now breaks out deaths by Fentanyl and lists the number on the dashboard home page. CHCF has prepared a [short explainer](#), with graphics, on how to use the dashboard and easily create your county's report.

Spotlight on Coalitions

Because leftover opioids in medicine cabinets can be a source of misuse and abuse, COSN coalition RxSafe Marin has prioritized safe drug disposal. The coalition led an initiative to pass an ordinance requiring opioid manufacturers fund safe and convenient drug disposal kiosks across the county. Called Med-Project, Marin's drug take-back network is one of eight similar pharma-funded efforts across California. The program includes an [interactive website](#) for consumers looking for the nearest drop off location.

Send highlights of your coalition activities to lsaponara@iecomm.org.

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