

March 2022 Newsletter



Southwest Alabama Opioid Response Project

Like and follow our Facebook page here!



[Click here to check out our website!](#)

You are invited to view professional and community education resources focused on increasing awareness of opioid and substance misuse, reducing stigma, and prevention education. This newsletter is brought to you by The S.A.O.R. Project, aiming to reduce the health impact and mortality associated with opioid use disorder (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD). Please scroll down to find descriptions and web links for community education resources and events, along with local, state, and national resources. You can also find continuously updated educational material by visiting the [S.A.O.R. Project Community Education Page](#).

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

[Community Member Survey](#)

[Healthcare Professional Survey](#)

[SAOR Project Annual Community Impact 2020-2021](#)

[Alabama Farmers Market Voucher/Coupon Program](#)



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Target Audience: Choctaw, Clarke, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe, and Sumter Residents and Healthcare Professionals





West Central Alabama Area Health Education Center received grant funds to develop a strategy for combating substance use/opioid use disorder. We are beginning Year 2 of the Southwest Alabama Opioid Response Project and collecting information from different community groups including **community members** and **healthcare professionals/providers** to better understand our communities and expand our educational/programming reach. If you are a resident or healthcare professional in **Choctaw, Clarke, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe, or Sumter county**, please take a moment to complete the appropriate brief survey below. Your responses are confidential and your participation is greatly appreciated!

Community Members

[SAOR Project Community Member Survey Link](#)



Healthcare Providers and Professionals
[SAOR Project Healthcare Professional Survey Link](#)



Alabama Vaccine Confidence Network Resources

Target Audience: General



West Central AL AHEC and Southern AL AHEC joined the Vaccine Confidence Network(VCN) as an expansion of its involvement in community health initiatives to include a community-based COVID-19 response.

Free WCAAHEC [NOWINCLUDED](#) Resources Available for Download [here](#)
Free SAAHEC [NOWINCLUDED](#) Resources Available for Download [here](#)

Online Resource for Licensure of Health Professionals

Target Audience: Health Professionals



As telehealth usage increased during the pandemic, FORHP funded new work with the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards to reduce the burden of multi-state licensure. The site provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing in each state for psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists assistants, and social workers.

Medicare to Cover Free, Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests

Target Audience: General

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that people in either Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage will be able to get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost starting in early spring. Under the new initiative, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to access up to eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month for free. Tests will be available through eligible pharmacies and other participating entities. This policy will apply to COVID-19 over-the-counter tests approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. For more information, CMS has posted a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Standard Clinical Definition for Opioid Withdrawal in Infants

Target Audience: General

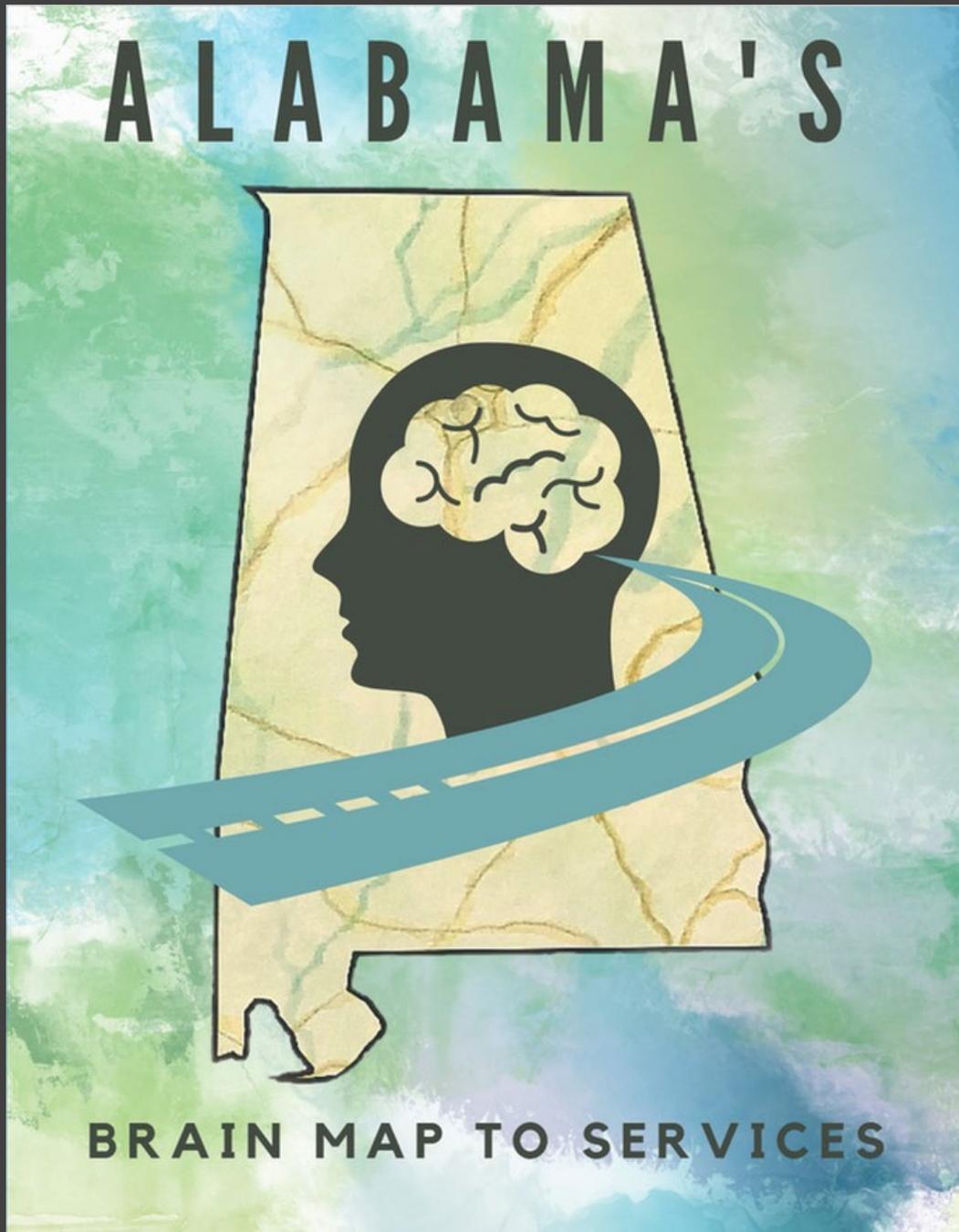




The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) together with leading clinicians, researchers, and policy experts led the development of a standard clinical definition for opioid withdrawal in infants to help improve care. It is accompanied with a set of foundational principles that outlines bioethical uses for the definition. [Please click here for more information.](#)

Alabama Brain Map to Services

Target Audience: General



Alabama's Brain Map to Services

A resource guide to assist anyone in finding appropriate resources and services related to brain injuries in our state.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Moving from Health Disparities to Healthcare Access & Affordability: A Conversation with African American Faith Leaders. This event was co-led by the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and HHS Region 4

Target Audience: General



[View Recording](#)

Toolkit and Workbook— Traumatic Brain Injury and Substance Use Disorders: Making the Connections

Target Audience: Brain Injury Survivors



This toolkit integrates current knowledge of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and substance use disorders (SUD) to expand capacity to address both issues in treatment. The author, Dr. Carolyn Lemsky, is a board-certified neuropsychologist with over 25 years of experience working in rehabilitation settings in the U.S. and Canada. The toolkit provides valuable and practical information for advancing behavioral health providers' capacity when serving persons who have brain injuries. The toolkit is a collaboration with the Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA).

The accompanying workbook is created for people who are living with the effects of a brain injury and are wondering how their substance use may be affecting them.

[View Toolkit Here +](#)

[View Workbook Here +](#)

[View Tip Care Here +](#)

R.O.S.S. (Recovery Organization Of Support Specialist)

Target Audience: General



A.C.E.
ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE
THROUGH EDUCATION



***It's About
Saving LIVES!***

Advocating For Change Through Education

R.O.S.S. has always been at the forefront of ensuring that no Alabama citizen with a substance use disorder falls through the cracks. Join our Peer Educators for an immersive learning experience as we provide a curriculum to create a community of support for individuals' recovery efforts and reduce the overdose death rate in Alabama.

This is the curriculum we offer–



Understanding Substance Use and Opioid Use Disorder – Learn about the common misconceptions surrounding this chronic health condition.



Understanding Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction – Acquire life-saving information on overdose prevention and learn the principles of harm reduction.



Understanding Stigma Surrounding Substance Use Disorder – Recognize the impact of stigma and the importance of using non-stigmatizing language.

improvement discipline
psychology feedback success
experience feedback potential
relationship success potential

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused
or expired medication
for safe disposal
here



Healthcare Professionals Resources

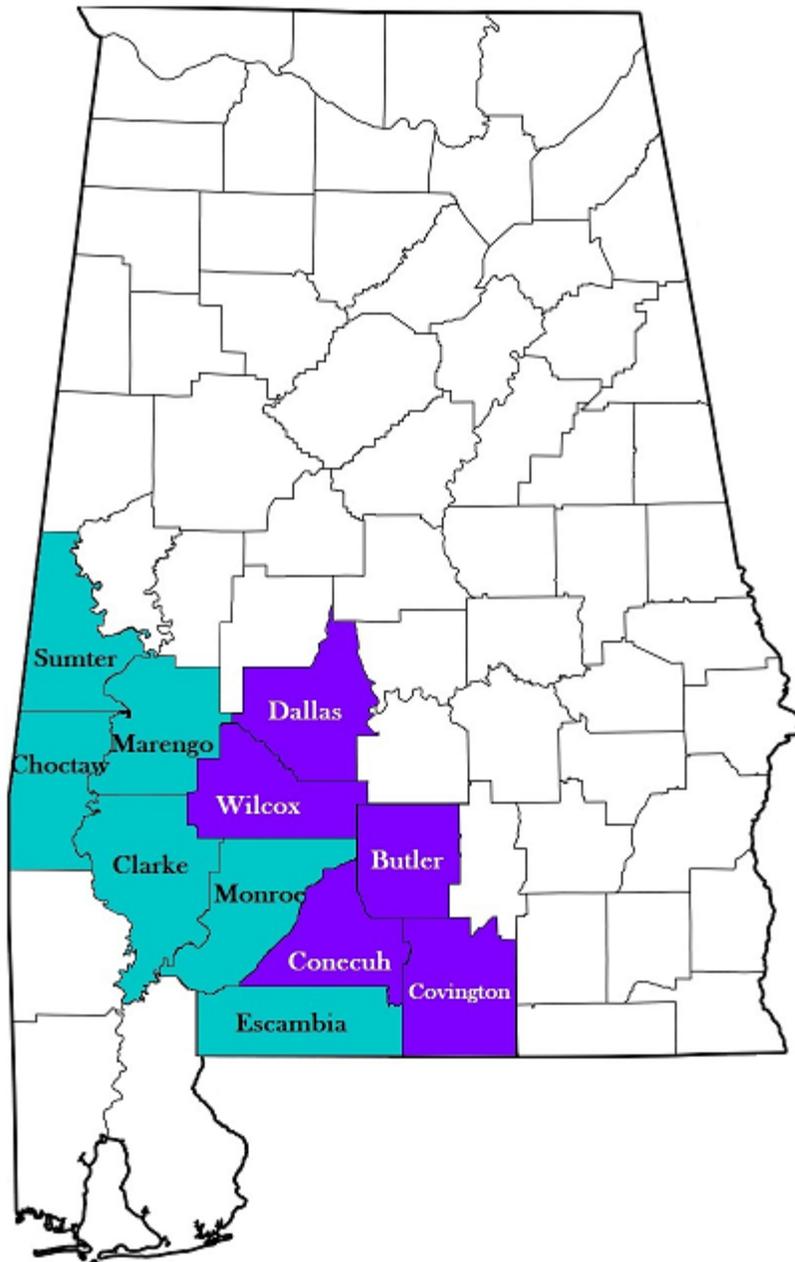
Target Audience: Healthcare Professionals

[ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#)

[Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Target Area Map

Target Audience: General



RCORP II: Choctaw, Clarke, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe and Sumter
RCORP III: Butler, Conecuh, Covington, Dallas, Wilcox

The West Central Alabama, AHEC (Area Health Education Center) presents a county map that labels all the counties where the S.A.O.R. (Southwest Alabama Opioid Response) Project is being implemented. Highlighted in purple are the counties in which RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program) III is active and highlighted in turquoise green are the counties in which RCORP II is currently active.

SUBSCRIBE



This project is supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This material was prepared by The Southwest Alabama Opioid Response Project. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FORHP, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Copyright © 2021 West Central AL AHEC, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

West Central Alabama AHEC

1100 S. Cedar Avenue, Demopolis, AL 36732

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.