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The Academy/DPHA News

New DJPH Issue: Substance Use, Abuse, Treatment, and Recovery

Substance use disorder (SUD) is a medical condition that alters the brain and behavior, leading to an inability to control the use of drugs or medications—whether legal or illegal. While it can begin with recreational or prescribed use, certain substances, such as opioids, carry a higher risk of addiction. SUD is not a moral failing and can affect anyone, anywhere. Support and treatment are available, including SAMHSA’s free, confidential 24/7 helpline (1-800-662-HELP). The latest issue of the Delaware Journal of Public Health highlights substance use, treatment, and recovery programs in Delaware, with contributions from guest editors Joanna R. Champney and Dr. Vishesh Agarwal, reminding readers that help is here.



[Read the Issue](#)

2025 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit Recap

On September 24th, health leaders and partners from across the state came together in Dover for the 2025 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit.

A special thank-you goes out to our



planning committee, Academy/DPHA staff, board members, speakers, and attendees whose efforts made the day a success. The program opened with a keynote from Dr. Maxey, who emphasized the importance of using data to guide policy, align initiatives, and move health forward. Sessions throughout the day explored Delaware’s healthcare workforce in depth—from training and education pipelines to state and federal policy updates, and innovative ways dental providers are expanding access to care. The Summit concluded with a data-focused look at chronic disease and its effect on the workforce.

The conversations and collaboration throughout the event underscored both the progress made and the continued work ahead to build a strong, resilient healthcare workforce for Delaware.

DYMA Learn About Public Health!

At a recent Delaware Youth Medical Academy (DYMA) workshop, scholars explored the evolution of public health from ancient times to the present, learned about diverse career paths in the field, and gained firsthand insight into what it’s like to work as a public health professional. Participants also stepped into the role of “Disease Detectives,” investigating and solving a mock disease outbreak, giving them an interactive and practical experience in epidemiology and outbreak response.



Delaware News

[2nd Annual Lyme Aware Conference for Healthcare Professionals](#)

The Delaware Lyme Disease Education Oversight Board, in partnership with Beebe Healthcare and the Medical Society of Delaware, will host the 2nd Annual **Lyme Aware Delaware Conference** on Friday, October 17, 2025. Open to all Delaware healthcare professionals, the hybrid event offers up to **7.5 CME credits** with in-person sessions at Delaware Tech's Carter Partnership Center in Georgetown and a virtual option. State and national experts will cover Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, including Alpha-Gal Syndrome, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Highlights include new Delaware-specific research and a hands-on tick identification station led by the state's lead tick biologist. Registration is \$150, with lunch provided for in-person attendees.

[Register Here](#)

[Delaware's Largest Mental Health Event: Inspiring Hope Conference](#)

October 16, 2025 | Dover, Delaware
Royal Prime Events, Bally's Casino

INSPIRING HOPE CONFERENCE
NAMI Delaware

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Crisis Response and Intervention
- Children and Young Adults' Mental Health
- Veterans Mental Health
- Advocacy
- Wellness
- Co-Occurring Diagnosis
- Multicultural Disparities in Mental Health

Theme: Flip the Script | Rewriting the Story of Mental Health
Keynote Speakers: Tamika Tremaglio and Phillip J. Roundtree, Sr.

BBS | NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES | Official Premier sponsor | Arthur Hall Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company | Johnson & Johnson

The **Inspiring Hope Conference 2025**, Delaware's largest single-day mental health event, will take place on Thursday, October 16, at Bally's Dover / Royal Prime Events Center. With the theme "Flip the Script: Rewriting the Story of Mental Health," the conference will bring together advocates, professionals, faith leaders, and community members for a powerful day of learning, healing, and action. Centering lived experience, equity, and innovation, the event will feature keynote speakers Tamika Tremaglio and Phillip J. Roundtree, alongside dynamic workshops, panels, and **NASW-approved CEUs**. Attendees will gain access to tools and programs focused on advocacy, education, and support for individuals living with mental illness and their loved ones. Through participation and sponsorship, Delawareans can help build a more inclusive, resilient, and empowered mental health future.

[Register Here](#)

[DE Awarded \\$2M Federal Grant to Modernize Workforce Data Systems](#)

Governor Matt Meyer, Senators Chris Coons and Lisa Blunt Rochester, and Rep. Sarah McBride announced that Delaware has received a \$2 million U.S.

Department of Labor Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) grant: the first time the state has earned this award. The funding will help the Delaware Department of Labor's Workforce Development Board modernize the state's workforce and education data infrastructure, linking program data to track outcomes, inform policy, and guide students and workers toward programs with long-term success. Officials highlighted that the initiative will strengthen Delaware's workforce, support data-driven decision-making, and ensure every resident has access to meaningful career opportunities.

What else we are reading:

- [Delaware State Park Offers Diverse Autumn Programming](#)
- [DE Launches Innovative "PRO" Apprenticeship Program to Grow Teachers](#)
- [Annual Economic Report from Department of Labor](#)
- [New Castle County Property Tax Bills on Hold Pending Lawsuit Resolution](#)
- [Dewey's Golden Jubilee Celebrates Golden Retrievers While Supporting Landmark Canine Health Study](#)
- [UD & DSU Shine in 2026 U.S. News College Rankings](#)
- [Newark: 'The Garage' Opens as New Mindfulness & Wellness Space for Youth](#)
- [63 Million Public Safety Radio Upgrade, Retirement Legacy 800 MHz System](#)
- [Gov Meyer Champions Climate Action at UN Climate Week in NYC](#)
- [Volunteers Collect Over 5k Pounds of Trash in Delaware Coastal Cleanup](#)

National News

[CDC Warns of 70% Spike in 'Nightmare Bacteria' Infections Since 2019](#)

Drug-resistant infections from so-called "nightmare bacteria" rose nearly 70% in the U.S. between 2019 and 2023, according to a new CDC report published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The surge was fueled by a 460% jump in strains carrying the NDM gene (New Delhi metallo- β -lactamase), which makes bacteria nearly untreatable. Once rare, NDM-producing CRE are now spreading across at least 29 states, with infection rates increasing from under 2 to more than 3 per 100,000 people. These bacteria resist nearly all antibiotics, leaving only two expensive intravenous drugs as treatment options. Researchers warn the problem is likely undercounted, since many hospitals lack the genetic testing needed to detect these infections, and note that heavy antibiotic use during the COVID-19 pandemic may have accelerated the rise.

[Gun Suicides Surging Among Americans Aged 70 and Older](#)

Gun suicides among Americans aged 70 and older have risen steadily from 2009 to 2023, claiming 63,836 lives, according to a new CDC analysis. Older white men in rural areas are most at risk, dying by firearm suicide at rates more than triple those of Black and Latino men, and 19 times higher than women over 70. Researchers attribute the increase to a combination of factors, including severe illness, chronic pain, cognitive decline, social isolation, financial pressures, and limited mental health support, compounded by easy access to firearms. The U.S. rate [far exceeds](#) those in countries with stricter gun laws, such as Canada and Mexico. Experts caution that suicide in later life often goes unreported or misclassified, masking the true scale of the problem, and urge doctors and communities to screen older adults and connect them with resources to prevent further deaths.

[CDC: Rising Flu Complications in Children as Vaccination Rates Decline](#)

CDC researchers report a surge in influenza-associated encephalopathy (IAE), a rare but life-threatening complication where flu attacks the nervous system, causing confusion, seizures, and even death. Of 109 recent pediatric IAE cases, 74% required intensive care, 54% were placed on ventilators, and 19% died—many of them previously healthy. Overall, 280 children died from flu last season, the deadliest year since the 2009–10 H1N1 pandemic, with about 90% of victims unvaccinated. Experts warn that falling childhood vaccination rates leave kids vulnerable, even as evidence shows flu shots reduce severe outcomes by up to 78%.

What else we are reading:

- [Front-Runner Emerges to Lead NIH's National Cancer Institute](#)
- [RFK Jr. Says FDA to Review Safety Protocol for Abortion Pill Mifepristone](#)
- [Trump Admin Cancels Bike-Lane/Pedestrian Grants, Calling them 'Hostile' to Cars](#)
- [NSF Cuts Second-Year Ph.D. Students from GRFP, Sparks Outcry](#)
- [White House Weighs Grant Adv for Colleges That Follow Trump Policies](#)
- [Medical Groups Warn \\$100K Visa Fees Threaten U.S. Doctor Supply](#)
- [Newborn Syphilis Cases Rise for 12th Year Amid Overall STI Decline](#)
- [CDC Expands Listeria Outbreak to Include Addl Prepared Meal Products](#)

Global News

[UN Warns of "High Stakes" as Global Temperatures Pass 1.5°C](#)

At the UN General Assembly, leaders and scientists marked ten years since the Paris Agreement with urgent warnings that the “stakes could not be higher” after 2024 became the first year global temperatures surpassed 1.5°C. The milestone has fueled extreme weather disasters and heightened risks to health and infrastructure worldwide, according to UN News. [While intervention remains possible](#) through rapid clean energy adoption and reducing food system waste, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged countries to submit far more ambitious 2035 climate plans. Ahead of COP30 in Brazil, 47 nations have filed updated plans, though major emitters like the EU and India have yet to. China pledged a 7–10% emissions cut by 2035 and expansion of non-fossil fuels to over 30%—a modest step that experts still say could be globally transformative. Meanwhile, the U.S. sat out, with President Trump dismissing climate action as a “[green scam](#),” though other world powers vowed to move forward.

[New Maternal Vaccines Offer Hope Against Deadly Newborn Infections](#)

Group B streptococcus (GBS), long overlooked, kills tens of thousands of infants and causes hundreds of thousands of infections and stillbirths each year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Pediatrician Carol Baker first proposed a GBS vaccine in 1976, facing skepticism, sexism, and fears over vaccinating pregnant women. Now, her vision is finally coming to life: Pfizer has launched a phase 3 trial enrolling pregnant women in the U.S. and South Africa, while Danish company MinervaX plans trials starting in 2026.

Experts say maternal vaccination could prevent thousands of deaths and lifelong disabilities, though the full global impact of GBS remains underestimated. Baker, now 84, remains cautiously optimistic after a half-century fight to bring attention to this silent threat.

[UN New Global Plan on NCDs & Mental Health, Despite U.S. Rejection](#)

A UN declaration to strengthen action on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health gained broad international support at a General Assembly session, [setting 2030 targets](#) for tobacco reduction, hypertension control, and expanded mental health access. The U.S., however, blocked consensus when Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [rejected the draft](#), citing unspecified concerns and objections related to gender identity and abortion—topics not included in the text. The declaration, weakened in some areas by corporate lobbying, will move to a vote in October, where advocates expect adoption despite U.S. opposition. [Critics note diluted language](#) on health taxes and the omission of fossil fuels in air pollution targets.

What else we are reading:

- [90% of R&D Funds Stay in High-Income Countries, Only 10% Reach LMICs](#)
- [Japanese Marine Sponge Show Promise as Treatment for Leishmaniasis](#)
- [WHO/UNICEF: Billions Still Lack Basic Water, Sanitation, & Power in Health Care Facilities](#)
- [€253 Million Euro Partnership Launches to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Global CVD Deaths Rise to 19.2 Mil as Aging, Obesity, & Diabetes Fuel Risk](#)
- [Afghanistan Sees Spike in Malaria Cases Amid Health Crises & Earthquake](#)
- [Childhood Exposure to Common Plastic Chemicals Linked to Long-Term Health Risks](#)
- [Indonesia's Free School Meals Program Linked to 6k+ Food Poisoning Cases](#)
- [Newly Recognized "Type 5 Diabetes." Potentially Affecting 25 Million Globally](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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