



Working every day to reduce drug related overdose deaths in West Virginia



To fulfill its mission, WV DII is carrying out activities under five objectives: research, education, collaboration, advocacy, and prevention.

Our History

The WV DII, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in May 2019, after nine months of study and deliberation regarding the best ways to reduce opioid drug deaths in West Virginia. The Institute is supported by BB&T, now Truist, via a donor-advised fund at the Winston-Salem Foundation.

Our Mission

The mission of the WV DII is to reduce deaths in West Virginia from opioid and drug abuse by being:

- ✓ an independent advocate for life-enhancing drug policies, and practices,
- ✓ a hub for coordinating drug response activities, and
- ✓ an educational center to address the prevalence of drug abuse and the stigma of drug addiction.

Programming includes medication safety education across the lifespan, collaboration with the City of Charleston’s Coordinated Addiction Response Effort, and projects that assist with connecting persons with access to treatment and recovery.



Research

We use evidence-based practices to implement prevention programming and recovery initiatives. Our medication safety programs for students pre-K to 20 are rooted in Positive Youth Development theory. Working with our partners, including the City of Charleston, First Choice Services and the Kanawha Valley Collective.

Education & Prevention

We educate youth and adults about the importance of safe medication use and storage, proper medication disposal, and naloxone use through our educational programming in partnership with Murphy Media and Fruth Pharmacy. Our Don’t Keep Rx Around™, SmartRx™, and SmartRx University™ programs also educating students Pre-k to 20, We also provide online course content for parents, grandparents and professionals about everything from medically assisted therapy (MAT) to naloxone use.

Collaboration

We work closely with agencies, organizations, and individuals throughout the greater Charleston area who are involved in drug abuse response and prevention. By working hand-in-hand with the Mayor’s Office of CARE (Coordinated Addiction Response Initiative), we are able to maximize the effectiveness of substance use intervention efforts, like the Quick Response Team (or QRT) throughout Charleston and the Kanawha Valley.

Advocacy

We advocate for policies that reduce overdose deaths—both fatal and non-fatal. This includes programs and policies that increase access to naloxone; support harm reduction measures; provide access to HVC, HIV, and STD testing, long-acting reversible birth control. We also support the co-prescription of naloxone with each opioid prescription and programs that increase rapid access to recovery and treatment.

WV DII

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