

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROVIDERS

ACCORDING TO THE CDC, IN 2020, THE NUMBER OF DRUG
OVERDOSE DEATHS SURPASSED **750,000**.

FAST FACTS

- COVID-19 and the steps to stop the spread – isolation, stay-at-home, and Great Depression-level unemployment - are having a direct impact on New York's substance use disorder (SUD) delivery system
- With an increase in alcohol and drug use, overdose, suicide, and mental health issues, now is NOT the time to decrease funding
- Funding cuts for SUD service providers will lead to program closures for some, staff reductions for others, and reductions in services for all.
- Decreased staffing and program closures will result in more overdoses and overdose deaths, greater use of expensive hospital care, increased arrest and incarceration costs, and more limited access to SUD prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services
- It makes no sense to cut the SUD services field in the middle of an addiction epidemic when those cuts will mean loss of life and a bigger NOT smaller NYS deficit.

DID YOU KNOW

- A recent Milliman study found that opioid epidemic costs society over \$660 billion a year, \$198 billion (30%) of which is government expenditures.
 - According to New York State Department of Health data, a well-funded addiction treatment system will save lives and save money in the Medicaid program.
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- 82% of NYS Medicaid dollars spent on unnecessary readmissions to hospitals are for individuals who have untreated substance use and mental health disorders. Most of these re-hospitalizations are for medical conditions that go ignored when people are in the midst of an untreated addiction or mental health issue.
- According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, every 1% rise in unemployment results in a 3.5% increase in addiction. Recent spikes in overdose in Suffolk County, Erie County, and other counties reflect this alarming trend.