



The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative
Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Provider:
Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)

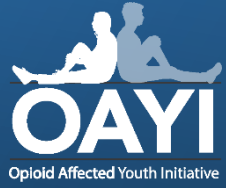
Did you know . . .

- 107,941 persons in the United States died from drug-involved overdoses in 2022, including illicit drugs and prescription opioids
- One in eight children aged 17 or younger are living in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder
- Impacted youth are at an increased risk for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement compared to other children

Sources:

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>

<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/topics/parental-substance-use-disorder.aspx>

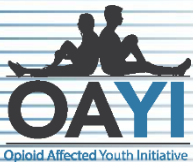


The What: OJJDP's Response to the Epidemic

THE OPIOID
AFFECTED YOUTH
INITIATIVE

The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

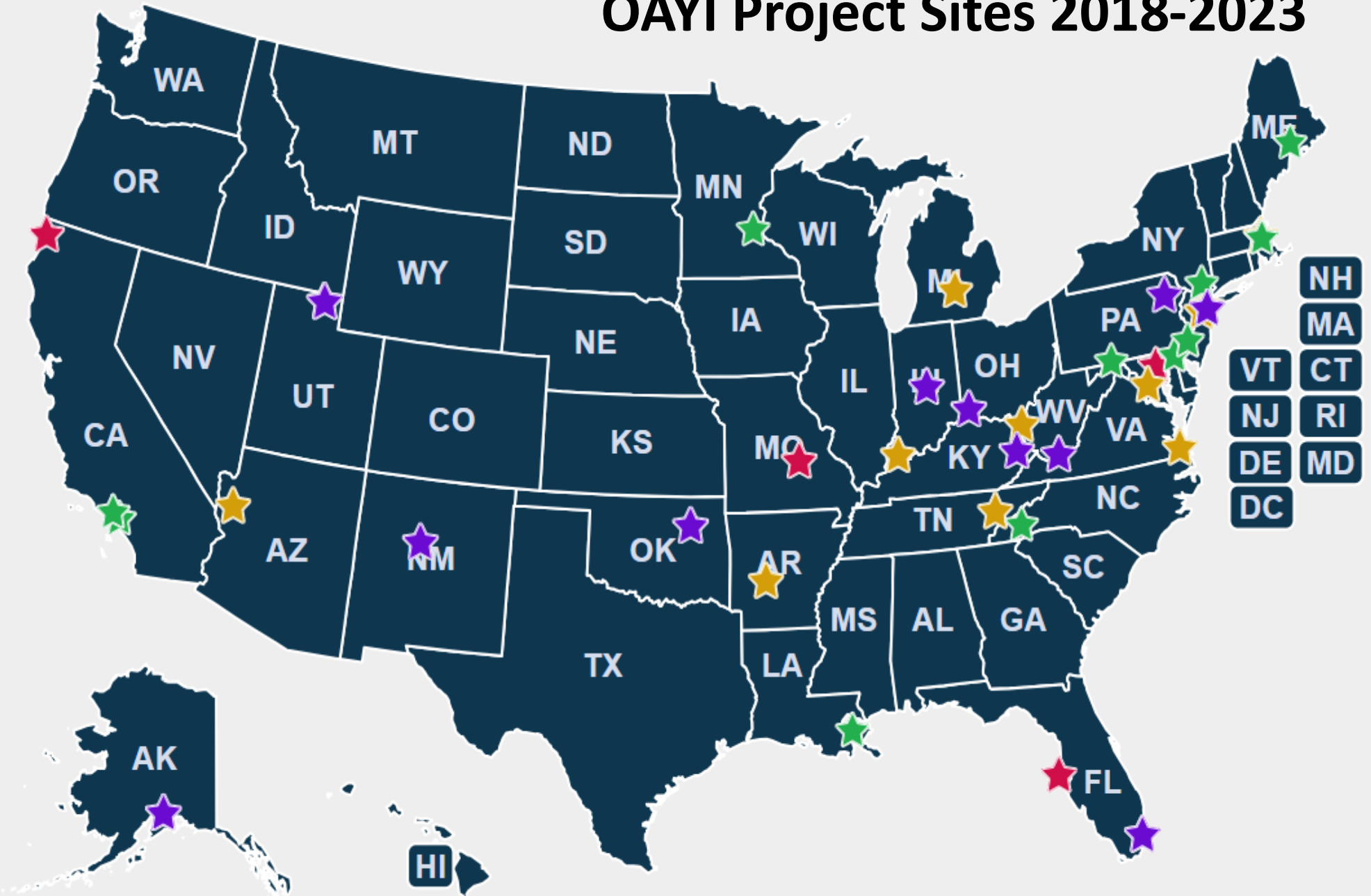
- Supports integrated services for impacted children, youth, and families utilizing multidisciplinary approaches to implement and coordinate programs and strategies to ensure public safety support through youth and family focused
 - System-level impact concepts
 - Data-driven solutions
 - Coordinated responses





The OAYI Footprint...

OAYI Project Sites 2018-2023



OJJDP Supports...

Youth Engagement

Project planning, design and structure.

Project strategies and implementation.

Data collection and analysis.

Monitoring and evaluation.

Alignment of performance measures.

Promising or evidence-based practices or programs.

Assessing progress toward achieving project goals and measurable outcomes.

Building and maintaining partnerships and collaborating with key leaders and stakeholders.

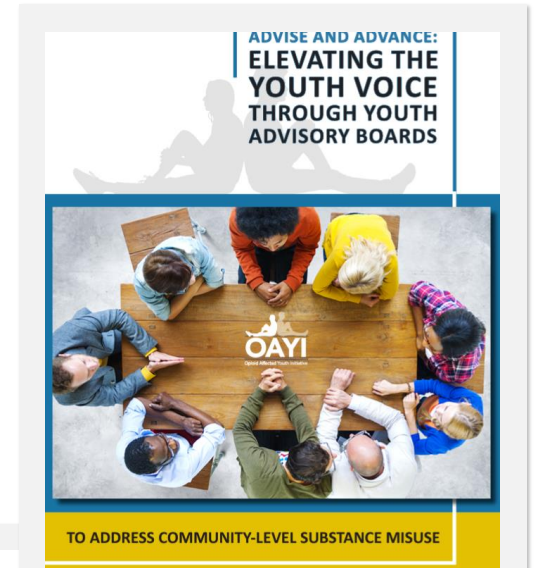
Sustainment planning.

Youth Advisory Board Technical Assistance Bulletin

Informed by research from existing youth advisory boards

No recommendations made are truly prescriptive (other than youth compensation)

YAB and youth engagement strategies should be reflective of the needs and makeup of the youth being served, your organization, and the impacted community



OAYI Youth Advisory Board YNOW Task Force

- Comprised of emerging leaders ages 18-24 with at least one of the following lived experiences:
 - Personal OUD or SUD
 - Family member or friend with SUD, in treatment, or in recovery
 - Living or have lived in an opioid-impacted community
 - Juvenile or criminal justice involvement
 - Child welfare involvement



OPIOID AFFECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE

The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) was established to support integrated and comprehensive intervention, prevention, and treatment services for youth and families who have been impacted by opioid and other substance use disorders (SUDs). As the training and technical assistance (TTA) provider, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) is committed to supporting the efforts of states, communities, and tribes in reducing the adverse impact of opioids and SUDs through effective and meaningful engagement with youth. The broader OAYI TTA model and framework for the youth advisory board (YAB), formalized as the Youth National Opioid and Wellness (YNOW) Task Force, is informed by the understanding that the youth voice is central to sustainable system improvement and helps strengthen the responses to improving equitable access to substance use support.

The purpose of the YNOW Task Force is to create collaborative opportunities and strategic partnerships among emerging leaders and key stakeholders; inform strategies for successful engagement in local communities; and empower youth with lived experiences to lead sustainable efforts toward stigma reduction through advocacy and action. The YNOW Task Force reflects the voices and perspectives of youth representing diverse communities and promotes the development of a support network among young people with shared experiences that will help cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth and families.

The YNOW Task Force is a 14-person board consisting of 10 board members and four executive leadership positions.

The designated presiding coordinator is a member of IIR's OAYI TTA team.



www.opioidaffectedyouth.org • oayi-yab@iir.com



VISION

The vision of the YNOW Task Force is to cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth through collaborative opportunities and partnerships. Serving members will:

- Enhance IIR's TTA approach by informing on strategies for effectively engaging impacted youth through participation in the development and facilitation of virtual and in-person TTA events, including the launch of OAYI's inaugural youth summit.
- Reduce the stigma associated with SUDs by educating the public about the issues that youth impacted by SUDs experience through the design of a nationally distributed youth engagement toolkit; engagement on social media platforms such as Instagram and Threads; the launch of a segment on OAYI's podcast, Answering the Call; and support of the development and dissemination of a quarterly newsletter.
- Expand and refine their leadership and self-advocacy skills through ongoing education and broadened opportunities for professional growth including attendance and/or presentation at youth-related conferences and other events in the field.

MISSION

The impact of this board will be to enhance youth survival and safety by leveraging the lived experiences of young people and redefining recovery as any positive change. Through advocacy, education, and awareness, we will advance evidence-based prevention and sustainable recovery efforts that are rooted in foundations of cultural humility, holistic approaches, reduction of stigma, and restorative justice. Understanding substance use as a complex social phenomenon that requires change, not just within individuals, but within their social systems, will frame how we engage community stakeholders—including youth, families, educators, and policymakers—to implement restorative practices that heal communities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Have at least one of the following lived experiences:
 - Currently live or have lived in an opioid-impacted community
 - Personal SUD
 - Juvenile or criminal justice involvement
 - Friend or family member (parent, sibling, or close relative) with SUD, in treatment, or in recovery
 - Child welfare involvement

Key Engagement Activities

We are committed to leveraging the lived expertise of the YAB in every aspect of our TTA support including providing opportunities for them to lead their own efforts.

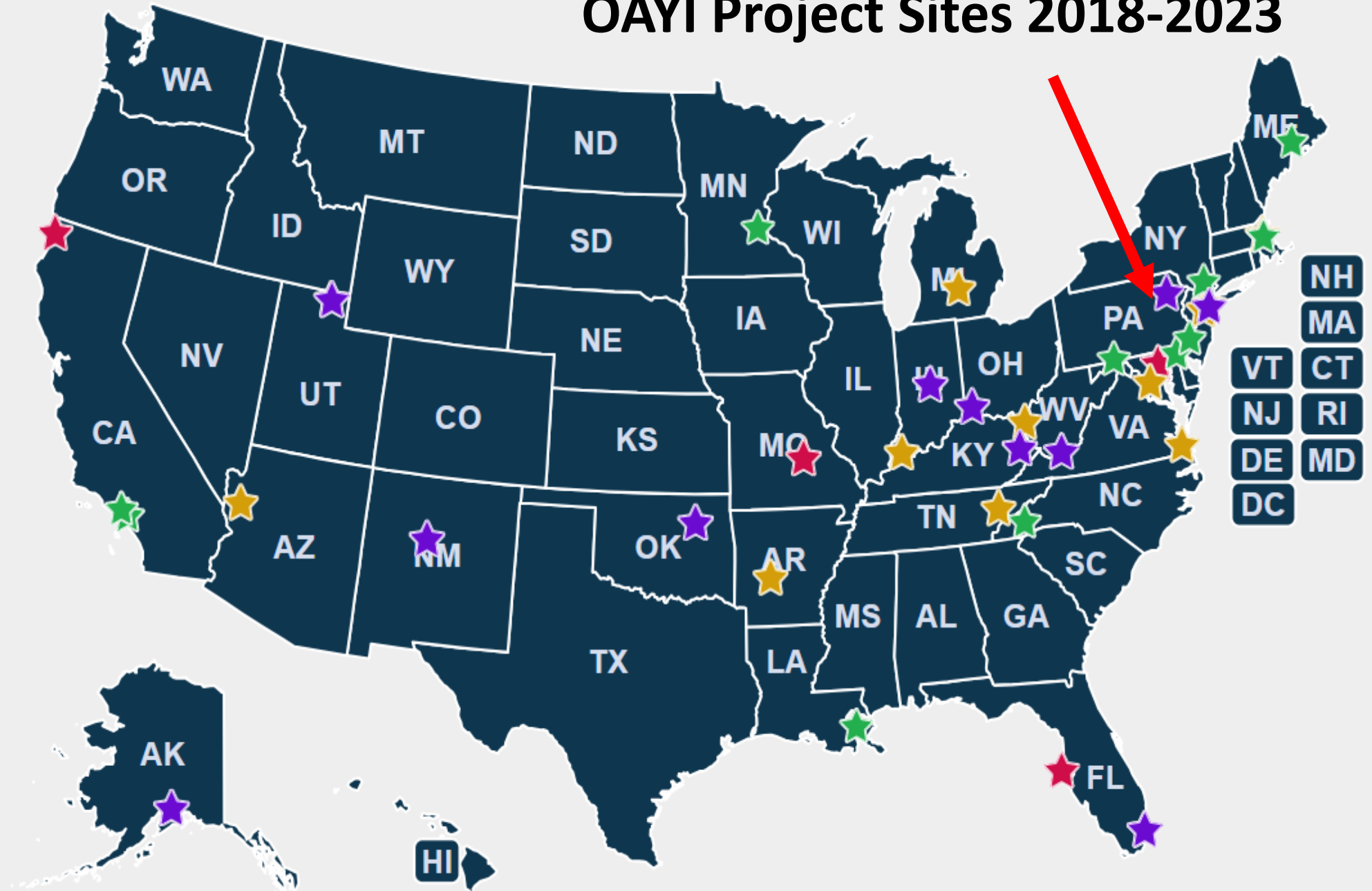
Design a nationally distributed youth engagement toolkit

Support the planning and production of OAYI's youth summit

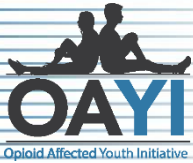
Launch a youth-focused segment on the OAYI podcast, Answering the Call

Participate in ongoing opportunities to expand and refine leadership and self-advocacy skills

OAYI Project Sites 2018-2023

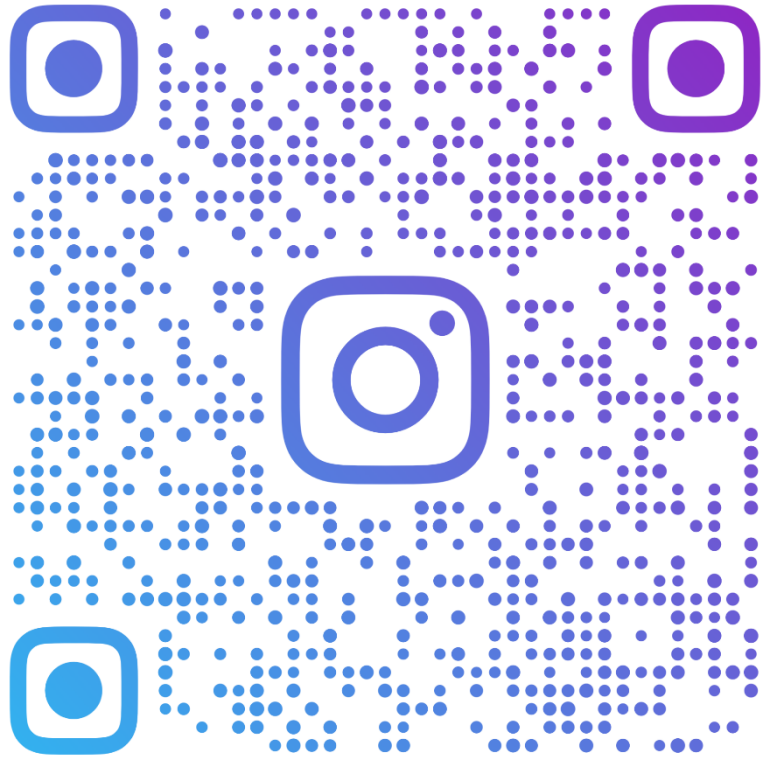


Potential Collaborative Efforts with the PDMP



Awareness
and
Education

Utilization of
Data



YNOWTASKFORCE

Connect With Us

Follow us on Instagram @ynowtaskforce!

If you have any questions about the OAYI YAB or other youth engagement efforts, please contact Darian Appleton at dappleton@iir.com or oaiyab@iir.com.

For more information about the initiative, visit www.opioidaffectedyouth.org.



More information about OAYI and its resources can be found on its website or YouTube channel.

Website: www.opioidaffectedyouth.org

Email: oayi-info@iir.com

Phone: (850) 385-0600

YouTube: [Opioid Affected Youth](#)

