

RECOVERY STORIES

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & HUMAN-CENTERED SOLUTIONS • SEPTEMBER 2026

Recent Global Highlights



INTERNATIONAL / GLOBAL

25th International Overdose Awareness Day Mobilizes 40+ Countries

Over 1,000 community events were held worldwide on August 31 under the banner "25 Years On. Still Needed," highlighting peer-distributed naloxone and permanent harm reduction infrastructure.

Source: Penington Institute & Global IOAD Network | overdoseday.com



NORTH AMERICA

SAMHSA Launches National Recovery Month 2026: "Recovery is REAL"

SAMHSA inaugurated National Recovery Month across the US, featuring new health data highlighting mobile medication units and outpatient peer retention strategies.

Source: SAMHSA & JAMA Network Open | samhsa.gov/recovery-month



BERMUDA / CARIBBEAN

DNDC Kicks Off Island-Wide Recovery Month Outreach in Bermuda

Bermuda's Department for National Drug Control launched its annual Recovery Month campaign to strengthen certified addiction counseling and local peer support.

Source: Department for National Drug Control Article | gov.bm/online-services

Continents Around the World



EUROPE (PORTUGAL)

Portugal's Decriminalization Framework & Dissuasion Commissions

Portugal routes individuals through local Dissuasion Commissions and offers housing support, job training, and mobile treatment units to address addiction as a chronic medical condition.

Source: Canadian Affairs | canadianaffairs.news



EUROPE (EU-WIDE)

EU Rollout of EUDA Cooperation Hub & Expanded Harm Reduction

The European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and Council of the EU launched the EU Cooperation Hub on Drugs, establishing cross-border pilot projects for drug checking services, supervised consumption spaces, and poly-substance treatment frameworks across Member States.

Source: Council of the European Union & EUDA | consilium.europa.eu



NORTH AMERICA

The Evolution of Peer Support Networks and Harm Reduction

Major urban hubs are scaling up non-judgmental recovery spaces led by peer support specialists to bridge street-level outreach with formal healthcare systems.

Source: Opioid Data Lab | opioiddata.org



SOUTH AMERICA

Supervised Consumption and Community Centers in Cali, Colombia

Integrated harm reduction facilities like the CAAI provide community gardens, medical support, peer education, and overdose response in marginalized settings.

Source: Transform Drug Policy Foundation | transformdrugs.org



AFRICA

Youth Agricultural Initiatives and Vocational Recovery in Kenya

Grassroots agricultural cooperatives in Kenya provide young adults in recovery with vocational skills, sustained income, and peer community support.

Source: Practical Action | practicalaction.org



ASIA

Transitioning Toward Voluntary Community Rehabilitation in Malaysia

Southeast Asian health leaders are pivoting away from compulsory detention toward voluntary, family-supported community care centers.

Source: Health Equity Matters | healthequitymatters.org.au



OCEANIA

Indigenous-Led "Healing on Country" Frameworks in Australia

Culturally centered healing practices for First Nations and Māori populations combine connection to land, elders, and heritage alongside clinical support.

Source: ICS Conferences | icsconferences.org



ANTARCTICA

Mental Health and Isolation Protocols in Extreme Polar Environments

Antarctic research stations manage psychological isolation through pre-expedition screenings, regulated alcohol policies, and satellite tele-health support.

Source: University of Bern | unibe.ch