



Prevention Newslink

June 2025

SD PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTERS (SDPRC)

WPRC

Youth and Family Services

Rapid City, SD

Bill Elger

welger@youthandfamilyservices.org

(605) 342-1593

SEPRC

Volunteers of America-Dakotas

Sioux Falls, SD

Kerri Cox

k.cox@voa-dakotas.org

Audrey Simmons

a.simmons@voa-dakotas.org

(605) 444-6333

NEPRC

Human Service Agency

Watertown, SD

Dodi Haug

dodih@humanserviceagency.org

Stephanie Kinnander

stephaniek@humanserviceagency.org

(605) 884-3516

CPRC

Capital Area Counseling Service

Pierre, SD

Jana Boocock

jana.boocock@cacsnet.org

(605) 224-5811

Click **HERE** to determine your region's Prevention Resource Center

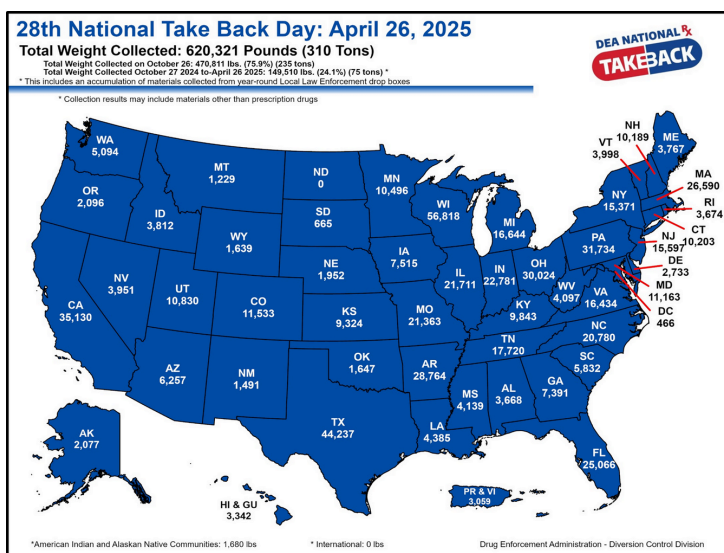
NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

On April 26, 2025, communities across the country joined the effort to prevent drug misuse before it starts. Nationwide, DEA and its law enforcement partners collected more than 620,000 pounds of unneeded and expired medications. You can see the full results on their [website](#), but here are the highlights:



April 2025 National Take Back Day Results

- Total Law Enforcement Participation: **4,472**
- SD Law Enforcement: **11**
- Total Collection Sites: **4,590**
- SD Collection Sites: **10**
- Total Weight Collected: **620,321 lbs. (310 Tons)**
- SD Weight Collected: **665 lbs.**
- Total Weight All Time: **19,820,761 (9,910 Tons)**
- SD Weight All Time: **36,990 lbs.**



UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS

PTTC Recruitment and Retention in the Prevention Workforce Webinar

June 25 | Virtual

To learn more and register, click [HERE](#).

Health Connect Mocktails Mix-Off

June 26th | Sioux Falls

To learn more, visit mocktailsmixoff.com

Growing Together: Understanding and Supporting Early Childhood Development

July 7, 14 & 21 | Virtual

Register and learn more [HERE](#)

Mission: Possible | Advancing Action Against Substance Use Together 2025

July 23-24 | Sioux Falls

Find more information and register [HERE](#)

The Network Trauma Informed Webinar Series: Can We Minimize Trauma With Our Words

July 28 | Virtual

To learn more, email kathy@sdnafvsa.com

Your Journey Matters 2025 SD Behavioral Health Conference

August 4-5 | Sioux Falls

Find more information and register [HERE](#)

SAPST Application for Prevention Success Training (SAPST)

Fall 2025

For registration use the QR Code below



100 SAFEST DAYS OF SUMMER

SADD, along with the National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF), Impact Teen Drivers, and We Save Lives, are working together to turn the "100 Deadliest Days" between Memorial Day and Labor Day into the 100 Safest Days of Summer.

This stretch of the year often poses a great danger to teen drivers, with crash rates spiking significantly. The 100 Safest days of Summer website had the following sobering facts for teen drivers during this time:

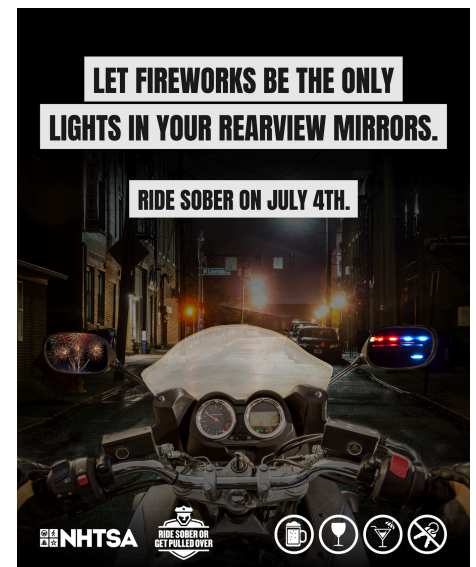


- Teen drivers are involved in a disproportionately high number of crashes and fatalities, despite driving less than most other age groups.
- Distractions, impaired driving, drowsy driving, speeding, and not wearing seatbelts are among the top contributors to these preventable tragedies.
- From 2012–2021, 7,316 lives were lost in teen driver-related crashes during the summer months alone—nearly half of all teen crash fatalities for the entire year.
- Teen drivers (ages 16-19) are nearly three times more likely per mile driven to be involved in a fatal crash compared to drivers aged 20 and up. The risk is highest for 16 and 17 year olds.
- There is a 22% increase in nighttime crashes involving teen drivers during this period.

Check out their website [HERE](#) to find resources that can make the roads safer and this summer one to remember for all the right reasons

RIDE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has statistics, talking points, and graphics to share over the Fourth of July weekend to help promote safe and sober rides during the holiday period and prevent drunk driving incidents. You can find these resources along with their social media playbook on their website [HERE](#). Below is a sample text of a potential motorcycle safety campaign post taken from the playbook on their site.



"We can name one thing more liberating than riding on the open road - keeping Americans safe on the Fourth of July! Don't lose your independence by drinking and riding. Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over."

Your Journey Matters

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health is excited to host the First Annual "Your Journey Matters" a statewide conference highlighting critical behavioral health efforts in South Dakota on August 4 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm and August 5 from 8:00am – 3:00pm CT at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Registration is open through July 25 or until they reach capacity.

At the "Your Journey Matters" conference, you'll learn more about prevention, treatment, recovery supports, burnout, compassion fatigue and at-risk populations in South Dakota when it comes to behavioral health. Over two days, they'll feature key speakers in the areas of suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury and its correlation to mental health, as well as those with lived experience in suicide loss. CEUs will be available.

If you have any questions, please email DSSPREVCONT@state.sd.us.

For full agenda, please visit <https://sdbehavioralhealth.gov/conference>.

BE SOMEONE'S PICK-UP MAN

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Michael Glynn Memorial Coalition, is proud to announce the launch of the "Pick-Up Man" campaign. Keep an eye out for individuals wearing yellow feathers at rodeos across South Dakota throughout the year. This important initiative aims to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention.

If you are interested in learning more about the "Pick-Up Man" campaign and how you can be a "Pick-up Man," contact Joyce Glynn at mgmcoalition@gwtc.net.

You Can Be Someone's "Pick-Up Man".

In the rodeo arena, the pick-up man is a lifesaver. The riders know to reach out for help. That example can be used by anyone to help save the life of someone experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide.

Yellow feathers symbolize **hope, joy, freedom,** and looking forward to a **bright future.**

Finding a yellow feather is a good symbol for those who feel lost, depressed, or anxious, as they provide a reason to look forward to their future.

We are asking everyone here today, to wear this yellow feather in your hatband, to show that you are willing to

Be Someone's "Pick-Up Man".

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Call • Text • Chat



To learn more about behavioral health resources in South Dakota, please visit SDBehavioralHealth.gov

This campaign is coordinated through a partnership between SD Behavioral Health and Michael Glynn Memorial Coalition and is funded through SAMHSA grant number H79FG001187 and PFS grant number H79SP084260.

Photo by Travel South Dakota



SD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SOUTH DAKOTA SUICIDE PREVENTION



RESOURCES

STATEWIDE WEBSITE
[SDSUICIDEPREVENTION.ORG](https://sdsuicideprevention.org)

THE HELPLINE CENTER
[HELPLINECENTER.ORG](https://helplinecenter.org)

If you or someone you know needs help with:

- Depression
- Grief
- Relationship Conflicts
- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Suicidal Thoughts

Call/text 988 or [chat online](#)



988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Grief

Grief is a natural and normal reaction to loss, encompassing a range of emotions, physical symptoms and behavioral changes. Grief can normally show during losses such as death, divorce, or even loss of a home. While everyone's experience of grief is different, there are common responses that can be useful to recognize someone facing a loss. Practicing patience is the best form of help throughout the process.

The most well-known resource for understanding the grieving process is from a book by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross describing the five stages of grief.

- Denial: Difficulty accepting the loss may occur
- Anger: Directed anger may be at multiple sources including people, a higher power, or self-anger. Anger may not be directed towards anyone in particular.
- Bargaining: Reaching an agreement, so loss does not have to be dealt with. Regret of past actions that may have "spared" the individual from the loss.
- Depression: Experiences of complex emotions associated with depression including emotional attachment or detachment.
- Acceptance: Eventually, most embrace the reality of the loss, even if the pain still exists within.

Grief is not a linear process and does not have specific rules to follow during the stages. Not everyone who grieves experiences these stages the same, nor do they happen in a particular order. There are different types of grief that describe how varied and complex it can be.

- Anticipatory: Grief occurs before the actual loss. Processing beforehand can be prepared to face the loss when the time comes. It is important not to allow grieving to distract from the precious time that is still there
- Delayed: This can occur days, weeks, or even months later. The shock of the loss pauses the body's ability to work through emotions. This can be caused by distractions, or the person is so busy that the body cannot work through the process.
- Inhibited: Repressing emotions. This could be due to not being taught how to process motions or how to recognize. Confusion may arise in this type and show in more physical forms such as an upset stomach, nausea, or anxiety.
- Cumulative: Multiple losses at once. An example would be grieving over a child and the loss of a marriage that followed.
- Collective: Groups grieve, too. Major events create far-reaching losses such as natural disasters, school shootings, or pandemics.

Experiences of grief are very unique. But recognizing those feelings, thoughts, and behaviors may surface during this time that can provide assurance that this person is not alone. The time will pass, and there are resources available to help anyone going through these emotions. The Helpline Center offers resources such as grief support classes, groups, and outreach support calls. 988 is available 24/7 to help support someone as they walk through their grief. No one should have to go through grief alone. Working through difficult emotions can give the strength to move forward in life while this loss continues to hold a place in the heart. Visit the Helpline Center's website at helplinecenter.org for more information.

SOUTH DAKOTA TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM



Quittobaccosd.com

Click [here](#) to order our
FREE materials and
resources.

SD Tobacco Program Updates

The South Dakota Tobacco Control Program (SD TCP) is making a few adjustments to our staffing structure. As part of these adjustments, our partnership with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) for contracted staff support to the SD TCP will be coming to a close. This includes the three Regional Tobacco Prevention Coordinators and the Statewide Tobacco Cessation Coordinator. While this marks a change in how we structure support, our commitment to tobacco prevention and cessation efforts across the state remains as strong as ever. We're grateful for the multiple decade long partnership with BHSSC, which has supported the longstanding success of the SD TCP. Their dedication and hard work toward this effort has been incredibly impactful and we appreciate their collaboration as we move through this transition together. Please join the SD TCP in thanking the BHSSC team for the great work they have done to help reduce and prevent tobacco use in South Dakota!

Tobacco Program Staff Contacts Moving Forward

While we work to refine our program structure, here is a broad overview of the primary areas of responsibility for our remaining team members:

- **Sierra Phelps** (sierra.phelps@state.sd.us) – Program oversight and budget, South Dakota Quitline, cessation education and promotion, Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) Evaluation & Surveillance support
- **Hilary Larsen** (hilary.larsen@state.sd.us) – Tobacco Youth and Community Engagement (TYCE) RFA, school outreach and technical assistance, curriculums, toolkits, newsletters, school policies, national and state campaigns
- **Tricia Yoshida** (tricia.yoshida@state.sd.us) – Tobacco Disparities RFA, emerging products, tribal presentations, tribal policies

We will continue to share updates as further adjustments are needed. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Events and training schedules are currently being drafted. If interested in requesting a training contact DOHTobaccoControl@state.sd.us.