



Public Libraries as Partners in the Opioid Crisis



Libraries offer public spaces open to all, run by staff deeply committed to their communities. As local anchor institutions, libraries are responding to the opioid crisis that has gripped our nation. Together with community partners, public libraries are providing information, services, education, and training events to support prevention and recovery efforts.

With **17,000+ locations**, US public libraries host **1.3 billion visits each year** and offer **5.4 million public programs**.

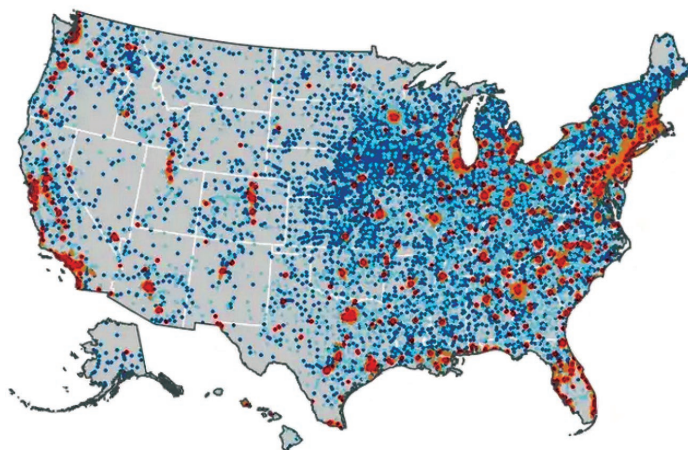
Effective and sustained collaboration is essential to address complex challenges in a crisis. Libraries are trusted organizations embedded in communities nationwide, making them a natural partner for the development and delivery of pragmatic solutions to pressing issues. Consider partnering with public libraries on substance misuse and mental health events, community reads, and author talks, and even naloxone training as you make your plans. The message of “get in where you fit in” is important for libraries, library staff, and community partners.

Together, we can make a positive difference in improving outcomes for our communities.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE US

REGION TYPES

● City ● Suburb ● Town ● Rural



Source: Public Library Survey, FY 2012, Institute of Museum and Library Services



In recent research, public libraries and their community partners noted that even a small first step together made a critical difference. We encourage everyone to consider ways they can work with their community libraries to improve local access to information and resources as we navigate these challenges.

Make an impact on communities.



Host community meetings and outreach at the library



Invite library staff to join community coalitions



Offer resources on substance use disorder, recovery, and treatment



Provide in-kind donations
(e.g., Detera bags
or naloxone)



Provide experts to train staff and community members



Support a film screening or book discussion group

Libraries connect people with information, services, and lifelong learning that strengthen health and wellness.

For more information, visit oc.lc/libraries-opioid-crisis.

