

# The HARI *Perspective*

## **Opioid Crisis**

Ongoing collaboration with hospitals helped the Rhode Island Department of Health identify a surge in overdoses this week. HARI member hospitals report opioid-related overdoses to the Department within 48 hours. This data assists public health and law enforcement officials in identifying surges and trends, and allows them to respond accordingly. This is just one example of how hospitals have worked with state and community partners to address this crisis.

Hospitals have been dedicated participants in state efforts to address overdoses. They are active participants in the Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force. The availability of peer recovery coaches in emergency departments is a key component of the state's plan to reduce overdoses by one-third in three years. The program, led by AnchorED, has received national attention.

Next week is National Public Health Week. Hospitals' response to the overdose crisis is a prime example of their dedication to improving the health of Rhode Islanders through work within their walls and out in the community. Hospitals are committed partners in achieving a healthy Rhode Island.