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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

APRIL 12, 2024

Frederick County Health Department and Addiction Policy Forum Launch Anti-Stigma Initiative to Improve Community Responses to Addiction

FREDERICK, MD -- Frederick County Health Department is honored to have been chosen as one of 100 pilot sites to partner with Addiction Policy Forum as part of a nationwide [Anti-Stigma Initiative](#). This Initiative is focused on reducing stigma and increasing knowledge about addiction in their communities.

Frederick County community members are invited to participate in a survey to gather a better understanding of the attitudes and knowledge people have of addiction. The survey is open to Frederick County community members 18 years or older. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and all responses will be anonymous. To take the survey, [click here](#). To take the survey in Spanish, respondents will need to select "Español" under language in the top right corner of the survey. This survey will be open through May.

Addiction is one of the most stigmatized health conditions on earth. Individuals with substance use disorder are often stereotyped and subjected to discrimination. These negative attitudes and behaviors, also known as stigma, prevent people who are struggling from reaching out for help and isolate families affected by the disease who fear being judged by their communities.

"We are excited about bringing this pilot to Frederick County", says Jessica Ellis, Harm Reduction and Diversion Programs Manager. "We want to hear from our community members so that we can reduce addiction stigma in ways that are unique to our community. We want everyone in our community to feel comfortable asking for the help they need."

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The survey will help measure addiction knowledge, support for public health responses to addiction, and perceptions around addiction in the community. The results will help inform strategies to better educate, collaborate, and advocate needed resources and strategies to curb the addiction crisis across the community and state.

For more information about Behavioral Health in Frederick County, visit Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS or call 301-600-1755.

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