

**66th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International  
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**Call for Submissions for Special Sessions: The Opioid/Drug Crisis**

**Organizer**

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**Description**

The United States is in the midst of a drug crisis of unprecedented magnitude. It developed slowly at first, but has exploded across the country in recent years. It is exacting a huge human and financial cost. As the crisis has accelerated, it has begun to decimate many areas. While Central Appalachia has often been considered as “Ground Zero” for the opioid crisis, it now affects areas across the country, though more rural regions continue to be especially vulnerable to the negative impacts.

Until recently, regional science research on the opioid crisis was very limited. In the past couple years, regional scientists have become increasingly engaged on this important topic, as its magnitude and the breadth of its impacts have spread.

I would like to organize one or more sessions on the opioid crisis in the US (or more broadly, the substance abuse crisis), for the 2019 NARSC conference, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. Papers and presentations ranging from mostly descriptive research to high-level statistical analysis are welcome, and at any geographic level that may shed light on local, state, or some larger regional aspect of the crisis. While the main focus may be on opioids, papers more broadly related to some local/regional/spatial aspects of drugs or substance abuse are welcome.

**Submission**

This year, they have asked that panels or organized sessions be submitted all at once. Prospective session organizers have been asked to assemble all titles, authorship information (email and affiliation) and abstracts before beginning the submission process.

If you would like to present a paper in the opioid/drug sessions, please submit your abstract directly to me rather than to the NARSC conference page. Once the session is submitted and accepted, all participants will be notified so that they know to take care of registration through the conference website. The session will not be included in the program (even the preliminary program) unless all participants have registered.

**The deadline for submission of sessions is July 1, 2019.** Thus I need commitments and abstracts before July 1, preferably by June 24, 2019 in order to have time to put the sessions together.

*If you will not have a paper to present, but would be interested in participating as a discussant, let me know.*

Please forward this announcement to colleagues or graduate student researchers that may be interested. You can find more information about the conference at [www.narsc.org](http://www.narsc.org).

Brian