

# [test] Northeast & Caribbean PTTC Quarterly Bulletin Spring 2021

Northeast & Caribbean PTTC <northeastcaribbean@pttcnetwork.org>

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Northeast & Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

**PTTC**

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Northeast & Caribbean PTTC Quarterly Bulletin | Spring 2021



## Current Events

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted systems of care across the country and world. It has highlighted racial and ethnic disparities and is likely to have long-term effects on public health systems, including substance use prevention. The behavioral health workforce has rapidly adapted how they work in order to continue to meet individual and community needs despite these challenges. The Northeast & Caribbean Prevention Technology Transfer Center team has been actively engaged within the national PTTC Network to develop, compile, and disseminate helpful prevention resources and culturally-informed training opportunities in light of these unprecedented times as we move forward into this next phase of the pandemic.

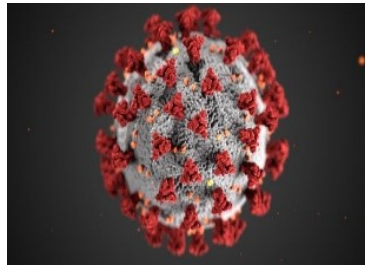
The Northeast & Caribbean PTTC compiled the following national resources now available for your use:



Listening Session and Strategic Discussion Series: ([emerging issues around COVID-19 and social Determinants of Health for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Workforce](#))



The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine ([Mental Health and Substance Use disorders in the Era of Covid-19: With a Special focus on the Impact of the Pandemic on Communities of Color: A Workshop](#))



Youth and Prevention in Covid-19 ([Promoting Youth Engagement & Connectedness in a Covid-19 World](#))

Pandemic Response Resources ([Federal, PTTC Network, Prevention, and Evidence-Based Resources](#))

Resources for Clinicians from NIAAA ([helping patients access treatment during the pandemic](#))

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## Spotlight on Learning

### Virtual Reality for behavioral health workforces development in the era of Covid-19

*Cross-Technology Transfer Center (TTC) Workgroup on Virtual Learning. (2020). Virtual Reality of Behavioral Health Workforce Development in the Era of COVID-19. Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment.*

The COVID-19 pandemic emerged at a time of increased investment in substance use and mental health services. With the many challenges that the pandemic has imposed upon the healthcare system and behavioral health workforce, the national Technology Transfer Centers have shifted delivery methods to expand training and technical assistance during this time in which these services are strictly virtual. The Cross-Technology Transfer Center Workgroup recently wrote on this topic, and on the ways in which our TTCs have been able to successfully adapt. Read the full article [here](#). (If you are unable to access the journal, you can email a request to [necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu)).

### New from *Partnership to End Addiction*

Studies show that alcohol is the most widely used substance among teens and young adults. Alcohol also poses substantial health and safety risks for this age demographic, including significantly higher odds for developing alcohol or other substance use disorders. Schools that implement comprehensive and research-based prevention programming that engages families and communities can have a real impact. Download the new guide *Alcohol: What School Professionals Need to Know to Help Protect Young People* [here](#).

## Alcohol sales during COVID-19 social restrictions: Initial evidence from Alcohol Beverage Control States

*Morton, C.M. (2021). Alcohol sales during COVID-19 social restrictions: Initial evidence from Alcoholic Beverage Control states. Substance Abuse.*

Based on growing alcohol sales and the disruptions to normal life, evidence points to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has to potential to seriously impact alcohol use behavior. Research suggests that paying attention to the changing patterns of alcohol consumption in the midst of the pandemic is important. Read the full study [here](#). (If you are unable to access the journal, you can email a request to [necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu)).

## Locational and Contextual Attributes of Opioid Overdoses in New Jersey

*Treitler, P., Powell, K.G., Peterson, N.A., Morton, C.M., Borys, S. & Hallcom, D. (2021). Locational and contextual attributes of opioid overdoses in New Jersey. Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions.*

In response to the opioid crisis and unprecedented rates of overdoses, a study was conducted on the locational and contextual attributes of overdose events to identify individual and community level predictors of nonfatal opioid overdoses. The findings point to need for expanded availability of evidence-based treatment and recovery support. Read the full study [here](#). (If you are unable to access the journal, you can email a request to [necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:necpttc@ssw.rutgers.edu)).

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## The Biden-Harris Administration's Statement of Drug Policy Priorities for Year One

The Biden-Harris administration has made it clear that one of their top priorities is addressing the overdose and addiction epidemic. These drug policy priorities will include expanding access to evidence-based treatment, advancing racial equity issues in our approach to drug policy, enhancing evidence-based harm reduction efforts, and much more. Read the full statement [here](#).

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## Training

**Webinar & Learning Lab Series: What Implementation Experts Need to Know About Program Fidelity**

This two part series is hosted by the National PTTC Evidence-Based Intervention Work Group. Both sessions will focus on fidelity and the use of innovations, including how to adapt while ensuring the intended outcomes. An overview of available prevention registries will be covered with tools on how to utilize registries in your research question. Session 1 is a webinar, held on April 13th and session 2 is a virtual learning lab, held on May 18th, where participants will have the opportunity to discuss these concepts with other prevention practitioners.

[April 13 Webinar Registration](#)

[May 18 Learning Lab Registration](#)

## **Impact of Stimulant Use on the Brain and the Body**

In 2020, the ATTC Stimulant Workgroup released a day long curriculum on Stimulants and their Impact on Brain & Behavior. This two-hour webinar will combine parts of that curriculum to address “Stimulants: What are They and Who Uses Them” and “Stimulants: Impact on the Brain and Body”. It will include information on secondary and tertiary prevention.

[May 4 Webinar Registration](#)



## **Culturally Informed Care**

### **Recognizing and Eliminating Disparities in Addiction though Culturally informed Healthcare**

REACH is a 1-year educational program for racial and ethnic minority trainees interested in becoming addiction specialists. This program prepares medical students, APRN/NP and PA Students, and medical residents to care for racial/ethnic underrepresented minority patients with substance use disorder. Read more about the curriculum, eligibility, and application process [here](#).

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**Northeast Caribbean PTTC Newsletter** comes to you quarterly.

For questions and feedback, contact [Clare Neary](#).

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