



Northeast & Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Northeast and Caribbean PTTC Quarterly Bulletin | Winter 2023



Current Events

Black History Month

During the past month, our nation observed Black History Month, recognizing the generations of adversity exacted to the Black and African American community, while honoring their unique contributions to the foundation of our country. In the context of Substance Misuse Prevention, professionals recognize a lack of perspective in the history of this population affects the delivery of services. In response, the [African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence](#) published an essay entitled, "[Using the Gifts of History to Promote Wellness](#)," examining how an enhanced perspective can help us notice, understand, and address the many legacies of this history. Their resources [Healing History: Where History Meets Behavioral Health Equity for African Americans](#), and the first two chapters of the [Healing History](#) webpage, are available to support professionals.

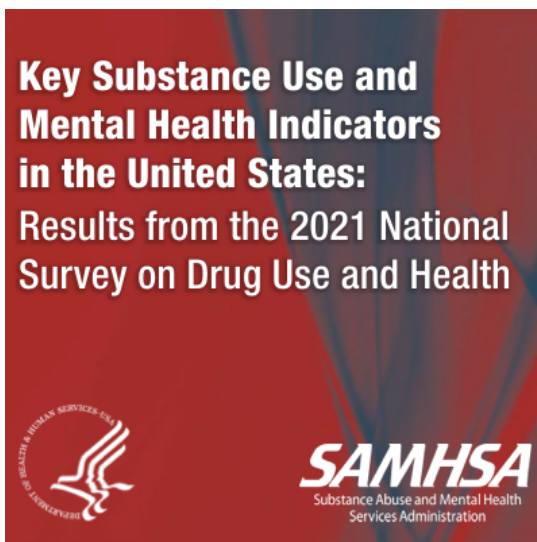
Harm Reduction Highlighted During the State of the Union

During this year's [State of the Union](#) address, President Biden announced an expansion of access to evidence-based prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services in the Opioid and Overdose Epidemic. One mechanism of this expansion will be the Department of Health and Human Services initiatives to support states this Spring in efforts to use existing funding to purchase and distribute naloxone. Additionally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) plans to provide enhanced technical assistance to states who have existing State Opioid Response grants, including hosting peer learning forums and national policy academies while convening with organizations that distribute naloxone. In conjunction with these efforts, the Office of National Drug Control Policy will partner with the Ad Council to expand the existing [Real Deal on Fentanyl](#), an awareness campaign on targeting youth, ages 13-24, to include educational components highlighting naloxone, its use, availability, and related resources.



One of the graphics available from the Ad Council's Real Deal on Fentanyl campaign.

Spotlight on Learning



The [2021 National Drug Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\) Report](#), released in January of 2023, provides information gathered from a multimode data collection survey on alcohol use, illicit drug use, tobacco product use, and nicotine vaping, in addition to mental health and substance use conditions. This data will inform SAMSHA's public health response to policy and practice and can provide key insights into our work as prevention professionals.



The [Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2011–2021](#) released in 2023 includes current data, as well as 10-year trend data in many areas of youth behavior relevant to substance misuse prevention professionals. It includes data on risk & protective factors, social determinants of health and more, as well as findings related to adolescent health and well-being, both before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and through 2021.

[Resources](#)

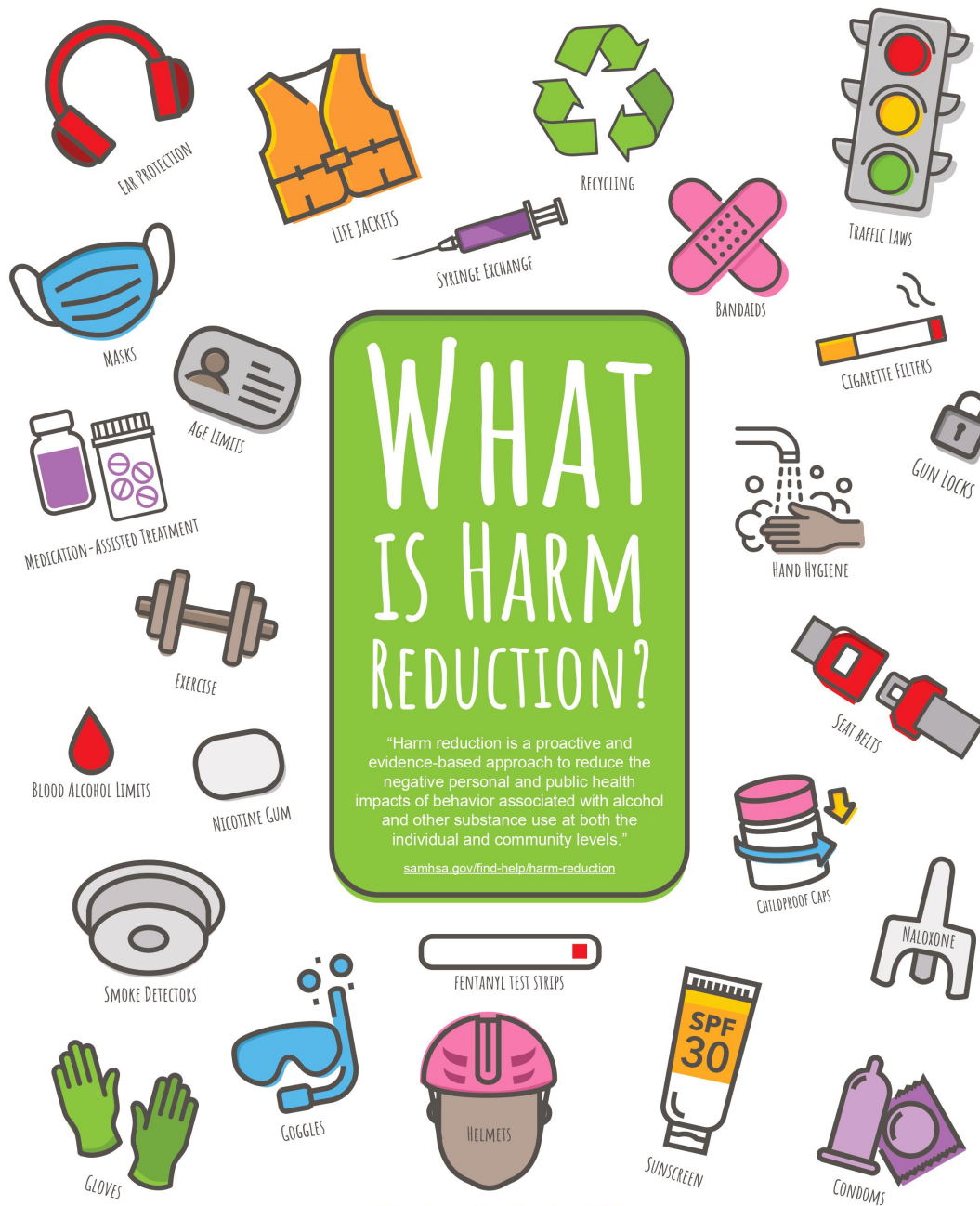
[Northeast and Caribbean PTTC Network's Handouts on Stigma](#) are downloadable, one-page information sheets covering stigma: what is it, where does it come from and approaches to prevent it, as well as a concise list of additional resources. These are excellent resources for coalition meetings, health fairs, and other outreach events.

[The Center of Disease and Control Prevention's National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center](#) will connect harm reduction programs to resources and experts that can help programs better serve their communities. Help is free and is available via a wide range of web-based resources as well as by requesting technical assistance.

[SAMSHA's NSDUH Evidence-Based Resource Center's Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Manual](#) from the [Harm Reduction Coalition](#) is aimed at supporting the development and management of overdose prevention projects.

[The National Hispanic and Latino PTTC's Video on Harm Reduction](#) has created a short video in which they define and provide an overview of harm reduction services, then discuss the impact and associated stigma. The video is available in [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#) as well.

[The Mid-America PTTC's Understanding Harm Reduction as Prevention](#) podcast recorded with Kimberly Nelson, SAMHSA Regional Administrator, discusses recent data trends and how the future of harm reduction influences prevention work. Additionally, the poster below was created to identify some of the most common harm reduction methods to help normalize the term and broaden its definition. You can access the informational graphic your use with your own agency [here](#).



Original concept from Devin Sweat, 2022



Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
 Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



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SAMHSA's Cannabidiol (CBD) – Potential Harms, Side Effects, and Unknowns is a new advisory focusing on the risks and harms of CBD, especially those sold over the counter. This advisory clarifies common misconceptions about CBD, given its broad availability and marketing for several medical conditions despite limited evidence of efficacy. This is an excellent resource to share with your communities to raise awareness of the potential harms associated with CBD use, and inform parents, in particular, of eliminating the use of non-FDA-approved CBD products for their children.

The Northeast & Caribbean Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (NeC-ROTAC) has been created to develop and disseminate training and technical assistance addressing opioid, stimulant, and other substance use disorders affecting rural communities. NeC-ROTAC teams facilitate the identification of model programs, develop and update materials related to the prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery activities for substance use disorders, and ensure that high quality training and technical assistance is provided when addressing these issues.

Upcoming Trainings

Northeast & Caribbean PTTC Sharpening Your Prevention Tools Series

Join us for a series of virtual technical assistance sessions focusing on skills to support your efforts in creating community change. During each session, experts will introduce tools (sustainability plans, strategic planning, and logic models) and give participants the opportunity to ask questions in this interview-style series.

Developing Sustainability Plans that Work

March 8, 2023 at 1PM – 2:30PM ET

[Click here for additional information or to register!](#)

Our first session will be led by Emily Bhargava, an expert in the prevention of substance abuse, violence, suicide, teen pregnancy, obesity, and HIV. She has 15-years' experience leading community-level health promotion efforts guiding the planning and implementation of culturally and linguistically responsive community-level prevention.

Using Strategic Plans to Move from Vision to Action

March 15, 2023 at 1PM – 2:30PM ET

[Click here for additional information or to register!](#)

Our second session will be led by Carol Oliver, a nationally recognized leader and trainer in substance misuse prevention. She has expertise in evidence-based methods, stigma reduction, instructional design, and in-person and virtual learning. Carol specializes in developing systems to solve complex health-related problems and create effective behavioral health workforces.

Logic Modeling as Your Roadmap

March 23, 2023 at 1PM – 2:30PM ET

[Click here for additional information or to register!](#)

Our third session will be led by Shai Fuxman, an expert in program evaluation, cultural competence, and quantitative and qualitative research. He provides training and coaching to help schools and districts promote students' SEL and mental health well-being using a multi-tiered system of supports, as well as to state agencies and community-based organizations to implement and evaluate effective substance misuse prevention programs.

Northeast & Caribbean PTTC Newsletter is delivered quarterly. For more information or to submit an item, contact Clare Neary at cneary@ssw.rutgers.edu.

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The PTTC Network is funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Click [here](#) to join our mailing list & learn about our trainings.

