



Northeast & Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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Current Events

Professional Development for Prevention Professionals



As individuals become more aware of the current public health crisis surrounding substance use, the value of prevention initiatives has been increasingly emphasized as policy makers look to promote best practices and sustainable solutions. In the Director of National Institute on Drug Abuse blog post, entitled [Creating Sustainable Home for Prevention Services](#), Dr. Nora Volkow discusses the criticalness of prevention interventions while commenting on the barriers to their successful implementation. The article highlights the limitations in funding, dedicated infrastructure, and prevention workforce development and its impact on the sustainability of prevention efforts. Volkow recommends “greater collaboration between prevention researchers and those in a position to fund prevention programs could facilitate developing interventions that have greater promise of being paid for and sustained and that are more responsive to community needs.” Further development in the prevention field is necessary to combat the current public health crisis surrounding substance misuse.

At the Northeast & Caribbean PTTC, we know professional development of the prevention workforce plays a vital role in the individual careers and the overall health of our communities. [Introduction to the Prevention Core Competencies for Prevention Professionals](#) is a new HealthKnowledge course developed, by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) & the PTTC National Coordinating Office, based on SAMHSA’s 2021 research report [Prevention Core Competencies](#). The six-module course covers foundational competencies for prevention professionals and the needed knowledge, skills and abilities associated with each. To create an account and view the full catalog of courses, visit [HealthKnowledge.org](https://www.healthknowledge.org).

Spotlight on Learning

[Women and Opioid Use](#) is a research brief published by SAMHSA discussing the unique challenges women face in treatment and recovery from opioids. The document highlights the connection between Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Interpersonal Violence, the stigmatization of women in OUD recovery, the benefits of gendered approaches to prevention and treatment, and the advantage of

collaborative multi-agency approaches.



The National Hispanic and Latino PTTC has translated SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework, a comprehensive guide designed for prevention professionals to plan, implement, and evaluate prevention practices and programs. The original [English](#) and translated [Spanish](#) versions are available to download.

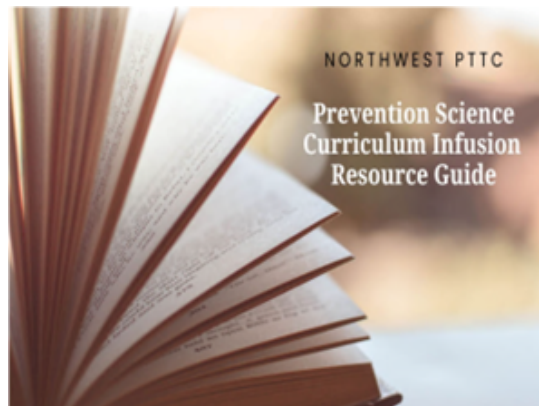


[Community Engagement: An Essential Component of an Effective and Equitable Substance Use Prevention System](#), part of SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Resource Guide Series, looks at the research on community engagement in substance use prevention and its role in improving population health. A summary is available via the [Guide Overview](#).

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE SERIES

**Community Engagement:
An Essential Component
of an Effective and
Equitable Substance
Use Prevention System**

The Northwest PTTC has developed a [Prevention Science Curriculum Infusion Resource Guide](#) to provide educators across disciplines with a variety of materials related to three broad content areas where prevention science can inform prevention practice – epidemiology, evidence-based programs, and implementation. These resources can be infused into existing courses to enhance training in prevention science.



Resources

NEW [Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services](#): The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced a new office, the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services, under the Administration for Children and Families. The goal of the office is to develop an ACF-wide strategy and action plan for preventing and responding to domestic violence across social service

programs, maintain and lead coordination and collaboration efforts across agency partners, and prioritize the continued implementation appropriations.

Drug Enforcement Administration

"Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier. DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine."

DEA ADMINISTRATOR
ANNE MILGRAM



PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT

The [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#) is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. The [Xylazine and Opioid Use: An Update](#) webinar, published by the Northeast & Caribbean PTTC, is intended to provide the latest information available on Xylazine, including associated effects on the body and long-term impacts on opioid users, and review current organizational strategies to help prevent exacerbated and related harm. Additionally, the PTTC National Coordinating Office has published this [research brief](#) outlining xylazine's impact on the current substance use epidemic.

In case you did not see the National Coordinating Office (NCO) PTTC Post from April's Alcohol Awareness Month, there is an article entitled [Connections are Key](#) promoting awareness and providing education on preventing underage alcohol use and preventing alcohol misuse for all populations. The Pacific Southwest PTTC has published a webinar entitled [Alcohol and Women: When Equal is Not Better](#), which describes trends in alcohol consumption among women, discusses how marketing of alcohol products directly effects women, and identifies opportunities to prevent and reduce excessive drinking among women. For more information on science-based resources about alcohol and health, check out the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#) webpage, as well as, the new publication, [Rethinking Drinking](#), which offers valuable information on drinking patterns and how they affect an individual's health.

The National American Indian & Alaska Native PTTC published a fact sheet entitled [Alcohol Awareness Flyer](#). Did you know American Indians and Alaska Natives are less likely than any other racial or ethnic group to use alcohol, yet alcohol is the most-used substance among Native peoples? For additional information on substance use trends among American Indians and Alaska Natives, check out [2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: American Indians and Alaska Natives](#) published by SAMHSA.

If you are looking for additional materials for your professional development, the Northeast & Caribbean PTTC developed a series, Sharpening Your Prevention Skills, which provides the opportunity to learn from experts in the field while gaining insight from their years of experience. The recordings on our website include [Developing Sustainability Plans that Work](#), [Using Strategic Planning to Move from Vision to Action](#), [Logic Modeling as Your Road Map](#) and [Harnessing the Power of Communication to Promote Your Prevention Message](#). Additionally, the Planning Your Professional Development Journey [Session 1](#) and [Session 2](#) are available online.

[Upcoming Trainings](#)

The Power of Data in Prevention

June 20, 2023 at 1PM – 2:30PM ET

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

Data Informed Decision Making, or DIDM, is a critical part of strategic prevention planning. Though we may recognize the important role data plays in our prevention efforts, we may still struggle to understand and navigate the many ways to collect, analyze, interpret and use data to inform our work. When we use data within each step of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), we position ourselves well to identify priority needs in collaboration with the communities we serve and to select the best interventions to achieve the goals we set as prevention professionals.

Determining a Direction for Your Professional Development Plan

June 29, 2023 at 1PM – 2:30PM ET

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

As prevention professionals, participating in continuing education, mentoring and other professional development activities are an opportunity to increase our knowledge and deliver more effective services to our communities. It may be a requirement of our jobs. For preventionists, it is a key regular step to building a career. However, creating a personal professional development plan can seem challenging, whether it's finding time within our schedules or balancing family obligations, deciding which trainings to select, or overcoming difficulties and finding the motivation to continue. Here is an opportunity to come together and discuss these challenges, share strategies, lessons learned, and get advice from fellow prevention professionals trying to reach their career goals. This session will review the key components to include in creating professional development plans, identify goals and needs for short- and long-term professional growth, as well as sharing success and challenges that arise during the process. We will provide the opportunity for participants to share their plans, ask questions and crowd-source solutions and strategies from their peers, as well as answer questions on updating professional development plans.

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.

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