



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 Newsletter | Fall 2023



[To view this Newsletter in Spanish, click here.](#)

Current Events

As we look forward to the year ahead and begin planning with our prevention communities, networks, and coalitions, reviewing the fundamental principles of strategic planning can aid in the development of and execution of goals for the New Year. When the year begins with a clear strategic plan, we are better able to identify the direction of our organizations, make clearer decisions throughout the year, and maximize our impact.

If you are looking for a review of strategic prevention tools, be sure to check out the Northwest PTTC's two-part series, [Using Logic Models for Organizational Planning and Evaluation](#) and [Incorporating Logic Models into Strategic Plans](#). Additionally, if you missed our [Planning SMART - Strengthening Goals &](#)

[Objectives to Improve Your Prevention Planning Process](#), take a refresher course on the steps in data-driven public health planning processes which guide prevention efforts and examine the role and importance of goal- and objective-setting. Then, once you've identified your goals, review our [Sharpening Your Prevention Skills: Using Strategic Planning to Move from Vision to Action](#) and take a concentrated look at what strategic planning is and is not, the key components involved, and how to utilize it in small efforts and large.

Lastly, as we all begin to develop 2024 career training plans, stay tuned for our upcoming session on Professional Development for Prevention Practitioners in January 2024! This webinar will explore how to begin or continue your journey toward gaining the state-of-the-science prevention knowledge and skills that will strengthen your practice and lead your community toward positive and sustainable outcomes. Be on the lookout for our [weekly announcement emails](#) & follow us on social media for registration information.

Spotlight on Learning

Partnership to End Addiction has published [Youth Protection Provisions Within Marijuana Liberalization Laws](#) to help inform policymakers and community stakeholders of the most effective ways to protect young people on the precipice of state marijuana drug law reforms. The recommendations are derived from literature reviews of marijuana, nicotine/tobacco, and alcohol research, as well as landscape assessments of states that have laws permitting the sale of marijuana for adult nonmedical use. As described by Partnership to End Addiction, the goal of the report is to aid “researchers, policy professionals, communities, families, health care providers, educators, youth, and lawmakers help ensure that efforts to reform historically punitive drug laws accomplish the goal of ending the ‘War on Drugs’ without exacerbating the risk to young people of marijuana exposure, access, normalization, and use.”

The Center for Disease Control’s [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#) aims to confront the systems and policies that have resulted in the generational injustice that has given rise to health inequities. This guide intends to help public health professionals, ensure their communication products and strategies adapt to the specific cultural, linguistic, environmental, and historical situation of each population or audience of focus. Professionals will find information on utilizing a health equity lens, person-centered language, and preferred terms for population groups, as well as a discussion of how

communications are developed and how to evaluate images for inclusive communication practices.

SAMHSA, in collaboration with RTI International, has released two resources intended to aid community practitioners in the ongoing work to decrease the consequences of opioid use. These products will equip public health practitioners, coalitions, nonprofits, and other groups working to prevent opioid-related deaths in their local communities with knowledge and best practices. The guides are based on insights and tools from the ongoing National Institutes of Health (NIH) HEALing Communities Study. The [Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach \(ORCCA\) Practice Guide 2023](#) includes evidence-based strategies for reducing opioid overdose deaths. The strategies include opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution, medication for treatment of opioid use disorder, and safer opioid prescribing and disposal. The [Engaging Community Coalitions to Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths Practice Guide 2023](#) provides guidance on building and maintaining community coalitions that focus on the opioid crisis, as well as approaches for assessing how well coalitions are functioning.



Resources

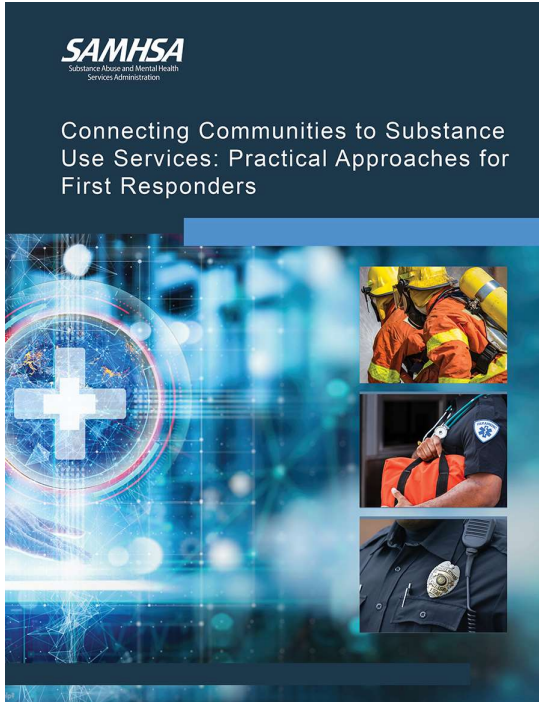
In September, the Northeast Caribbean PTTC hosted [Equitable Language: Why It Matters](#), a webinar highlighting why using equitable language is a skill that can

be learned and applied in the work we do as prevention professionals, paving the way to greater successes at achieving our outcomes. The session focused on defining “equitable language” to support prevention professionals’ efforts to reach their intended audience, reviewing the benefits of using equitable language in communication tools and events, and identifying strategies for using equitable language as part of a community engagement approach when building partnerships and sharing information with communities of focus.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Drug Enforcement Agency and Discovery Education, [Operation Prevention](#) provides no-cost online tools for students, educators, families, and professionals on topics of substance use prevention. The [Culture-Based Resource Bundle](#), designed for elementary and middle school students, uses the wisdom of Native practices of wellness combined with the insights of modern science to help Native and non-Native students avoid the dangers of substance use. For those practicing outside of academic settings, the project has released [Workplace Resources](#) designed to empower professionals by providing information, including perspectives on science, health, society, and the legal system, to give clarity to the opioid epidemic.



The [Connecting Communities to Substance Use Services: Practical Tools for First Responders](#) provides practical, evidence-based information for first responder agencies, their partners, and communities to implement or expand practices and programs for linking people to substance use services.



FindSupport.gov is now available in Spanish! Visit [EncuentraApoyo.gov](https://www.findsupport.gov/encuentra-apoyo) to find support on your journey to seek help for mental health or substance use conditions.

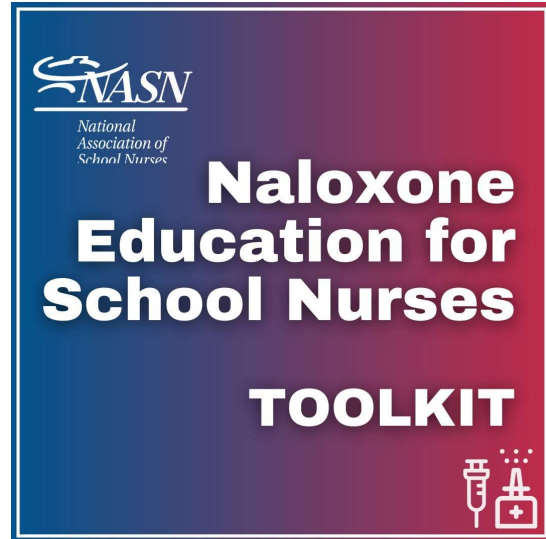


The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's, [Tobacco Education Resource Library](https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-education-resource-library), provides free print materials and web content aimed at communicating the dangers of tobacco use, including vaping and e-cigarettes. The Resource Library facilitates ordering and downloading of print materials, syndication of web content, and downloading images to share on social media.

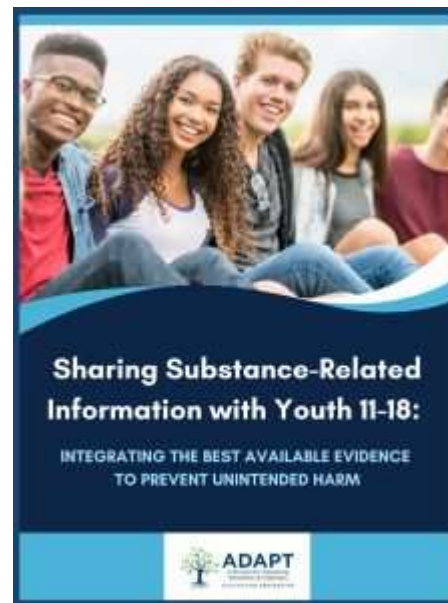


School nurses are leaders in student health, and they have the education

and expertise to assist the community and school leadership in assessing the need for and implementing a campus naloxone program. When administered promptly, naloxone can rapidly reverse opioid overdoses. The decision to implement a naloxone program in schools can be a community decision, and it can save lives. The National Association of School Nurses now offers a [Naloxone Education for School Nurses Toolkit](#) with resources to assist school nurses and other school leaders in evaluating and responding to the drug overdose crisis.



[The Sharing Substance-Related Information with Youth 11-18: Integrating the Best Available Evidence to Prevent Unintended Harm](#), created by the Prevention Intervention Resource Center, is designed to provide evidence-informed considerations for how to share substance-related information with youth 11-18 grounded in the science of social norms to reduce the risk of unintended harm.



[TTC Network News](#)

[The Joint Meeting on Youth Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery](#) will bring together all relevant stakeholders, constituencies, and interested parties from around the country to address the number one public health issue facing young people today: alcohol and other drugs. This will be the first joint national meeting in over a decade convened to address this public health imperative. The national

conference will be held from March 18 – 24, 2024 in Baltimore, MD. For more information, check out youthrecoveryanswers.org.

[The Prevention Science Curriculum Infusion Resource Guide](#), created by the Northwest PTTC, was developed 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.

[The Introduction to the Prevention Core Competencies for Prevention Professionals](#), available on [HealthKnowledge](#), covers the foundations of substance use prevention science for early and mid-career prevention professionals. The curriculum utilizes evidence-based strategies for adult learning; and builds upon and complements existing workforce training curricula and resources (e.g., SPF Application for Prevention Success Training, Foundations of Prevention Science and Practice Curriculum, and Universal Prevention Curriculum).

[Upcoming Trainings](#)

Equity and the Strategic Prevention Framework: Stories from the Field (with Spanish & English interpreters)

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 1:00PM –2:30PM ET

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

Cultural competence, or individuals' or organizations' ability to interact effectively with people from diverse backgrounds, is critically important to prevention success. Doing this effectively involves examining and addressing systemic and structural factors that lead to health inequities and disparities so that everyone can achieve their highest level of health and well-being, regardless of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other social determinants of health.

Join us for an interactive session that delves deep into what it means to center equity in our prevention efforts, and how communities can infuse a commitment to equity through implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). We will first create a shared understanding of important terms and concepts related

to equity and then spend the majority of the session hearing directly from a panel of prevention practitioners who will share their real-world experiences of building inclusive coalitions and developing prevention plans with equity at the forefront.

This session features Spanish-speaking and English-speaking presenters; therefore, interpretation will be available throughout the session.

Implicit Bias, Understanding the Impact of What We Don't See

Thursday, December 11, 2023 at 10:00AM –12:00PM ET

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

This webinar is most beneficial when taken with the webinar Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Behavioral Health Care (offered on the same day). However, you may choose to register for either one or both.

Research indicates that race and ethnicity are predictors of how services are rendered and further suggests that implicit bias is one component that influences the provision of poor care. From a prevention perspective, the elusiveness of unconscious bias underscores provider perception, unwitting use of stigmatic language, and influences assumptions that can lead to microaggressions affecting a person's capacity to respond to care and commit to their recovery process.

This interactive two-hour training will discuss how cognitive bias develops, contributes to inequitable outcomes for persons of color, and inform on bias reducing techniques for enhancing the provider-client interactions and outcomes for marginalized communities.

Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Behavioral Health Care

Thursday, December 11, 2023 at 1:00PM –3:00PM ET

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

This webinar is most beneficial when taken with the webinar Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Behavioral Health Care (offered on the same day). However, you may choose to register for either one or both.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness recognizes that current environmental factors are traumatizing people of color, which as a risk factor can also initiate or increase substance use, and potentially developing trauma and stress

complications. Prevention professionals who integrate cultural humility in practice can provide culturally responsive care and mitigate the potential impact of implicit bias.

Building on what will be presented in the Implicit Bias training, this interactive presentation will review dynamics of culture in substance use prevention and recovery support services. Additionally, content will review cultural humility key components and how they translate in practice for person-centered care and enhance the opportunities that build trust and rapport.

We want to know about you and your training needs! Have any suggestions? [Email us](#).

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

Northeast & Caribbean Prevention Technology Transfer Center
School of Social Work, Rutgers University
390 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

<https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/northeast-caribbean-pttc/home>

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.

If you no longer want to receive the Northeast and Caribbean PTTC Quarterly Newsletter, please [NECSUB](#)