



# Great Lakes Prevention Technology Transfer Center Report 2019

## Needs for Training/Technical Assistance

Findings from the Community Needs Assessment Survey  
in Health and Human Services Region 5:  
*Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Great Lakes Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) is to support resource development and dissemination, training and technical assistance, and workforce development to the prevention field in the Health and Human Services Region 5. The goals of the Great Lakes PTTC are to:

- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of evidence-based substance abuse prevention practices.
- Heighten the awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce.
- Develop strategies for delivering culturally-informed care with diverse practitioners, researchers, policymakers, family members, and consumers.
- Increase access to publicly available, free-of-charge training and technical assistance for the prevention services field.

Funding for this project comes from a Cooperative Agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The project period is from 9/30/18 – 9/29/2023.

In an effort to better understand the needs of providers within Region 5, the Great Lakes PTTC conducted a survey of providers in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This 21-question survey asked respondents to provide answers regarding the importance of various training and technical assistance topics.

This report provides findings from respondents in Region 5 who completed the survey during the period March 5, 2019, through April 7, 2019. During the survey period, 302 responses were received. Results of this survey will help the Great Lakes PTTC to better understand training and technical assistance needs in Region 5.

### Major Findings:

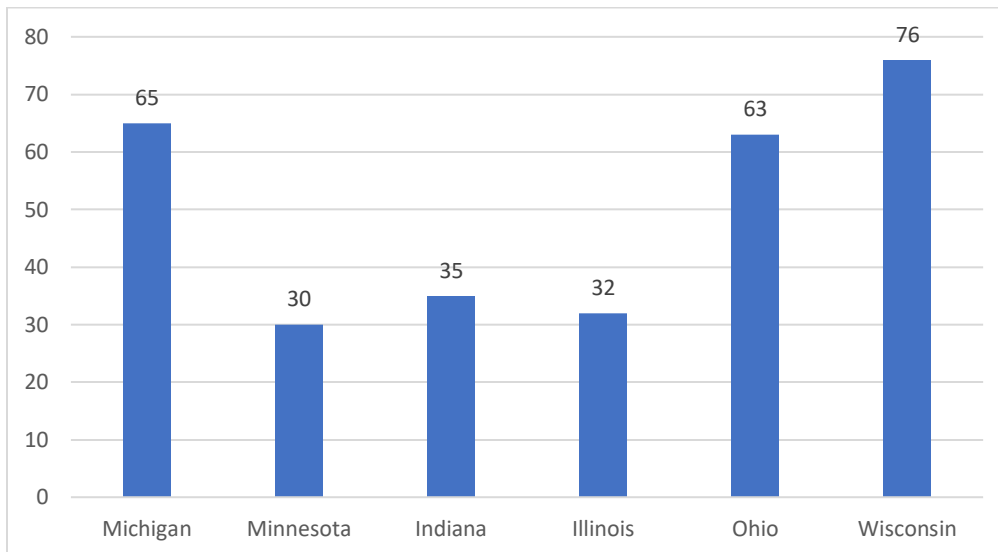
- The majority of respondents work in a community coalition setting and consider themselves program staff.
- Those working with a rural community were most represented, followed by those working with an urban community.
- 66% of respondents do not hold certification as a Prevention Specialist, Prevention Professional, or other prevention-related certification.
- Areas of prevention focus that respondents and their agencies addressed were ranked as:
  1. Alcohol
  2. Opioids
  3. Marijuana
  4. Tobacco
  5. Electronic Nicotine



- The highest needs in the region for training and/or technical assistance were ranked as:
  1. Sustaining positive prevention outcomes
  2. Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it
  3. Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness
  4. Suicide prevention, mental health promotion
  5. Using data to make decisions
- 92% of respondents were interested or maybe interested in participating in a regional learning collaborative across the Great Lakes Region to share success and challenges and learn from other prevention professionals.
- The highest percentage of respondents (36%) have worked in the field of substance misuse/abuse for over 10 years, followed by 34% having worked in the field for 1-5 years.

## FINDINGS

The number of responses varies by state, as can be seen in the following table.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS IN REGION 5

A total of 301 individuals responded to the survey. All six states were represented in the total; however, one can see that participation was significantly higher in some states than others. As reflected in the chart below, the respondents' positions in their organizations varied.



**What is your job responsibility? (First choice)**

	Total	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	Ohio	Wisconsin
Administrator	54	2	3	10	0	29	10
Coalition Director/Coordinator	43	2	7	5	7	9	13
Educator	38	4	2	11	4	5	12
Other	30	3	3	7	6	4	7
Program Staff	81	11	14	16	10	6	24
Supervisory or program staff	52	10	6	14	2	9	10
Student/Intern	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

One can see from the following chart that a significant percentage (40%) of respondents reported working within a Community Coalition. Other responses represent sectors such as schools, county government, and other community organizations.

**What is your work setting or profession/discipline? (First choice)**

	Total	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	Ohio	Wisconsin
Community Coalition	104	8	16	24	8	20	28
Community-based organization	47	11	6	10	1	14	5
County government	42	1	1	8	7	7	17
Faith-based organization	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Local government	17	0	0	3	2	7	5
Higher Education	6	1	1	0	0	2	2
Independent consultant/provider	4	1	1	0	1	1	0
Other	18	2	0	4	5	2	5
Primary Care or other medical setting	16	3	2	3	0	1	7
Recovery Community Organization	10	2	0	4	0	3	1
School (K-12)	23	2	6	5	3	3	4
State/Jurisdiction government	11	1	2	1	3	2	2

The survey attempted to discover what the respondents' organization's primary focus was and which populations were primarily served. The following charts show the varied responses.



**What is your organization's primary focus? (First choice)**

	Total	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	Ohio	Wisconsin
Criminal Justice	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Education K-12	21	0	4	4	4	5	4
Faith Community	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Government	9	1	0	2	1	3	2
Healthcare	11	0	1	5	1	2	2
Higher Education	4	1	0	1	0	0	2
MH Promotion	5	0	0	1	0	1	3
MH Treatment	8	2	0	3	0	3	0
Other	20	1	3	6	1	2	7
Recovery Support Services	8	4	1	0	0	0	3
Research	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Social/Human Services	20	1	3	2	2	4	8
SUD Prevention	165	14	21	32	17	41	39
SUD Treatment	25	7	2	9	2	0	5
Violence Prevention	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

**What populations do you work with? (check all that apply)**

	Total	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	Ohio	Wisconsin
Active Duty Military and Veterans	40	3	2	12	3	11	9
Adolescents	238	19	28	54	24	48	64
Adults	234	26	27	55	15	49	61
African Americans	107	20	10	25	9	30	12
Children	178	8	23	45	13	46	42
Educators	151	12	17	33	13	35	41
First Responders	95	10	10	18	4	26	27
Hispanic/Latinx	102	19	11	23	7	21	20
Immigrants	61	10	4	14	7	13	12
LGBTQ	110	17	12	22	7	26	25
Native American/Alaska Natives	61	5	2	11	11	3	28
Older Adults	159	18	18	36	9	35	42
Other Groups - please specify	27	1	2	4	4	11	5
Pregnant women and mothers	129	13	15	32	10	27	31
Refugees/Asylees	30	5	2	6	6	6	5
Rural Residents	149	10	19	30	12	33	44
Young Adults of transitional age	202	14	28	46	16	47	50



Additionally, as evident in the charts below, the survey showed that respondents work primarily to prevent the use and abuse of alcohol, opioids, marijuana, tobacco and electronic nicotine; and that prevention workforce represented in the survey also work across numerous populations.

**What substance(s) do you and/or your agency focus on preventing? (check all that apply)**

	Total	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	Ohio	Wisconsin
Alcohol	261	27	29	51	27	56	70
Opioids	259	29	30	55	19	56	69
Marijuana	225	25	25	49	22	53	50
Tobacco	210	21	27	44	20	47	50
E-Cigarettes/Electronic (nicotine)	206	16	27	45	20	39	58
Other Illegal Substances (cocaine)	164	23	16	31	12	42	39
Methamphetamine	167	18	18	31	12	37	50
Polysubstance use	159	21	19	31	12	40	35
Other	31	1	2	9	4	10	5

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## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Survey respondents were provided with a series of 29 topics and asked to indicate how important they believed it was for them to receive training and/or technical assistance on each of the topics listed. The chart below lists the results by rank for the top five topics indicated for the Region 5 overall and for each state particularly.

	Region	IL	IN	MI	MN	OH	WI
1	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it
2	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it	Intersection of Opioid Use, Overdose and Suicide	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes	Suicide prevention, mental health promotion	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness	Evaluating your prevention programs and strategies	Sustaining positive prevention outcomes
3	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness	Suicide prevention, mental health promotion	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it	Identifying or addressing health disparities to increase health equity	Suicide prevention, mental health promotion	Risk and protective factors, developmental assets, resiliency
4	Suicide prevention, mental health promotion	Ethical principles relevant to prevention	Using data to make decisions	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness	Suicide prevention, mental health promotion	Using data to make decisions	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness
5	Using data to make decisions	Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness	Intersection of Opioid Use, Overdose and Suicide	Using data to make decisions	Identifying and selecting evidence-based interventions	Addressing stigma and strategies to reduce it	Implementing evidence-based programs

## SUMMARY

In summary, Great Lakes PTTC staff intend to use the results of this needs assessment to guide the delivery of training and TA events in the Great Lakes region. Since the results come from the entire six-state area, most of these topics might be best provided on a regional basis (i.e., a webinar on a particular topic that could be viewed by providers in all six states). In keeping with our cooperative agreement for this project, we intend to use the results of the survey and stakeholder interviews in conjunction to determine the training /TA topics that those in the workforce can access. As a coordinating entity, the Great Lakes PTTC will provide specific training and TA topics that have universal applicability across the region, as well as a slate of training/TA to meet the needs of each state as represented in the results of this survey and in the stakeholder interviews.

The survey results are somewhat limited because it is unknown how representative this sample of providers is in relation to the entire population of the prevention workforce in Region 5. Also, due to the low number of respondents in several states, it is difficult to say how representative results are for these states overall. It is not known how familiar respondents were with the topics chosen and/or if the placement of the item in the survey itself affected responses.

Regardless of these limitations, the data provided by the survey presents an overall picture of the training and technical assistance needs within Region 5 as a whole and will help the Great Lakes PTTC coordinate training and technical assistance efforts.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all those who responded to the survey. We also want to thank our partners within the states who helped get the survey link out to their prevention communities and networks and encouraged their participation.

Finally, we thank staff members from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies: Ann Schensky who helped with developing the survey tool, Olivia Cody, who prepared the charts for the final report, and Maureen Fitzgerald, who provided valuable suggestions, editing, and formatting.

An additional thank you to Alyssa O'Hair, the Project Director at the Pacific Southwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center (HHS Region 9), who shared many of her region's PTTC survey questions with us.