NEWS

The Impact of COVID-19 on College Student Well-being

August 2020 - The Healthy Minds Network, in collaboration with the American College Health Association, developed a set of survey items focused on students’ attitudes, concerns, preventive behaviors, and their perceived supportiveness of colleges and universities related to COVID-19. This report presents results from 18,764 students on 14 campuses that participated in the surveys from late March through May 2020.

Two-thirds of students report their financial situation has become more stressful, and 60% of students indicate that the pandemic has made it more difficult to access mental health care. Relative to fall 2019, the prevalence of depression increased in spring 2020 and a higher proportion of students report that their mental health negatively impacted their academic performance.

Read the full report.

Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During COVID-19

From June 24 to 30, U.S. adults reported increased adverse mental health conditions associated with COVID-19. Over 40% of survey respondents (n=5,470) reported at least one adverse mental or behavioral health condition related to the pandemic, with disadvantaged populations experiencing disproportionately worse outcomes.

Employment status and type has had a large impact on mental health. Adverse mental health outcomes were more prevalent in both employed versus unemployed individuals and essential versus nonessential workers. Large differences were also observed in nonpaid versus paid caregivers for adults. Suicidal ideation was reported by 30.7% of nonpaid caregivers of adults versus only 3.6% of paid caregivers of adults.


The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue

The current opioid crisis is one of the most widespread drug epidemics in U.S. history for all racial and ethnic groups. Recently, a demographic shift has been observed in the epidemic with dramatic increases in opioid misuse and overdose deaths among Hispanic/Latino, African American, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations. As Hispanic/Latinos are one of the fastest growing minority populations—expected to comprise nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population by 2060 (Colby & Oltman, 2015)—it becomes imperative to understand the unique sociocultural factors that influence drug use and access to prevention, treatment and recovery in this population. This issue brief presents data on prevalence of opioid misuse & death rates in the Hispanic/Latino population; contextual factors and challenges to prevention and treatment; innovative outreach and engagement strategies to connect people to evidence-based treatment; and the importance of community voice.

Click Here to read the Report

How to Develop a Competitive Grant Application – Webinars
Thursday, August 27; Thursday, September 17; and Thursday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

SAMHSA will be conducting a webinar on how to develop a competitive grant application.

The webinar will address:
- The four registration processes that need to be completed
- Preparing to apply for a grant
- Key components of the funding opportunity announcement
- Responding effectively to the evaluation criteria
- Resources and technical assistance that are available

If you would like to receive the slides prior to the webinar, send an email to GPOtraining@samhsa.hhs.gov.

https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-training-materials

Cannabis Use in Pregnancy and Lactation: Understanding the Science and Assisting Practitioners with Prevention Strategies – Webinar
Monday, August 24, 2020 1:00 p.m. EDT

This course will:
- Discuss the impact of cannabis use on the endocannabinoid system and fetal development,
- Evaluate studies that have evaluated the use of cannabis in pregnancy and lactation,
- Describe the risk factors associated with marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and
- Explain prevention strategies for practitioners and coalitions to minimize or eliminate the harm of cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation.

https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/central-east-pttc/event/cannabis-use-pregnancy-and-lactation-understanding-science-and
Mental Health & Faith – Alzheimer’s Disease: The Silent Epidemic
10:00am - August 25, 2020 | Timezone: US/Eastern

Hosted By:
Central East MHTTC

This presentation will begin with easy to understand definitions and examples of the types, symptoms and stages of dementia. Participants will leave the session equipped with examples and strategies for preparing adequately to care for someone with the disease through the different stages, as well as the support that faith and faith communities can provide to families throughout this difficult journey.

Presenter:
Loretta Veney (Author of the book Being My Mom’s Mom)

https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/central-east-mhttc/event/mental-health-faith-alzheimers-disease-silent-epidemic

Suicide Prevention in Rural Primary Care: Office Protocols, Screening, and Assessment
11:00am - August 26, 2020 | Timezone: US/Mountain

Hosted By: Mountain Plains MHTTC

This 90 minute training is part one in a two part series on suicide prevention in rural primary care offices. This session will provide an overview of rural suicide issues, contributing factors to suicide rates in rural communities, primary care providers’ critical role in suicide prevention, office protocols, and patient screening and risk assessment.


PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Penny Briese! whose manuscript entitled: “Application of Mezirow’s Transformative Learning Theory to Simulation in Healthcare Education” has been officially accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Clinical Simulation in Nursing. As you might recall, this manuscript was presented at the last PhD intensive in one of the peer review groups.
**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Cigna’s Healthier Kids for Our Future Mental Health Grant**
**Deadline: September 30, 2020**

Our goal is to supplement existing mental health programming, and help close gaps both within and outside the school environment to address loneliness, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention. We will fund programs that foster collaboration between stakeholders including school administrators and teachers, clinicians, and local and national nonprofits to address mental health and emotional well-being challenges for children. Partners are encouraged to leverage one or more of the following evidence-based programs:

- Trauma Informed Practices (TIPS)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)


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**Pilot Studies to Test the Initiation of a Mental Health, Family Navigator Model to Promote Early Access, Engagement and Coordination of needed Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents (R34 - Clinical Trial Required)**
**Deadline: Jan 07, 2021**

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage research applications to develop and pilot test the effectiveness and implementation of family navigator models designed to promote early access, engagement and coordination of mental health treatment and services for children and adolescents who are experiencing early symptoms of mental health problems. For the purposes of this FOA, NIMH defines a family navigator model as a health care professional or paraprofessional whose role is to deploy a set of strategies designed to rapidly engage youth and families in needed treatment and services, work closely with the family and other involved treatment and service providers to optimize care and monitor the trajectory of mental health symptoms and outcomes over time. Applicants are encouraged to develop and pilot test the navigator models ability to promote early access, engagement and coordination of mental health treatment and services for children and adolescents as soon as symptoms are detected. Of interest are navigator models that coordinate needed care strategies, determine the personalized match to the level of needed service amount, frequency and intensity, and harness novel technologies to track and monitor the trajectory of clinical, functional and behavioral progress toward achieving intended services outcomes. This FOA is published in parallel to a companion FOA, PAR-18-428 which uses the R01 funding mechanism.


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**Maternal Nutrition and Pre-pregnancy Obesity: Effects on Mothers, Infants and Children (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
**Deadline: Sep 07, 2021**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages applications to improve health outcomes for women, infants and children, by stimulating interdisciplinary research focused on maternal nutrition and pre-pregnancy obesity. Maternal health significantly impacts not only the mother but also the intrauterine environment, and subsequently fetal development and the health of the newborn.


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