



Northern New England-Practice Transformation Network (NNE- PTN) Community Opioid Overdose Response (COOR) ECHO Program NEWSLETTER

News, Events, and Opportunities

November 2018

We encourage you to share this newsletter with your communities to learn more about our Community Opioid Overdose Response (COOR) ECHO occurring with 12 Communities across Maine.



The COOR ECHO project brings together leaders of key sectors within 12 local communities across Maine to work together on the issue of responding to opioid overdose deaths. The program leverages the resources and expertise of the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE-PTN) and the ECHO model for community case-based video supported collaborative learning to reduce opioid overdose deaths. It expands Project ECHO model

from clinical improvement systems to systems improvement and builds on other successful community-oriented approaches.

The Four focus areas are:

- Data on drug/opioid overdose deaths;
- OUD treatment capacity
- Naloxone distribution systems
- Linkages with recovery community

Please download and view our new [COOR ECHO infographic](#) and feel free to spread the word!

To learn more about the NNE-PTN COOR ECHO please visit:

www.mainequalitycounts.org

Educational Opportunities, Resources and COOR ECHO Sessions

COOR ECHO Session #2: Wednesday, November 7th from 10:30am-12noon.

- **Guest presenter:** Monica St. Clair, New England HIDTA (High Density Drug Trafficking Area), Maine Information & Analysis Center - *"Using Data to Better Understand OD Deaths within our Communities."*
- **Community case presentation:** City of Portland/ Public Health Division (Bridget Rauscher, Convener)

November 15th, 1-2pm

-*"OD Map in-depth Training"* (optional), Monica St. Clair, New England HIDTA (High Density Drug Trafficking Area), Maine Information & Analysis Center

To participate, please register at this link: <https://conta.cc/zwPEVyN>.

Once you've registered, a confirmation e-mail will be sent with the web-based conference information, which is an online GoTo Meeting.

WEBINAR

New Insights Into the Opioid Crisis and Work: Important Information for Workers and Employees

**Nov 6, 2018
1pm-2:30pm EST**

This special presentation of the NIOSH Total Worker Health Webinar Series focuses on new research at the important intersection of work and the nation's opioid crisis.

You will hear from national experts: Chris Cain, CIH, of The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), Letitia Davis, ScD, EdM of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Sara Luckhaupt, MD, MPH, of the NIOSH Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies. The presenters will share their latest insights related to the risks of opioid use, misuse, and overdose in worker populations. This webinar presentation will explore critical insights into potential work-related antecedents and risks factors for opioid misuse, the latest data on opioid overdose by industry and occupation, and primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention methods and interventions. The presentation will also provide an introduction to the NIOSH Response to the Opioid Crisis framework, helping to address the challenges facing our nation's workers and workplaces related to opioids.

Chris Cain, CIH is the director of safety and health for North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), the umbrella organization comprised of 14 national and international unions collectively representing over 3 million workers. Letitia Davis, ScD, EdM is a Senior Scientist in the Occupational Health Surveillance Program in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Sara Luckhaupt, MD, MPH, is a supervisory medical epidemiologist in the Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies at NIOSH and a Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

[To Register](#)

RESOURCES

**CDC has released a new report:
Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose:
What's Working in the United States.**

The report identifies four guiding principles - know your epidemic, know your response; make collaboration your strategy; nothing about us without us; and meet people where they are. The authors concisely review evidence for 10 recommended strategies for overdose prevention:

1. Targeted Naloxone Distribution [i.e. prioritizing distribution to people at highest risk of overdose]
2. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
3. Academic Detailing
4. Eliminating Prior-Authorization Requirements for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
5. Screening for Fentanyl in Routine Clinical Toxicology Testing
6. 911 Good Samaritan Laws
7. Naloxone Distribution in Treatment Centers and Criminal Justice Settings
8. MAT in Criminal Justice Settings and Upon Release
9. Initiating Buprenorphine-based MAT in Emergency Departments
10. Syringe Services Program.

[To read report](#)

[CDC Infographic:](#)

A rise in opioid overdoses is detected. What now?



The Surgeon General's Press Release

The Spotlight on Opioids assembles opioid-related information from the Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health into one document to better inform the general public, especially family and friends of people with an elevated risk of opioid overdose, opioid misuse, and/or opioid use disorder. Read the Spotlight on Opioids

[To view the Press Release and access to other information](#)

COMMUNITY COALITION "SPOTLIGHT"

Access Health/ Mid Coast Hospital

Brunswick, Maine

This month's Community Spotlight highlights collaborative efforts from Access Health and Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine for people struggling with addiction who can often feel that they have few treatment options after they leave the hospital, as well as educational efforts to help people in their community.

Leaders from Mid Coast Hospital established a program called ED/ARC (Emergency Department /Addiction Resource Center) Enhanced Referrals for Suboxone and Alcohol, which provides an opportunity for people with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) to access new treatment pathways in the Emergency Department (ED) for low-risk alcohol and opioid withdrawal. Under this program, Mid Coast ED physicians can initiate treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the ED by initiating buprenorphine, a medication used to treat OUD, while they are still in the ED. Patients who are receptive to continuing treatment are referred to the Mid Coast Addiction Resource Center for ongoing care. In many cases, patients are able to leave the ED with an appointment at the Addiction Resource Center the next day. For more information, go to: <http://www.midcoasthealth.com/news/news-new-initiative-mid-coast-hospital-aims-to-stem-tide-of-people-struggling-with-addiction-6626.aspx>

The Emergency Department at Mid Coast Hospital created a screening tool and "ED Opioid Addiction Treatment Flow Sheet" workflow that can be used to support ED staff in the steps for this program. [Click to view the screening tool and flowsheet.](#)

Mid Coast decided to implement this program based on results of a 2015 study from Yale-New Haven Hospital which found that patients with OUD who were given buprenorphine in the ED were twice as likely to be in treatment a month later as compared to those who were received information only. A [recent New York Times article](#) noted that, since the study was published, several EDs around the country, including Mid Coast, have taken the lead and started offering buprenorphine as a key step in addressing OUD in their communities.

Access Health has also developed informational rack cards on SUD/OUD for two audiences: one is designed for parents of a child prescribed an opioid; the second is a more general educational tool for adult who are prescribed an

opioid. These cards include important discussions for patients to have with their providers about these medications, as well as, safe storage and safe disposal of opioids when at home. Prevention specialists at Access Health developed the rack cards with helpful input from their local providers, and worked with Mid Coast Medical Group to get them displayed in every office where opioids might be prescribed or discussed. Since Access Health is a local community health coalition, much of their work focuses on reducing substance use disorder (SUD), primarily through prevention of youth alcohol, marijuana, prescription drug, and other substance use. [Click to View Rack Cards](#).

Access Health serves as one of the 12 communities involved as a Community Convener in the Northern New England Practice Transformation COOR ECHO. For more information about Access Health, go to their website at: <https://accesshealthme.org/>

ARTICLES

"Bangor Groups Wins Big Money to Help Kids Hit by Opioid Crisis" By Erin Rhoda

Penquis, a social services group based in Bangor will bring more than a dozen local organizations together to address the needs of children harmed by the opioid crisis, after winning a first-of-its-kind federal grant for the region. Penquis announced it won \$632,037 from the U.S. Department of Justice. Starting immediately, and continuing over three years, the money will be used to address a number of gaps in services for children in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties who may have experienced the neglect of a loved one actively using opioids, the devastation of losing parents to overdose or arrest, or having to find a new home because their guardians could no longer care for them. [To read this article](#)

NPR story: "On College Campuses, Making Overdose Medication Readily Available", By Tovia Smith

As the opioid epidemic has escalated around the nation, colleges and universities have been spared the brunt of it. Opioid addiction and overdoses are more rare on campuses than among young adults in the general population. But schools are not immune to the problem, and they're growing increasingly concerned about how to keep students safe. [To listen to this NPR story](#)

**"These 10 ERs Sharply Reduced Opioid Use And Still Eased Pain"
By John Daley**

Physicians are looking for alternatives to help reduce opioid use and curtail potential abuse. Ten Colorado hospitals, including Swedish, participated in a six-month pilot project called the Colorado Opioid Safety Collaborative, aimed at cutting their use of the prescription painkillers. Launched by the Colorado Hospital Association, the project is believed to be the first in the nation to include this many hospitals in such an effort.

The collaborating ERs hoped to reduce their opioid use by 15 percent. Instead, Dr. Don Stader, an emergency physician at Swedish who helped develop and lead the study, says the institutions did much better - cutting their use of the drugs by 36 percent, on average. [To listen to this NPR story](#)

'I Cried as I Read This': An Obit for an Addicted Vermonter Goes Viral", By Mark Davis

This article shares one family struggles to form words on paper as they write the obituary of Madelyn Ellen Linsemner, who lost her life to opioid addiction. "It is impossible to capture a person in an obituary, and especially someone whose adult life was largely defined by drug addiction," O'Neill wrote in the obituary, which was published in Seven Days, the Burlington Free Press and on Legacy.com. "To some, Maddie was just a junkie - when they saw her addiction, they stopped seeing her. And what a loss for them. Because Maddie was hilarious, and warm, and fearless, and resilient. She could and would talk to anyone, and when you were in her company you wanted to stay." [To read the article and obituary](#)

OTHER

BOOKS:

"Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs" By Johann Hari

It is now 100 years since drugs were first banned. On the eve of this centenary, journalist Johann Hari set off on an epic three-year, 30,000-mile journey into the war on drugs to uncover its secrets - and he found that there is a startling gap between what we have been told and what is really going on. As strange as it may seem at first, drugs are not what we have been told they are; addiction is not what we think it is; and the drug war has very different motives to the ones we have seen on our TV screens.

In Chasing the Scream, Hari reveals his startling discoveries entirely through the true and shocking stories of people across the world whose lives have been transformed by this war. They range from a transsexual crack dealer in Brooklyn searching for her mother, to a teenage hit-man in Mexico searching for a way out. It begins with Hari's discovery that at the birth of the drug war, Billie Holiday was stalked and killed by the man who launched this crusade - while it ends with the story of a brave doctor who has led his country to decriminalize every drug, from cannabis to crack, with remarkable results.

Chasing the Scream lays bare what we really have been chasing in our century of drug war - in our hunger for drugs, and in our attempt to destroy them. This book will challenge and change how you think about the most controversial - and consequential - question of our time.

Our Contact Information

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For more information on other programs, visit: [Maine Quality Counts Website](#)

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