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Substance Use & Injury Connection

This newsletter provides bimonthly updates on activities across CSTE programs, our members, and our partners focused on substance use and injury surveillance and epidemiology. Features include highlights of CSTE Subcommittee activities and member accomplishments related to substance use and injury topics. If you have suggestions for content or updates to include, please submit them to Mia Israel at misrael@cste.org. To access the Substance Use & Injury Connection archives, visit <https://www.cste.org/page/substanceuseinjury>.

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CSTE Updates



This section includes updates and opportunities relevant to substance use and injury epidemiology across CSTE programs.

CSTE 2020 Annual Conference Cancellation

In light of the latest COVID-19 developments, the World Health Organization declaration of a pandemic, the President's National Emergency declaration, the White House and CDC guidelines recommending the cancellation of gathering of more than 50 people, state and local restrictions regarding shelter in place and size of gatherings, and jurisdictional travel restrictions, with the approval of its Executive Board, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) has cancelled its Annual Conference, scheduled for June 28-July 2, 2020 in Seattle, Washington, and all affiliated events. For more information, please visit the [CSTE Annual Conference website](#).

NSSP Overdose Subcommittee: Recent Call on COVID-19 Secondary Health Outcomes

The NSSP Community of Practice (CoP) Overdose Surveillance (ODS) Subcommittee hosted a call on Friday, May 22 to discuss the secondary outcomes of COVID-19 on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Injury. On the call, presenters from Washington, Kentucky, and Colorado shared efforts and preliminary trends of COVID-19 on mental health and injury-related outcomes. Please access the call recording [here](#) and the slides [here](#).

Get Involved



The following groups may be of interest to our CSTE Substance Use and Injury members with ongoing activities related to substance use and injury topics. To join one of the CSTE Subcommittees, make sure you are logged into your CSTE member account, click the link to the Subcommittee page, and click "Join Group" under the group name. To join one of the workgroups, contact CSTE staff to be added to the email list and receive meeting information.

CSTE Subcommittee Highlight

The **CSTE NSSP Syndrome Definition Subcommittee** hosted Marissa Zwald (CDC NCIPC Division of Violence Prevention) on the April 2020 Syndrome Definition Subcommittee call to present on suicide-related syndrome definitions and to provide an update on the ED-SNSRO project. If interested, check out previous call recordings and other resources from the Syndrome

Definition Subcommittee [here](#). Email syndromic@cste.org to join the NSSP CoP and/or its related subcommittees.

The following CSTE Subcommittees and Workgroups have ongoing projects and/or discussion topics related to substance use and injury:

- **[Alcohol Epidemiology](#)**
 - Call Schedule: 1st Thursdays at 1:00 pm ET
- **[Disaster Epidemiology](#)**
 - CSTE Contact: Alesha Thompson, athompson@cste.org
- **[Health Disparities](#)**
 - Call Schedule: Every other month, 4th Thursdays at 2:00 pm ET
- **[Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance](#)**
 - Calls scheduled as needed
 - **Injury Surveillance Workgroup**
 - Call schedule: 1st Wednesday at 2:00 pm ET
 - CSTE Contact: Mia Israel, misrael@cste.org
- **[Cannabis](#)**
 - Call Schedule: Bimonthly, 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm ET
 - CSTE Contact: Mia Israel, misrael@cste.org
- **[Maternal and Child Health](#)**
 - Call Schedule: No call schedule
 - **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Workgroup**
 - Call schedule: Bimonthly, 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 pm ET
 - CSTE Contact: Valerie Goodson, vgoodson@cste.org
- **Mental Health**
 - Call Schedule: 1st Thursday at 3:00 pm ET
- **[Occupational Health Surveillance](#)**
 - Call Schedule: Weekly COVID-19 calls through June on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm ET
 - CSTE Contact: Cailyn Lingwall, clingwall@cste.org
- **[Overdose](#)**
 - Call Schedule: 2nd Thursday at 1:00 pm ET
- **[Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)**
 - Call Schedule: Bimonthly, 4th Thursday at 1:00 pm ET
- **[Substance Use & Mental Health](#)**

- Call Schedule: Calls scheduled quarterly
- **Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators**
 - Call Schedule: 3rd Monday at 1:00 pm ET
- **Tribal Epidemiology**
 - Call Schedule: Calls scheduled quarterly
 - **Tribal Data Workgroup:** Calls scheduled monthly
 - CSTE Contacts: Jessica Arrazola, jarrazola@cste.org

Member Spotlight



This section highlights CSTE member projects and accomplishments in the areas of substance use and injury epidemiology, allowing readers to learn more about their colleagues in the field. Contact Mia Israel at misrael@cste.org with questions or to nominate yourself or others to be featured.



Lareina La Flair, MPH, PhD is a psychiatric epidemiologist assisting with Washington State's behavioral health response to COVID-19. As a surveillance advisor to the Behavioral Health Impact and Capacity Assessment Task Force, she is rapidly harnessing data sources, traditional and novel, in support of a dynamic behavioral health surveillance system. In collaboration with state data partners, disaster response personnel, and behavioral health systems specialists, her team

has identified core indicators to assess well-being, mental health, and substance use with healthcare encounter data, syndromic surveillance, crisis line data, unemployment claims, crime data, social media, census, and other survey data.

Her “off-duty” role is a behavioral health epidemiologist and research manager at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, where she uses clinical and administrative data to measure serious mental illness and functional impairment among the Medicaid population, promote behavioral health literacy, and provide decision support. She has long-standing research interests in military mental health.

Lareina is new to CSTE and is excited to contribute to its subcommittees related to mental health, substance use, and interpersonal violence. Having criss-crossed the triple helix of government, academia, and private sectors, Lareina is happy to connect on the evolving role of mental health measurement, writing for impact, and cross-disciplinary learning.

Partner Announcements



This section includes announcements relevant to our substance use and injury members from CSTE partners. Contact Mia Israel at misrael@cste.org if you would like to submit an announcement.

National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Mental & Behavioral Health Webinar Series

The four-part series will address anxiety, substance misuse, suicide prevention, and intimate partner violence among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). This webinar series is designed for community members, Tribal health and behavioral health professionals, Tribal leaders, and partners alike. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars:

- Webinar #3: Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 3:00 pm EST - Suicide Prevention. [Registration is required.](#)
- Webinar #4: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 3:00 pm EST - Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse.

Call for Papers: Health Disparities and Improvements for Diverse Communities

CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) invites authors to submit manuscripts describing innovative and effective work that addresses factors contributing to health disparities and improvement of population health. The burden of chronic disease is a major contributor to poor health outcomes, reduction in quality of life, and increases in health care costs. Reducing the burden of chronic disease remains a challenge that requires diverse collaborations and dissemination and adoption of effective interventions in multiple settings. Learn more [here](#).

Recommended Standard Language for EMS Data and COVID-19 Related Incidents

NEMSIS is the official EMS data collection standard for EMS agencies. The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center has worked with EMS stakeholders to identify needed National Custom Elements to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click Here](#) to view a guidance document detailing these National Custom Elements and providing a description of their intended use. These custom elements are made available to EMS agencies and States in an effort to standardize the documentation and coding of recent travel and potential exposures related to an infectious disease, like COVID-19.

The National Custom Elements may be found in the lower right-hand corner of the [NEMSIS V3 Custom Element Library](#).

Harm Reduction Coalition COVID-19 Resources

The Harm Reduction Coalition has developed a list of resources for people who use drugs and people vulnerable to structural violence. You can find an abridged version of the list as well as a link to the full resource list on the Harm Reduction Coalition [website](#).

How Harm Reduction Programs are Adapting to COVID-19

The Harm Reduction Coalition has released videos entitled "[HEPPAC Best Practices in Response to COVID-19](#)" and "[What California Syringe Services Programs are Doing Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic](#)", demonstrating how programs have adapted to COVID-19.

NACCHO COVID-19 Toolbox

In response to COVID-19, Local Health IT (LHIT) Community of Practice has begun pulling resources from local health departments together. So far, the toolbox includes downloadable FAQs for the public around COVID-19, COVID-19 webpages created by local health departments, and improving access to COVID-19 screening through technology. The toolbox can be accessed

through the NACCHO [website](#).

NASTAD: COVID-19 Suggested Health Department Actions to Support Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)

NASTAD has developed a resource consolidating recommendations for supporting syringe access and people who use drugs. It includes strategies and important considerations for health departments working with SSPs brought up during a March 2020 NASTAD call regarding COVID-19 response. The document can be accessed on NASTADs [website](#).

NCSL: COVID-19 Resources for States

The National Conference of State Legislatures have developed a resource page on policy, including topics from education to health care costs and access. You can find the resource page on the NCSL [website](#).

NPHL: COVID-19 Pandemic Prompts Federal Agencies to Reduce Restrictions on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

The medications methadone and buprenorphine are extremely effective in reducing the harms associated with opioid use disorder (OUD). While many barriers persist, in light of the ongoing public health emergency associated with COVID-19 the federal government has recently taken a number of steps to increase access to these lifesaving medications. Read more on the NPHL [website](#).

CDC NCHS Data Brief: Electronic Cigarette Use Among U.S. Adults, 2018

Key findings from the National Health Interview Survey indicated that 14.9% of adults had ever used an electronic cigarette, while 3.2% were current users. The prevalence of ever using an electronic cigarette was highest among men, non-Hispanic white adults, and those aged 18-24. Adults who quit smoking cigarettes within the past year were the most likely to have ever used (57.3%) and to be current (25.2%) e-cigarette users. Read more about the findings [here](#).

Substance Use and COVID-19 Guidance

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently released [a reminder](#) that people with substance use disorder may be particularly vulnerable for COVID-19. Additionally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) posted [COVID-19 guidance](#) providing potential flexibility for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

Resources



This section contains resources that might be valuable to substance use and injury epidemiologists.

1. “CSTE ICD-10-CM Injury Surveillance Toolkit: Guidance and Methods for Applied Injury Epidemiologists” available at <https://resources.cste.org/Injury-Surveillance-Methods-Toolkit/>
 2. “CSTE Recommended Surveillance Indicators for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Version 3” available for download at https://www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/crosscutting/CSTE_Substance_Abuse_and_Men.pdf
 3. “Evaluation of a Mobile Device Survey System for Behavioral Risk Factors (SHAPE): App Development and Usability Study,” Oakley-Girvan et al., available at https://formative.jmir.org/2019/1/e10246/?utm_source=TrendMD&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=JMIR_Formative_Research_TrendMD_0
 4. “Smart(phone) Approaches to Mobile App Data Collection,” Miller et al., available at <https://www.surveypractice.org/article/4943-smart-phone-approaches-to-mobile-app-data-collection>.
 5. “The Effect of Incomplete Death Certificates on Estimates of Unintentional Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999-2015” available online at *Public Health Reports*: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0033354918774330>
 6. “Development of Indicators for Public Health Surveillance of Substance Use and Mental Health” available online at *Public Health Reports*: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0033354918784913>
 7. “ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2019 (October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019)” available online from CDC and NCHS: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/data/10cmguidelines-FY2019-final.pdf>
 8. “Fact Sheet: Overdose Reporting Requirements” available from The Network for Public Health Law: <https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/overdose-reporting-requirements/>
 9. “Proposed Framework for Presenting Injury Data Using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD–10–CM) Diagnosis Codes” available online from NCHS: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26828779>
 10. “The Transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM: Guidance for Analysis and Reporting of Injuries by Mechanism and Intent (ISW9), 2016” available online from Safe States Alliance: <https://www.safestates.org/general/custom.asp?page=ISWReports>
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