

2021 NPN Conference Workshop Topics and Conference Theme

Workshop proposals should fit into one of the six (6) possible topics listed below related to substance use prevention. Proposals should address the conference theme, *Resilience in Prevention: Opportunities to Adapt and Build for a Stronger Tomorrow*

Highlighted Topics:

1. Evidence-based and Evidence-informed Programs and Strategies to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use
2. Prevention Workforce Development
3. Health Equity and Cultural Relevance in Substance Use Prevention
4. Community Empowerment, Resiliency, and Capacity Building
5. Drug Trends and Emerging Issues
6. Intersectional Issues with Substance Use Prevention

Note: The descriptors below for each topic are representative of issues, trends and discussion points that are provided as examples. Presenters may submit proposals outside of the descriptors listed below; however, they must relate to substance use prevention.

1. Evidence-based and Evidence-informed Programs and Strategies to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use

Categories and Examples:

State and community evidence-based substance use prevention strategies; challenges; effectiveness vs. non-evidence practices, programs, and strategies; environmental strategies; state grant program results and state plans; emerging practices and evidence in prevention; evidence-based public education efforts, including public awareness, social media or marketing efforts, technology; population behavioral health.

State and community innovative evidence-informed substance use prevention approaches; evidence-informed emerging practices in prevention; new outcome and emerging research on what is working; innovative public education efforts, including public awareness, social media or marketing efforts, technology; population behavioral health; systemic work to improve prevention service delivery.

2. Prevention Workforce Development

Categories and Examples:

Certification; leadership skills; strengthening and diversifying the prevention workforce; prevention ethics; innovation in workforce development; rural prevention workforce development; technology; implementation and diffusion of evidence-based practices; youth leadership; multi-generational workplace issues; recruitment, intentional onboarding of new staff, training, retention, and succession planning.

3. Health Equity and Cultural Relevance in Substance Use Prevention

Categories and Examples:

Encouraging knowledge and skills to be mindful of cultural attitudes, norms, and language around substance use, systemic trauma, mental illness, and other behavioral health issues is essential in ensuring programs, policies, and practices are implemented with fidelity.

Ensuring that substance use prevention strategies and programs address health disparities among vulnerable populations; allowing for complexity of issues based on cultural context; and adjusting communication styles to consider the targeted population, or individual's, culture.

4. Community Engagement, Resilience, and Capacity Building

Categories and Examples:

National, state agency, and local community partnerships; ensuring prevention programs are implemented in an evidence-based way; coalition building and sustainability; grassroots mobilization; leveraging shared risk and protective factors; engaging various community partners, such as: youth, teachers, businesses, faith leaders, law enforcement, military/national guard, veterans and their families, child protection, juvenile justice, peer mentors, treatment providers, suicide prevention providers, homeless coalitions/providers, food banks, YMCA and clubs like Boys & Girls Club, parent support groups, recovery residences, domestic violence advocates/shelters, and other school personnel (principals, counselors, attendance directors, nurses, social workers, prevention resource officers, school-based health centers, health teachers, coaches).

5. Drug Trends and Emerging Issues

Categories and Examples:

The following populations should be considered: youth, young adults/college-aged population, adults, military connected, older adults, and specific racial and ethnic groups. Workshops may also include discussions around: emerging issues and prevention strategies due to COVID-19; regulation; policies; enforcement issues; positive social media or marketing campaigns; and public education.

Drug use trends, new data, and prevention strategies can focus on all substances (alcohol, marijuana, prescription opioids, heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine, etc.). Examples of emerging issues that may be addressed include vaping/e-cigarettes; raising the legal sale age for tobacco products (Tobacco21); synthetics; implications of poly-drug use.

6. Intersectional Issues with Substance Use Prevention

Categories and Examples:

Highlighting substance use prevention programs, policies, and practices that also intersect with mental health promotion and wellness; suicide prevention; primary healthcare; teen pregnancy prevention; gambling prevention; trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) including the 3 Realms of ACEs (household, community, environment); child welfare; criminal justice; collective impact; working across the continuum of care (treatment and recovery support); tribal opportunities for substance use prevention.