



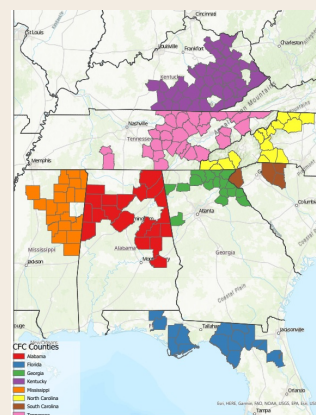
## November 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the monthly issue of the Southeast Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Regional Center (ROTA-RC) Newsletter! Please distribute to your contact list and encourage others to subscribe to the latest news from ROTA-RC.

Visit our Website

## Needs Assessment Snapshot

Substance use has been around for hundreds of years, although currently it has become a matter of life or death with overly prescribed pain medications and underfunded intervention resources. As we delve into the extensive need for harm reduction strategies; our first step is the needs assessment for the rural areas of Region 4 as defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Region 4 includes eight states in the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) and 168 targeted rural counties (pictured to the right).



Between the 8 states there is an average of <b>45.6%</b> of fatal overdoses	<b>80%</b> of the counties do not have a syringe exchange program	<b>14%</b> of the counties have health services that provide the necessary Medication for Opioid Use Disorders	<b>90%</b> of the counties have no active fentanyl testing strip distribution	Opioid use and fentanyl laced look alike pills have caused an increase in deaths by over <b>300%</b> over the past few years.
<b>18.2%</b> of the fatal overdoses are fentanyl related and <b>5.1%</b> are due to prescribed opioids	Average of <b>90%</b> individuals in these counties needed addiction treatment but did not receive it	The overall non-fatal overdose average between the 8 states shows an increase of <b>35%</b> in the last year	Opioids are prescribed at an average rate of <b>62%</b> per 100,000 population	
<b>1.5%</b> of these counties accept Medicaid or Medicare	<b>116</b> counties have substance abuse treatment facilities	The national average shows <b>65.9%</b> of individuals suffering from addiction had at least one potential opportunity for intervention		

With these statistics, partnerships between public health and public safety must continue to improve and strengthen efforts to reduce drug overdoses. The partnerships allow for the effective implementation of programs that will help advance promising strategies.

[1] Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Rehab Centers, Best-Rehab.org.Inpatient Rehab - Find Top Inpatient Drug Rehab and Alcohol Rehab Centers (best-rehab.org)  
 [2] "State Opioid Policies" / Opioid & Health Indicators Database, amfAR (Making AIDS History)Opioid & Health Indicators Database (amfar.org)  
 [3] The Fight to Legalize Life-Saving Fentanyl Test Strips in Southern States, Facing South (A Voice for a Changing South); "Defend Democracy in the South"; The fight to legalize life-saving fentanyl test strips in Southern states | Facing South  
 [4] "Opioid Epidemic-State Statistics" / Opioid & Health Indicators Database, amfAR (Making AIDS History)Opioid & Health Indicators Database (amfar.org)

## Important News

### Adderall Shortage: A Crisis

U.S. pharmacies are **critically low** on Adderall and its generic equivalents, leaving more than 26 million patients scrambling. As countless individuals are confronting having to rapidly taper or stop, we're facing a real possibility of a public health disaster on a scale not seen since the prescription opioid crisis that began a decade ago.



[Read More Here](#)

### FREE Training: Overdose Prevention Training

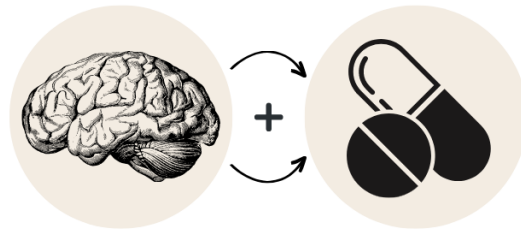
In this online course, you will learn the signs, symptoms, and risk factors for opioid overdose and how to administer Naloxone, also known as Narcan. This course is free and funded by SAMHSA. It will be available on the ROTA-RC website this Friday, December 2nd, 2022.



Please make sure to complete the survey at the end of the course.

### FREE Webinar Series: Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health

Over 1,500 individuals have participated in the Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, and Children Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Webinar Series since the fall of 2019. In addition to this series, the Consortium has developed a 15 module Substance Use Disorder curriculum for Social Workers and Mental Health Care providers that consist of 15 webinars.



[View the Webinar Series](#)

## Upcoming Events

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Save the date for a virtual focus group!  
We want your input in the development of a teen wellness program for teens you serve through 4H programming, school, & community settings.

- What topics would you like included?
- What are things that your teens could benefit from learning?
- What would the ideal structure of a program be?

**JAN. 25 | 2 PM**



Dr. Jacquelyn McMillan

Assistant Professor of  
Social Work (Florida A&M University),  
Department of Social Work Assessment Liaison

**Virtual Focus Group for Extension Office 4-H Leaders!**

Join us for a virtual focus group on Wednesday, January 25th, from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST.

We want your input in the development of a teen wellness program for teens you serve through 4-H programming, school, and community settings.

[Register Here](#)

**Free Webinar: Opioid Harm Reduction Strategies**

Join us for a live webinar on Friday, January 27th, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST.

Dr. Jacquelyn McMillan will be attending to answer your questions in real time during and after the webinar viewing.

[Register Here](#)



**Opioid Use Disorder Symposium**  
March 30 - 31st 2023  
Turnbull Conference Center  
Tallahassee, FL

