Substance Use Disorder 101 Training
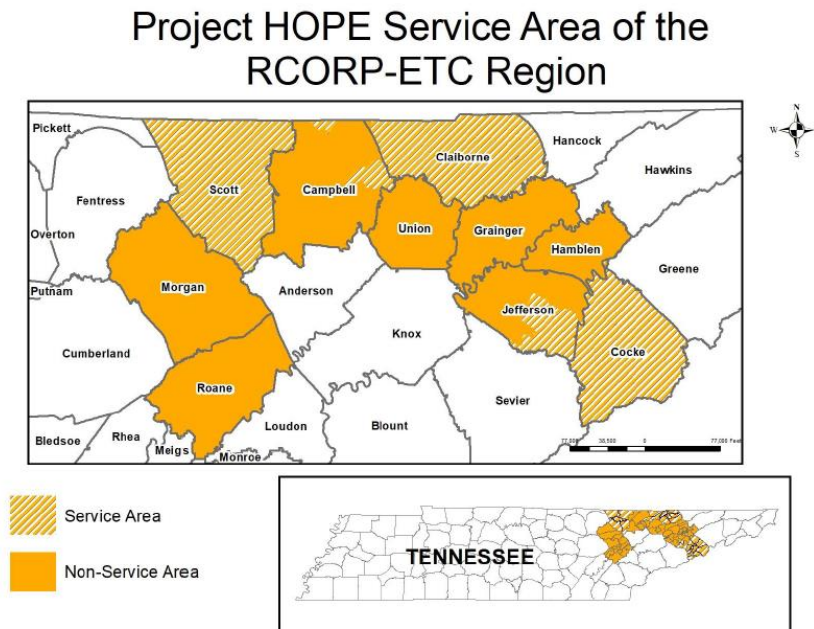
December 11, 2020

Substance Use Disorder 101 Training

On December 11, 2020, Project HOPE (Healing Opioid Use Disorder Through Prevention and Expertise) hosted an online event for professionals who serve in the Project HOPE 10-county area. The event was a 1-hour training session on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) presented by Xiangjun Zhang, PhD.

Attendees

Project HOPE service area includes 5 counties in East Tennessee: Scott, Claiborne, Cocke, Jefferson, and Campbell (see Figure 1). The consortium is co-led by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and has almost 100 members. Invitations for the SUD 101 training were emailed to all consortium members and seven professionals attended.

Figure1. Project HOPE region and service area

Project HOPE Service Area of the RCORP-ETC Region

Evaluation

Five of seven attendees completed the evaluation survey. Community professionals who attended the training included professors, researchers, and graduate students. The attendees work or serve in 2 counties: Knox and Scott.

Evaluation of Training

The overall experience of the SUD 101 training was well regarded among attendees, as over half of participants would recommend the training session to a colleague (60%).

Attendees indicated how satisfied they were with the training, possible answers ranged from *very dissatisfied (1)* to *very satisfied (5).* On average, participants' answers ranged between *neutral (3)* and *satisfied (4)* on every question. Attendees were satisfied with the relevance of the training to their needs (4.2), the training content (4.2), and knowledge of the facilitator (4.0). Attendees were neutral about the engagement of the training (3.8) and mix of presentation and activities (3.6).

Attendees indicated how much they knew before and after the training session, retrospectively for a series of learning objectives. Possible answers ranged from *nothing at all* (1) *a whole lot* (4). On average, attendees reported knowing between *a lot to a whole lot* before and after the training (grand mean=3.05 and 3.25, respectively). There were no significant increases in knowledge reported for any learning objective within the training session (p=.178). However, when asked if attendees learned anything new, 40% of attendees indicated yes, they had learned new information. Responses included statistics, timing of drug absorption, and the effects of drugs on the brain.

Suggestions from Attendees

Attendees were asked several questions to improve future trainings. Regarding the format of the training, most attendees indicated the training could accommodate 11-20 participants. Attendees reported that the presentation style would be effective in a different format, signifying a live facilitator may not needed.

To improve future trainings, attendees suggest increased interaction, discussion, and providing more concrete examples. To facilitate engagement, participants recommended allowing introductions of participants' background, area of expertise, and baseline knowledge of the topic. Attendees also advised the facilitator to be prepared to answer questions, as some responses were not confidently shared (e.g., response to question about marijuana instead of opioids).