



Tobacco and Behavioral Health Project

The University of Hawai'i's, Healthy Hawai'i Evaluation Team (HHET), partnered with the Hawai'i Department of Health's (DOH), Tobacco Prevention and Control Section (TPC), on an evaluation project related to the CDC DP20-2001 cooperative agreement, National and State Tobacco Control Program. HHET aimed to gather data to help TPC improve their understanding of tobacco policies, protocol, and tobacco-related services in the behavioral health setting in Hawai'i. This project focused on two components.

Part A – SAMHSA's Behavioral Health and Tobacco Data: The Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator is an online tool created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to enable the public to find mental health and/or substance use treatment facilities and services by city, county, and state within the United States (U.S.) or U.S. Territories (<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>). Facilities must complete the National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS) annually in order to maintain their listing on the Locator. The N-SUMHSS is distributed annually in March and is a voluntary survey of all active substance use and mental health facilities in the U.S. and its jurisdictions. Results were available for approximately 180 behavioral health facilities in Hawai'i.

HHET exported data from the Locator and then cleaned, organized, and prepared a database for TPC to highlight behavioral health treatment services and policies in Hawai'i in 2022 compared to the prior year's data in 2021. The database included a variety of indicators pertaining to tobacco-related services, policies, and treatments in Hawai'i. There were seven key tobacco-related variables that were examined for this project.

1. Screening for tobacco use
2. Smoking/tobacco cessation counseling
3. Non-nicotine smoking/tobacco cessation medications
4. Nicotine replacement therapy
5. Smoking not permitted
6. Smoking permitted in designated area
7. Smoking permitted without restriction

When the data was discussed with stakeholders, some concerns were voiced about the representation of the behavioral health facilities that are included in the Locator tool for Hawai'i. One suggestion to address this is for tobacco control and behavioral health stakeholders to encourage more behavioral health facilities in Hawai'i to complete the N-SUMHSS each year.

Part B – Behavioral Health and Tobacco Survey in Hawai'i: DOH helped organize an online training led by Dr. Jill Williams, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Addiction Psychiatry Rutgers University-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, on June 9, 2023. HHET assisted in developing an online survey that collected data from behavioral health providers and staff in Hawai'i. The survey examined staff knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors relating to tobacco use, and identified the needs of behavioral health providers in Hawai'i. Survey questions addressed the following topics:

- What are some beliefs, attitudes, and perspectives regarding tobacco use behaviors and treatments at behavioral health facilities in Hawai'i?
- What are the priority areas and concerns of behavioral health clients?
- What do behavioral health organizations need to implement tobacco dependence treatments?
- What are some barriers to effectively offering tobacco dependence treatment?
- What practices and policies are currently being implemented within behavioral health organizations?
- What do behavioral health organizations need in order to adopt and enforce comprehensive tobacco-free policies?

In total, there were 51 behavioral health providers who responded to this survey. Data from the survey will be used to help plan programmatic activities and guide the selection of future trainings and activities to meet capacity-building goals in the behavioral health setting in Hawai'i.

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