

BC ECHO on SUBSTANCE USE



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE ON
SUBSTANCE USE

Monthly Newsletter: June 2021

In this issue of the BC ECHO on Substance Use newsletter, you'll find resources, news updates, and feature articles on topics related to substance use care in BC and Yukon.

Seeing Beyond the Behaviour: An Interview with Meaghan Thumath



Meaghan Thumath is a registered nurse and Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC's School of Nursing. She is also a regular facilitator and expert on the BC ECHO on Substance Use hub team. In this interview, she discusses the intersection of substance use and chronic pain and the way COVID-19 has changed service provision for people who use drugs.

- [Story: Seeing beyond the behaviour: Meaghan Thumath on providing care for people who use drugs](#)

Annual BCCSU Awards Recipients Announced



Every year, the BC Centre on Substance Use brings together stakeholders from across the province for its annual conference. In addition to sharing the latest expertise and experiences, the conference also recognizes leaders in the field for their contributions to improve the wellbeing of people who use substances.

- [2021 BC Substance Use Conference Awards recipients](#)

BC ECHO on Substance Use programming

Reminder: BC ECHO on Substance Use sessions are now on our YouTube channel.

- [Watch here](#)

Join us for more sessions this fall!

We have now finished our current cycle of BC ECHO on Substance Use programming. We will return in the fall with our regularly scheduled Opioid Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder ECHO series – stay tuned through these newsletters, or by visiting <https://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca/#upcoming-sessions>.

New Resources for Substance Use Care

Clinical Bulletin: Benzodiazepines and Opioids

The BCCSU has published a new clinical bulletin to highlight the risks associated with the emergence of benzodiazepines-adulterated drugs in the street opioid supply and provide guidance for the care of individuals who have been exposed to benzodiazepines through the use of adulterated opioids.

- [Clinical Bulletin: Benzodiazepines and Opioids](#)

Hepatitis C Treatment: an online course for service providers in BC, offered by CATIE and the BC Hepatitis Network

This course, offered by CATIE and the BC Hepatitis Network, aims to develop in-depth knowledge on the treatment of hepatitis C for frontline service providers working with clients who have hepatitis C or are at risk for hepatitis C. Through this course, participants will gain information on the benefits of treatment and an overview of what treatment for hepatitis C typically includes. Participants will emerge with strategies to support clients before, during, and after treatment.

- [Register online for this course, held July 5-30 with a meeting July 27](#)

BC ECHO for Chronic Pain

Like the BC ECHO on Substance Use, the BC ECHO for Chronic Pain is a free virtual learning community run as part of Project ECHO. Through this community of practice, health care providers can get the help and support they need to provide immediate care to patients with complex pain in underserved areas, such as rural and remote communities.

- [BC ECHO for Chronic Pain](#)

News from Around BC

- News (from Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions): [Minister's statement on lives lost to overdose in April](#)
- News (from Island Health): [Island Health adds vital substance use treatment beds for youth in Campbell River and Comox](#)
- News (from CBC): [Last Door Recovery Society marks 25 years of helping youth with addiction](#)
- New Campaign (from First Nations Health Authority): [Increase the support. Reduce the harm.](#)

News from Across Canada

- News (from Government of Canada): [Health Canada announces new restrictions to prevent youth vaping](#)
 - News (from Government of Canada): [Addressing methamphetamine use in Canada](#)
 - News (from Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine): [Registration open for CSAM 2021 Scientific Conference](#)
 - Survey (from Canadian Public Health Association): [Survey of professionals on a public health approach to substance use](#)
 - News (from CBC): [U of A research highlights benefits of supervised consumption sites](#)
 - News (from CBC): [New U of C research position 1st in Canada to focus on psychedelic drug therapy for mental health](#)
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The BC ECHO on Substance Use aims to build confidence and skills among primary care providers and their teams in British Columbia and Yukon. By bringing clinicians with addictions expertise and primary care providers together in a substance use community of practice, we hope to improve the implementation of evidence-based care in our communities.

This newsletter is one part of the BC ECHO on Substance Use, an initiative funded by Health Canada and the GPSC, a partnership of the Government of BC and Doctors of BC. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada or the GPSC.

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