Training Tool Box Introduction

Addressing the Gender-Specific Service Needs of Women with Substance Use Disorders

Purpose

SAMHSA’s Training Tool Box, *Addressing the Gender-Specific Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service Needs of Women*, includes sample training content that presenters can draw upon and tailor to offer trainings and presentations to a variety of audiences.

This Training Tool Box was developed to facilitate development and delivery of customized trainings and presentations on addressing the unique needs of women with substance use and co-occurring disorders. This Tool Box enables clinical supervisors, program directors, and advocates to customize workforce learning for providers, clinicians, and peers in diverse settings across the addiction continuum.

The Tool Box content equips users with PowerPoint slides, activities, case studies, resources, and references to train staff and others on gender-responsive, trauma-informed approaches to substance use disorder services and make a compelling case for effective interventions for women. The content is divided into six sections and covers:

The slide content draws heavily on SAMHSA publications and covers:

- Fundamental knowledge about women with substances use disorders (SUDs)
- Women’s unique needs and experiences; treatment/recovery considerations
- Gender-responsive principles
- Co-occurring disorders (mental health and physical health)
- Special considerations for pregnant and parenting women; family approaches to service
- Next steps

Potential Audiences

The content is relevant for both individuals entering the workforce and experienced clinicians and peers who are less familiar with the specialized needs of women.
The content could also be helpful for training other stakeholders, such as domestic violence shelter staff, probation officers, or social workers about serving women with SUDs with women’s SUD service needs.

**Using the Training Tool Box**

The material in the Training Tool Box serves as a launching board that trainers/presenters can use to develop accurate and informative trainings on serving women with SUDs.

The content is organized into six modules with 25 to 50 slides each. The notes section of each slide provides additional information that can be presented, statistics, resources to find more information, discussion questions, and guidance for presenting the material.

The slides can all be modified to fit the trainer, audience, and purpose of the presentation. Options include:

- Using the Tool Box as is, to present all six modules.
- Selecting slides from a few different modules and combining them together into one presentation.
- Presenting one or two modules from the series.
- Adding additional slides that are specific to your audience, organization, and population served.
- Adding case studies, example, and activities best suited for your audience.
- Adding slides with local data and resources.
- Including slides about the policies or recommendations of the organization sponsoring the presentation.

When selecting which modules or slides within modules to use, consider:

- Your audience, including their level of knowledge, interests, and needs.
- The amount of time allotted for your training session/presentation.
- The specific topics you want to cover.
- The amount of time needed to discuss specific cases or conduct activities.

Trainers may want to pick slides from a few different modules and combine them together.

**Updates**

The Training Tool Box is an evolving resource, so check back for updates. To provide recommendations for additional content, please send an email to gbh@ahpnet.com.
Acknowledgment

This Training Tool Box was developed for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) under contract number 283-07-3807 with SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or HHS.