



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**Thursday**

**April 8, 2021**

**2:00 - 3:30 p.m. EDT**

NIEHS WTP COVID-19 Winter Series

## **The Painedemic: The Intersection between the COVID-19 Pandemic and Deaths of Despair**

In this webinar we will detail the extent of the problem of deaths of despair and how the COVID-19 pandemic has added fuel to the fire. Increased stress related to pandemic conditions and its effect on mental health are important factors driving an increase in alcohol consumption, opioid overdoses and fatalities, and increased suicides. Mental health concerns include anxiety, depression, and increased risk of post-traumatic stress disorder. Getting infected, infecting family members, as well as adjusting to changes in work and work schedules, loss of pay, and work-place violence are major issues of concerns. It is also difficult to manage confrontations and escalation that may result from customers, clients, or vendors refusing to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Minority and low wage workers tend to be most impacted by stressors including lack of access to healthcare, food and housing insecurity, job loss, and discrimination. In addition to these discussions from high profile panelists, we will also review interventions such as peer assistance programs, training, and increased access to mental health and substance use care in the workplace.

**Event registration:** [ZoomGov webinar link](#)



### MODERATOR

- **Jonathan Rosen**  
*National Clearinghouse*

### SPEAKERS

- **L. Casey Chosewood, M.D., M.P.H.**  
*National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)*
- **Mike Hazard**  
*United Association Union of Plumber, Fitters, Welders, & Service Techs*
- **Arthur Lee, M.D.**  
*Fisk University*
- **Jamie C. Osborne, M.P.H.**  
*NIOSH*