

September 14, 2023



**D.C. Update: NASADAD Releases Updated Fact Sheet on SAMHSA's PPW Program, Adam Cohen Named Deputy Director of ONDCP, CDC Releases Updated SUDORS Dashboard, and More.**

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## Meet the Member

### **Glenda M. Knight, LPC, CSAC, Women's Services Coordinator for Virginia**

Glenda M. Knight is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) who serves as the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) for the State of Virginia. Mrs. Knight has been working in the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) field for over 30 years in management, clinical services, prevention services, and facilitation with a variety of populations, including active-duty military personnel, veterans, military family members, seriously mentally ill, Adult Drug Treatment, Juvenile, and Veterans Treatment Court, community mental health, and private practice.



Mrs. Knight has been employed at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) since 2019 and has served as the Virginia WSC since August 2022. In her current role, she provides oversight and technical assistance to Virginia's 40 CSBs Women's Services programs and priority population services that are funded wholly or partially by the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) block grant.

Mrs. Knight is also a veteran of the United States Army and served three years at the Pentagon.

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**NASADAD News**

# NASADAD Releases Updated Fact Sheet on SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential Program and State Pilot Program

Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women: A Closer Look at SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women Program

Includes an overview of current activities by Congress and current legislative proposals.

Substance use in women

Women face unique mental health and substance use disorders (SUD) due to biological, psychological, and social conditions. Women have unique physical exposure to substances, are more susceptible to physical health risks from substances use, more likely to experience drug and violence that may cause trauma, are more likely to have additional factors impact their substance use and treatment seeking behaviors, are more likely to experience barriers to care because of gender expectations and caregiver roles, face higher levels of reproductive, and more (SAMHSA, 2017).

Based on 2002 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), among pregnant women aged 15-44 who used substances:

- 10.4% (23,698) used tobacco products in the past month
- 1.7% (3,749) used alcohol in the past month
- 1.7% (3,749) used illicit drugs in the past month
- 1.7% (3,749) used marijuana in the past month
- 1.7% (3,749) used opioids in the past month
- 0.2% (439) used benzodiazepines in the past month

Parental substance use: the impact on children

Maternal substance use and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are during pregnancy can be harmful to babies, and can increase the risk of miscarriage and stillbirth (SAMHSA). From 2010 to 2014, 1.1 million women reported use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs during pregnancy, the highest rate being with alcohol (SAMHSA, 2015). As a result, approximately 1.1 million children were born with FASDs, including learning, memory problems, and issues (SAMHSA). According to 2016 data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), which is managed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), more children were diagnosed with FASDs over 19 states in the United States, or nearly 80 newborns diagnosed every day.

Another group of conditions caused by maternal substance use are fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). FASDs can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy, resulting in physical, behavioral, and learning difficulties (SAMHSA). Using medical and other records, studies by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified 1.1 million children with FASDs for every 1,000 births in certain areas of the United States.

Today, NASADAD releases an updated fact sheet regarding the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential Program and State Pilot Program. The fact sheet "tells the story" of the PPW Residential Services program that has been housed within SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) for a number of years. In addition, the brief reviews the evolution of the PPW State pilot program - an initiative first developed by Congress with NASADAD support as part of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). The brief includes updated information describing outcomes data related to the PPW State Pilot Program; recent grantees; and recent action related to these programs moving in Congress. To read more about the programs, visit NASADAD's webpage [here](#).

## NASADAD Participates in Recovery Month Kick Off Event

On Thursday, September 7, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison attended a recovery Month kick-off event held at Union Station in Washington, D.C. sponsored by Faces and Voices of Recovery. The luncheon was then followed by a Recovery Walk to the Capitol. The luncheon featured remarks by Patty McCarthy, Executive Director of Faces and Voices of Recovery; Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Dr. Arthur Evans, Executive Director, American Psychological Association (APA); and Donald Whitehead, Executive Director, National Coalition for the Homeless. During the luncheon, Rob caught up with former NASADAD staffers Shalini Wickramatilake, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and Emily Diehl, Manager, Federal Policy, at the National Council for Mental Health Wellbeing (appearing in picture above).



## NASADAD Attends Event Demonstrating Use of Overdose Reversal Medication

On Friday, September 8, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison attended an event featuring Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), that promoted the benefits of overdose reversal medications and educated an in-person and on-line audience on how to administer these medications through a demonstration. The event began with remarks from Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm, Deputy Secretary, HHS; Admiral Rachel Levine, Director, Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH); and Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program then shifted to a demonstration where LCDR Joshua Hunt, SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) provided some background on overdose reversals. Next, Roz Pichardo, Founder, Operation Save Our City, Philadelphia, PA, provided a demonstration.



### White House Happenings

### Adam Cohen Named Deputy Director of ONDCP

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recently named Adam Cohen as ONDCP's Deputy Director. Mr. Cohen is a career prosecutor who most recently served as the Director of the Executive Office of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces at the Department of Justice (DOJ). Over his three decades plus career, he has served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) at the Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia, Deputy Chief for Special Operations and Intelligence at the DOJ's Criminal Division, Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section (NDDS), Director of DOJ's National Gang Targeting, Enforcement, and Coordination Center, and manager in the Criminal Division's Office of Enforcement Operations. Mr. Cohen also previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor at ONDCP in charge of developing interagency national synchronization strategies to combat the synthetic opioid crisis in 2016.



ONDCP's press release announcing Mr. Cohen's appointment can be found [here](#).



## Updated SAMHSA Resource on Best Practices for Recovery Housing

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released an updated resource on [Best Practices for Recovery Housing](#). The document explores best practices for the implementation and operation of recovery housing. "These best practices are intended to serve as a tool for states, governing bodies, providers, recovery house operators, and other interested stakeholders to improve the health of their citizens, reduce incidence of overdose, and promote recovery housing as a key support strategy in achieving and sustaining recovery."

The updated resource can be downloaded [here](#).

## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA Blog: Increasing Overdose Prevention Awareness

On August 31, Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), penned a blog on [Increasing Overdose Prevention Awareness](#). The blog post explores the pillars of the Department of Health Human Services' [Overdose Prevention Framework](#) and commemorates the hope around Overdose Awareness Week and International Overdose Awareness Day. The Blog Post also announces new resources on:

- "Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA) Practice Guide. This Guide includes a menu of evidence-based strategies for reducing opioid overdose deaths. The ORCCA Guide has three focus areas: opioid overdose education and reversal medication distribution, medication treatment for opioid use disorder, and safer opioid prescribing and disposal.
- Engaging Community Coalitions to Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths Practice Guide. This provides guidance on building and maintaining community coalitions that focus on the opioid crisis, as well as approaches for assessing how well coalitions are functioning.
- The final [Harm Reduction Framework](#) which will incorporate public feedback and provide a roadmap of best practices, principles, and pillars that every entity can apply to their work."



## CDC Releases Updated SUDORS Dashboard

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released an [update](#) to the [State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System \(SUDORS\)](#) launched last year. The update now adds the option to view preliminary data on 2022 drug overdose deaths, aggregated across 27 States and the District of Columbia, in addition to already available final data on drug overdose deaths during 2020 and 2021. The new preliminary data page will be updated every 6 months, compared with annually for the final data page. The preliminary data page can be accessed on the SUDORS site, [here](#), or as a dropdown option on the SUDORS tool sidebar.

## CDC's Office on Smoking and Health Launches Empower Vape-Free Youth Campaign

On September 4th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Office on Smoking and Health \(OSH\)](#) launched the new [Empower Vape-Free Youth™ campaign](#). The campaign is designed to "...encourage middle and high school educators to speak with students about the risks of e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction." The campaign website provides several resources for both educators and youth to help students avoid or quit vaping, including fact sheets, videos, and infographics. The webpage also links to several other youth smoking cessation campaigns. This new campaign comes as e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. youth since 2014.



## New SAMHSA Resource: Connecting Communities to Substance Use Services: Practical Tools for First Responders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new resource on [Connecting Communities to Substance Use Services: Practical Tools for First Responders](#). The guide is designed to provide "...practical, evidence-based information that first responder agencies, their partners, and communities can use to implement or expand practices and programs for linking people to substance use services."

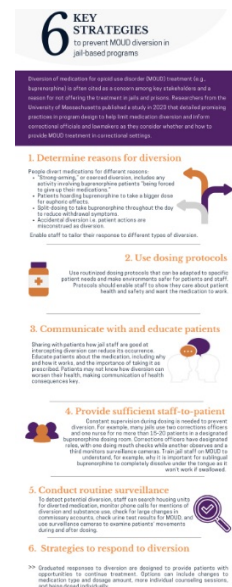
The new resource can be downloaded [here](#).

## Research Round-Up

### University of Massachusetts: Six Strategies to Prevent MOUD Diversion in Jail-Based Treatment Programs

The University of Massachusetts published a [study](#) in the Journal of Substance Use & Addiction Treatment (JSAT) on feedback from jail-based medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) program staff on six key strategies to prevent MOUD diversion in jail-based programs. The study was conducted using semi-structured one-on-one interviews and focus groups with senior administrators, correctional officers, and clinical staff in seven Massachusetts jails. The findings explore strategies to limit medication diversion that include:

1. Determine reasons for diversion
2. Use dosing protocol
3. Communicate with and educate patients
4. Provide sufficient staff-to-patient
5. Conduct routine surveillance, and
6. Respond to diversion



An infographic of the 6 key strategies can be found [here](#).

## Webinars to Watch

### **SAMHSA Webinar: Introduction to SAMHSA's Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a webinar on an [Introduction to SAMHSA's Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center](#). This no-cost webinar will be offered on September 19 at 2:00 pm (ET). SAMHSA recently announced the development of the Crisis System Response Training and Technical Assistance Center (CSR TTAC) to provide training and technical assistance to States, Territories, Tribal organizations, and communities across the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and continuum of care. The webinar is designed to "...serve as an introduction to the Crisis Systems Response TTAC, our partners, as well as provide insight to the collaborative programming to be offered." Registration is required.

### **NCMHA Webinar Series: How SAMHSA Block Grants Can Support Older Adults**



The [National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging \(NCHMA\)](#) is hosting a two-session Learning Collaborative (LC) on How Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grants Can Support Older Adult Behavioral Health. This no-cost webinar series will share background on strategies to help States better address mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) and aging. The LC will highlight two States' use of SAMHSA block grants for older adult mental health and SUD services, lessons learned, and opportunities to leverage block grants to sustain programs and services for older adults. Session one, which will be held on September 21, at 2:00 pm (ET), can be joined [here](#), and session two, on October 26, at 2:00 pm (ET), [here](#).

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## We're Hiring!

### **NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Associate and Analysts**

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women's and Youth Services. See the job listing and link to apply below:

**Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women's and Youth Services**  
NASADAD seeks an experienced, team-oriented person with a demonstrated understanding of substance use issues related to women and youth, excellent writing and research abilities, data analysis experience, and strong communication skills.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Flinn, Ed.D., Senior Research Analyst, at: [tflinn@nasadad.org](mailto:tflinn@nasadad.org).

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