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D.C. Update: NASADAD Releases Updated Fact Sheet on Methamphetamine, SAMHSA Office of Recovery Celebrates First Birthday, FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Stimulant Use Disorder Treatment, and More.

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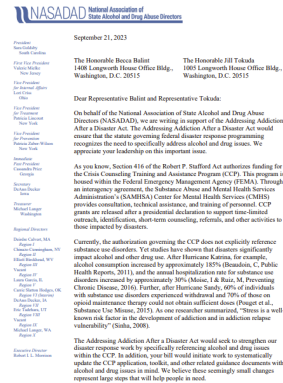
NASADAD News

Reps. Balint and Tokuda Introduce Addressing Addiction After Disasters Act

On Thursday, September 21, Representatives Becca Balint (D-VT-at large) and Jill Tokuda (D-HI-2) introduced [H.R. 5623, the "Addressing Addiction After Disasters Act"](#). The legislation would amend Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by explicitly adding substance use disorders to the portion of the statute that governs the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Crisis Counseling Training and Assistance Program (CCP). Through an interagency agreement, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) provides consultation, technical assistance, and training of personnel for the CCP program. CCP grants are released after a presidential declaration to support time-limited outreach, identification, short-term counseling, referrals, and other activities to those impacted by disasters. The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1), Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), Ann Kuster (D-NH-2), and Jim Costa (D-CA-21).

NASADAD has a long history of working to promote awareness of substance use disorder considerations during a disaster. This work stems from the experiences of the September 11th attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. NASADAD initially released a Policy Brief on the topic in 2005 and issued an updated version in 2020. NASADAD sent a letter to Reps. Balint and Tokuda expressing appreciation for their leadership on H.R. 5623.

NASADAD's most recent issue brief can be accessed [here](#).



The letter can be found on NASADAD's website, [here](#).

NASADAD/ORN Release State Opioid Response Grants Impact Brief

On Friday, October 6, NASADAD, in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN), released a State Opioid Response Grants Impact Brief. The brief provides data on the impact of State Opioid Response (SOR) grant-funded programs on substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery outcomes from September 30, 2018, to January 2023. In addition to prevention, treatment, and recovery support outcomes, the brief highlights the use of SOR grants to address overdose and overdose reversal outcomes across the nation. For additional information on specific States' use of SOR grants and their impact, visit NASADAD's interactive map showing the impact of State Targeted Response (STR) and SOR grants on NASADAD's website, [here](#).

The impact brief can be downloaded from NASADAD's website, [here](#).

NASADAD Releases Updated Fact Sheet on Methamphetamine

Today, NASADAD releases an updated fact sheet originally released in 2015 that provides an overview of the landscape of methamphetamine use in the United States. This updated fact sheet provides current data on trends in use and admissions to treatment, the effects/risks of methamphetamine use, effective treatment services, and the role of key federal programs and agencies in addressing issues related to methamphetamine use.

The updated fact sheet can be found on NASADAD's website, [here](#).

State Opioid Response Grants Impact Brief

Since 2018, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has funded the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. The program provides resources to states and territories to prevent, reduce harm, treat, and support recovery for individuals at risk of or with an opioid use disorder (OUD) and subsequent substance use disorders to lessen the devastation of the opioid crisis. SOR also addresses stimulant misuse and use disorders.

47 States, District of Columbia & Territories reporting*

SOR-funded programs for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery are saving lives across the country.

Prevention Outcomes
2.5 million pounds of medication collected at drug take-back events or locations

Screening

- 3.4 million individuals screened for OUD
- 1.8 million individuals screened for stimulant use disorder

Training

- 14,916 medical practitioners trained on opioid risks
- 19,908 medical practitioners trained on stimulant topics

Education

- 30.4 million individuals educated on the harms of OUD topics
- 8.6 million individuals educated on the harms of stimulant topics

Substance use disorders are both preventable and treatable. Prevention programs build protective factors and reduce risk factors for drug use. These programs can save an estimated 100,000 lives by reducing the societal costs of substance use.

* September 30, 2018, to January 2023. Not all states reported data for all years.



Methamphetamine

Overview: Methamphetamines are powerful stimulants chemically related to amphetamines. Methamphetamines can be taken orally, smoked, injected, or snorted, and are available as a crystalline powder or as a white, chunky, rock-like solid. Smoking or injecting the drug creates a rapid reaction in the brain, causing a feeling of intense pleasure after use. After injection, methamphetamines usually take the least time to produce the effects of the stimulant effects compared to the rapid onset of depression, combined with methamphetamine's short half-life, lead to high rates of substance use disorder (SUD) among users. Prolonged use of methamphetamine can change the structure of the brain as normal responses to dopamine cease to function.

Public Health Impact: Though primarily produced and used illicitly, a legal, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved form of methamphetamine can be prescribed to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or obesity. However, prescriptions are rare, and doses of the FDA-approved drug are much lower than for illicit methamphetamine, which is classified as a Schedule II drug, and prescriptions cannot be automatically refilled.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 1.4 million Americans used methamphetamine in 2021, a 45% increase from 2016, when 1 million individuals used methamphetamine. Those who use methamphetamine tend to be older, with 50% of people who used methamphetamine in 2021 being over the age of 40. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that in 2021, 32.6% individuals died of a prescription overdose, primarily methamphetamine. Death rates have been increasing steadily since 2014.

Public Health Concern: Illicit methamphetamine use poses a significant threat to public health. Long-term methamphetamine use is associated with anxiety, paranoia, confusion, psychosis, weight loss, dental problems, and skin sores caused by persistent scratching. Methamphetamine use has also been linked to the development of HIV and hepatitis B and C in drug users. Other health effects include increased heart rates and physical activity, increased appetite, increased respiratory tract irritation, and increased body temperature.

Overdose and other serious risks for people who use methamphetamine: because the resulting acute cardiac distress and potential chronic vascular events, including myocardial infarction, can be fatal. According to a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), overdose deaths involving methamphetamine among people aged 18 to 49 increased from nearly 100,000 in 2012 to 2019. Additionally, the researchers found that the number of overdose deaths involving psychomotor stimulants (such as other than cocaine, which are considered methamphetamine) rose 100% from 2016 to 2019, and that same period.† Provisional CDC data for the 12 months ending in April 2022 reports 34,219 drug overdose deaths involving psychomotor stimulants, with a potential for misuse, the majority of which also involved methamphetamine.†

Methamphetamine Use: A Clear Link

Treatment Admissions in 2020: 11.6% of total admissions to substance use treatment programs in 2020 were for methamphetamine use.†

National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2019 Data

Age Group	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
12-17	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
18-24	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
25-34	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
35-44	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
45-54	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
55-64	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
65-74	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
75+	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%

† National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Data

Year	Overdose Deaths
2012	~100,000
2013	~120,000
2014	~140,000
2015	~160,000
2016	~180,000
2017	~200,000
2018	~220,000
2019	~240,000

Capitol Hill Happenings

Bipartisan Legislation Introduced Designed to Expand Access to Test Strips for Fentanyl and Xylazine

On September 27, Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan [Advancing Lifesaving Efforts with Rapid Test Strips for Communities Act \(ALERT Communities Act\)](#). If passed, the legislation is designed to expand access to test strips for fentanyl and xylazine by ensuring that "...State and local communities can use State Opioid Response (SOR) grants and First Responder overdose response grants to purchase and distribute test strips for fentanyl or xylazine." The legislation would also require that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), develop a research framework for innovation in test strip technology to continue to improve the quality of test strips.

Senator Hassan's press release announcing the bipartisan legislation can be found [here](#).

Bipartisan Legislation Introduced Targeting Drugs Laced with Fentanyl

On October 3, the [Targeting Online Sales of Fentanyl Act](#), was introduced that aims to inhibit online sales of counterfeit drugs laced with fentanyl. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan legislation that would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate methods used to enable the online sale of fentanyl and assess federal law enforcement and online providers' efforts to combat the issue. Specifically, the bill would require GAO to provide a report within

one year on the following:

- “the business models and techniques employed by online fentanyl traffickers;
- the utilization of social media platforms in facilitating fentanyl transactions involving youth;
- the scope and effectiveness of federal initiatives aimed at countering online fentanyl sales, including intergovernmental and interagency collaborations;
- the enforcement mechanisms and processes employed by online providers to detect and report transactions; and
- an analysis of the outcomes of referrals to law enforcement agencies regarding online fentanyl sales, along with areas requiring improvement”

The bill is cosponsored by Senators Mike Lee (R-UT), Peter Welch (D-VT), Tom Tillis (R-NC), Chris Coons (D-DE), and Bob Casey (D-PA).

Senator Booker’s press release announcing the bipartisan legislation can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$42.6 Million to the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success Program



On September 28, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), awarded \$42.6 million in Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grants to 17 States and 60 communities. SPF-PFS grants “...focus on preventing substance use initiation and reducing the progression of substance use and related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance use prevention and mental health promotion strategies.” New this year, the SPF-PFS program is providing two distinct funding opportunities: one for States, and one for communities. The \$42.6 million in awards is broken down as follows:

- [“\\$21.9 million for Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges and Tribes/Tribal Organizations.](#) Through these awards, 60 communities, local governments, colleges and universities, and tribes will implement substance use prevention projects across 33 states.
- [\\$20.7 million for Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for States.](#) Through these awards, 17 states and territories will implement substance use prevention projects.”

SAMHSA’s press release announcing the awards can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA: Happy First Birthday Office of Recovery!

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) celebrated the [Office of Recovery’s \(OR\)](#) first birthday on September 29. In a [blog post](#) penned by Director of the Office of Recovery Paolo Del Vecchio, he reflects on the work of the Office over the last year. This includes efforts to amplify and address inclusion, equity, peer services, recovery, and wellness.

FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Stimulant Use Disorders: Developing Drugs for Treatment

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) opened for public comment draft guidance on [Stimulant Use Disorders: Developing Drugs for Treatment](#). The guidance aims to assist sponsors in developing treatments for stimulant use disorders, of which there is currently no FDA-approved medication (including for cocaine use disorder, methamphetamine use disorder, and prescription stimulant use disorder). “The guidance requests information regarding clinical trial designs to evaluate stimulant use disorder, the development process, data collection, and methods for assessment.” The draft

guidance also “...incorporates lessons learned about approaches that are unlikely to be successful and reflects current recommendations about approaches for treating stimulant use disorders and evaluating response to treatment.” Comments are due December 4, 2023.

The FDA’s press release announcing the draft guidance can be found [here](#).

Research Round-Up

HHS-OIG Releases Report on Medicaid Enrollees’ Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



Many Medicaid Enrollees with Opioid Use Disorder Were Treated with Medication; However, Disparities Present Concerns

The Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a [report](#) on Medicaid enrollees’ access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). The report tracked Medicaid claims data to examine the prevalence of methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). The report offers background on MOUD, data on the use of MOUD among Medicaid enrollees, disparities in MOUD among enrollees, and State variation in MOUD use. The report found that most Medicaid enrollees with OUD diagnoses were treated using buprenorphine, with a quarter of diagnosed enrollees living in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and two-thirds of them between the age of 19 and 44. Other key findings include:



- “One-third of the 1.5 million Medicaid enrollees with opioid use disorder did not receive medication treatment (referred to as MOUD) in 2021.
- Certain demographic groups— including Black or African American enrollees; enrollees 18 years of age and younger; and enrollees with a disability and/or blindness—were less likely to receive MOUD.
- In 10 States, less than half of enrollees with opioid use disorder received MOUD.”

Based on the report’s findings, HHS-OIG recommends that the federal government continue to support and educate State programs on the benefits of MOUD.

Webinars to Watch

NCSACW Webinar: A Family-Centered Approach to Implementing Plans of Safe Care for Infants and Families Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure



The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is hosting a webinar on [A Family-Centered Approach to Implementing Plans of Safe Care for Infants and Families Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure](#). This no-cost webinar is being held on October 19, at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar examines Plans of Safe Care, which the 2016 Amendments to the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) clarified are developed for infants affected by prenatal substance exposure. Specifically, the webinar offers an overview of developing a family-centered approach to implementing Plans of Safe Care, including:

- “The essential elements of a family-centered approach
- Michigan’s collaborative systems efforts across home visiting, substance use disorder treatment, healthcare, and child welfare to enhance a family-centered approach to plans of safe care
- Data to understand needs and inform progress
- Equitable access to family-centered services
- Stigma”

Registration is required.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Analyst

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., Associate Director of Planning and Program Management, at: tflinn@nasadad.org.

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