

December 19, 2024



DC Update: End-of-Year Appropriations Update, January 2025 is First-Ever Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month!, NIH-Funded Study Finds Substance Use Among Adolescents Remained Low in 2024, and More.



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Meet the Member

Heather Doncaster, Women's Services Network (WSN) Coordinator for Delaware

Heather Doncaster was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) within the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) in September 2024. Ms. Doncaster also serves as the Women's Services Network (WSN) Coordinator for Delaware.

In her current role as Deputy Director, Ms. Doncaster oversees government relations, workforce development and education, and other special projects. Prior to joining DSAMH, she spent 24-years with the Delaware Department of Correction where she most recently served as Chief of Planning, Research, and Reentry. Her work on the DOC executive team centered on mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) program implementation, department and legislative policy, compliance, accreditation, evidenced-based practices, program evaluation, quality assurance, and data-driven decision making. Before joining the DOC executive team, Ms. Doncaster served as a Probation and Parole Officer/Supervisor.



Ms. Doncaster earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and psychology from the

NASADAD News

Farewell to Maddie Hise!

Join us in saying goodbye and good luck to NASADAD Public Policy Intern Maddie Hise! Maddie's last day with NASADAD is this Friday, December 20th. Maddie joined NASADAD in September 2024 while pursuing her master's degree in Addiction Policy & Practice from the Georgetown University O'Neill Institute's Addiction and Public Policy Initiative. During her time with NASADAD, her work included leading the D.C. Update weekly policy update newsletter, developing memos on proposed legislation, assisting with NASADAD Board Meetings, attending congressional hearings, and supporting the development of resources for Capitol Hill. Maddie will now return to Georgetown University to finish her graduate degree. She will be looking for full-time work starting in the Summer of 2025.

Best of luck, Maddie!



Capitol Hill Happenings

End-of-Year Appropriations Update

On December 17, Congress released text for a second Continuing Resolution (CR), the [*Further Continuing Appropriations and Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 \(H.R. 10445\)*](#), which would temporarily extend funding for the federal government at their Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funding levels, with a few exceptions, through March 14, 2025. The [current CR](#) that the government is operating under expires after December 20, 2024, giving Congress until the end of the day on December 20 to pass the second CR in order to prevent a government shutdown.

At this point, trade press reports that the second CR is facing opposition by certain Members of Congress. President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Vance issued a statement opposing passage of the CR as drafted. Negotiations are ongoing on a possible path forward to avoid a government shutdown.

NASADAD will provide updates as more information is released and action is taken.

Around the Agencies

January 2025 is First-Ever Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month!

January 2025 will mark the first-ever Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month. Treatment Month will be an annual observance dedicated to recognizing the role of treatment in the continuum, the benefits of treatment services, and normalizing seeking help for substance use disorder (SUD). In recognition of Treatment Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [*Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month Toolkit*](#), which contains social media shareables, website graphics, virtual meeting backgrounds, and other resources to elevate SUD treatment's impact on communities across the country.



Additional Treatment Month resources, including opportunities to get involved in events, can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA and CDC Issue Dear Colleague Letter on Advancing HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing with Point-of-Care Diagnostics for People with Substance Use Disorder

On December 9th, Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued a Dear Colleague Letter on [Advancing HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing with Point-of-Care Diagnostics for People with Substance Use Disorder](#). The joint letter calls on the public health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment communities to increase the provision of HIV and viral hepatitis testing and treatment as part of SUD treatment services. Specifically, the letter outlines the prevalence of HIV and viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs, CDC's recommendations for testing for people who inject drugs, and barriers to providing HIV and viral hepatitis testing in SUD treatment settings.

Research Roundup

NIH-Funded Study Finds Substance Use Among Adolescents Remained Low in 2024

A [study](#) published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reported a continuation in trends of lower use of most substances among adolescents following the significant decline in use during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2024, marking the fourth consecutive year of low levels of use among adolescents. The study analyzed data from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) and found that self-reported use for nearly all measured substances decreased significantly between 2020 and 2021 after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with those low levels remaining consistent or even declining for certain substances from 2022-2024. Key findings for 2024 include:



- **Alcohol use** remained stable for eighth graders, with 12.9% reporting use in the past 12 months. Alcohol use declined among the other two grades surveyed, with 26.1% of 10th graders reporting alcohol use in the past 12 months (compared to 30.6% in 2023), and 41.7% of 12th graders reporting alcohol use in the past 12 months (compared to 45.7% in 2023).
- **Nicotine vaping** remained stable for eighth and 12th graders, with 9.6% of eighth graders and 21.0% of 12th graders reporting vaping nicotine in the past 12 months. It declined among 10th graders, with 15.4% reporting nicotine vaping in the past 12 months (compared to 17.6% in 2023).
- **Cannabis** use remained stable for the younger grades, with 7.2% of eighth graders and 15.9% of 10th graders reporting cannabis use in the past 12 months. Cannabis use declined among 12th graders, with 25.8% reporting cannabis use in the past 12 months (compared to 29.0% in 2023). Of note, 5.6% of eighth graders, 11.6% of 10th graders, and 17.6% of 12th graders reported vaping cannabis within the past 12 months, reflecting a stable trend among all three grades.
- **Any illicit drug use other than marijuana** declined among eighth graders, with 3.4% reporting use in the past 12 months compared to 4.6% in 2023). It remained stable for the other two grades surveyed, with 4.4% of 10th graders and 6.5% of 12th graders reporting any illicit drug use other than marijuana in the past 12 months. These data build on long-term trends documenting low and declining use of illicit substances reported among teenagers – including past-year use of cocaine, heroin, and misuse of prescription drugs, generally.”

This data is also available across demographic groups.

Additional data can be found in the 2024 MTF data tables, [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA CFRI Webinar: Behavioral Health Care Access Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) Populations

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform and Innovation (CFRI) is hosting a webinar on [*Behavioral Health Care Access Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual \(LGB\) Populations*](#). This no-cost webinar is on January 7, 2025, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will review a SAMHSA report from 2023 on [*Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Behavioral Health: Results from the 2021 and 2022 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*](#), which found elevated rates of substance use, suicidal ideation, and mental illness among LGB individuals compared to other individuals. Further, the webinar will feature federal and national leaders who will discuss strategies to promote equitable care for LGB populations and LGB-specific barriers to accessing mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care.

Registration is required.

NCHPH and NHCHC Webinar: Supporting and Understanding Tobacco Cessation Programs in Public Housing Primary Care Webinar Series

The National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH) and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) are hosting a two-part webinar series on [*Supporting and Understanding Tobacco Cessation Programs in Public Housing Primary Care*](#). These no-cost webinars will explore Macro and Micro level evidence-based practices to support tobacco cessation programs in community health center settings. The first webinar, on January 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm ET, will provide current data for trends in tobacco products used by residents in public housing and people experiencing homelessness. The second webinar, on January 23, 2025, at 2:00 pm ET, will offer case examples and best practices to improve health outcomes for individuals who use tobacco products.

Registration is required for both.

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