

March 13, 2025



DC Update: NASADAD and State-Based Colleagues Present to Country Authorities, NIDA's National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week: March 17-23, CDC Report on US Adult Tobacco Product Use, 2017-2023, and More.



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Meet the Member

Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Ph.D., MPH, MSW, SSA for Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Dr. Latika D. Davis-Jones, Ph.D., MPH, MSW, serves as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, a position she was appointed to by Governor Josh Shapiro in January 2023. She also serves as the Single State Agency (SSA) Director for Pennsylvania.

Dr. Davis-Jones has over 30 years of experience addressing the physical and mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) needs of vulnerable populations. Prior to joining the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, she provided leadership and administrative oversight of Highmark Wholecare's mental health and SUD program, including the development of operations in new business initiatives and the implementation and evaluation of utilization management, case management, and



condition management programs. Dr. Davis-Jones also previously served at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (Office of Behavioral Health), leading drug and alcohol efforts pertaining to prevention, treatment, and recovery supports for Allegheny County residents.

In her current role, she is responsible for the administration of prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery supports, rehabilitation, research, education, and training activities within the department, as well as across State agencies. Her department serves a critical role in coordinating efforts at the federal, State, and local levels. In addition to programs geared toward SUD, DDAP also implements programs to address problem gambling.

Dr. Davis-Jones actively serves on community and advisory boards, including Global Links and The Advance Leadership Institute (TALI). Her many awards include the Onyx Woman Network Leadership Award, Social Worker of Greatness (SWAG) Award, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Martin Luther King Jr. Impact Award, and the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Leadership Award, among others.

Dr. Davis-Jones earned her undergraduate degree from Central State University and her master's in Social Work, Public Health, and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Joins State-Based Colleagues to Present to Country Authorities

On March 6, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison joined other State-based groups to present on a panel on *Medicaid: Challenges and Opportunities* during the 2025 Legislative and Policy Conference convened by the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Disability Directors (NACBHD) in Washington, D.C.

Jonah Cunningham serves as President and CEO of NACBHD. Other panelists included Mary Sowers, Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS); and Kirsten Beronio, consultant to the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), among others.



Around the Agencies

FDA Issues Proposed Rule to Reduce Nicotine Level in Cigarettes and Certain Other Combusted Tobacco Products

On January 15, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a proposed rule on [Tobacco Product Standard for Nicotine Yield of Cigarettes and Certain Other Combusted Tobacco Products](#). If finalized, the proposed rule would limit the level of nicotine permitted in cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products to a "minimal or nonaddictive level." Specifically, FDA is proposing to cap nicotine levels at 0.7 milligrams per gram of tobacco in cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, most cigars, and pipe tobacco. The rule would not apply to e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, non-combusted cigarettes, waterpipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco products, or premium cigars.

FDA is accepting [public comments](#) on the proposed rule through September 15.

FDA's press release announcing the proposed rule can be found [here](#).

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is hosting the 2025 [*National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week \(NDAFW\)*](#), March 17-23.

NDAFW is an annual national observance featuring scientists, students, educators, providers, and other community partners to share facts around the science of substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) to help address youth drug and alcohol use nationwide. Specifically, NDAFW includes:

- Collaborations with hundreds of communities across the U.S. and around the world.
- Sharing the science on substance use and SUD.
- Learning lifesaving skills focused on overdose awareness and response.
- Empowering youth to make informed choices about their health.

NIDA is still accepting registrations to host official NDAFW events. Additional information on how to register an event for NDAFW can be found [here](#).

A map of official NDAFW events can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Highlights Resources on Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center (EBPRC) is highlighting a pair of resources on effective treatment practices for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder (SUD). The resources are designed to improve providers' awareness of co-occurring disorders (COD) and their capacity to address COD, as well as outline evidence-based strategies and real-life examples for addressing COD. The two resources include:

- [*Advisory: Substance Use Disorder Treatment for People with Co-Occurring Disorders \(based on TIP 42\)*](#)
 - "This resource highlights strategies for providers and program administrators to screen, assess, diagnose, and manage the treatment of CODs."
- [*Treatment Considerations for Youth and Young Adults with Serious Emotional Disturbances and Serious Mental Illnesses and Co-occurring Substance Use*](#)
 - "This guide reviews interventions on treating substance misuse and substance use disorders (SUD) in youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED), distills the research into recommendations for practice, and provides examples of the ways that these recommendations can be implemented."

Additional SAMHSA resources can be found on EBPRC's website, [here](#).

Research Roundup

CDC Report on Tobacco Product Use Among Adults in the US, 2017-2023

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published a report in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on [*Notes from the Field: Tobacco Product Use Among Adults—United States, 2017-2023*](#). The report utilized National Health Interview Survey data on tobacco product use among adults aged 18 and older from 2017-2023 to identify trends in the use of commercial tobacco products, including combustible tobacco products, smokeless tobacco products, and e-cigarettes among adults. The report found a decrease of 6.8 million, or 2.9%, in the number of adults who currently exclusively smoke cigarettes from 2017 to 2023. However, the report also found an increase of 7.2 million, or 2.9%, in the number of adults who currently exclusively used e-cigarettes over that period, offsetting the decline in cigarette use. Other key findings include:

- "Among adults aged 18–24 years, decreases in prevalences of exclusive cigarette and pipe smoking (6.5% to 1.2% and 1.0% to 0.1%) and population estimates (1.9 million to 350,000 and 290,000 to 40,000) were identified."

- Within this age group, increases in exclusive e-cigarette use prevalence (2.7% to 10.3%) and population estimates (800,000 to 3.1 million) were found.
- Among adults aged 25–44 years, decreases in prevalence of exclusive cigarette smoking (12.0% to 7.6%) and population estimates (10.1 million to 6.5 million) were identified, along with increases in exclusive e-cigarette use prevalence (1.5% to 6.1%) and population estimates (1.3 million to 5.2 million).
- Among adults aged 45–64 years, an increase in exclusive e-cigarette use in population estimates (690,000 to 1.6 million) was identified.
- Among adults aged ≥65 years, decreases in prevalence of exclusive pipe smoking (0.4% to 0.1%) and population estimates (190,000 to 80,000), along with an increase in population estimates of exclusive cigarette smoking (3.6 million to 4.2 million) were identified."

The authors emphasize the need for continued surveillance and use of comprehensive tobacco control strategies, such as price increases, smokefree policies, high-impact media campaigns, and cessation support to prevent and reduce tobacco product use.

The report can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

Georgetown University O'Neill Institute Webinar: Building the Substance Use Disorder Workforce of the Future



The O'Neill Institute's Center on Addiction and Public Policy at Georgetown Law is hosting a webinar on [Building the Substance Use Disorder Workforce of the Future](#). This no-cost webinar is on March 25, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will offer an overview of the "[Model Building the Substance Use Disorder Workforce of the Future Act](#)," a model law developed in collaboration with the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) that provides a template for States to develop and implement a strategy to grow the substance use disorder (SUD) workforce. Learning objectives include:

- "The current state of the behavioral health workforce in the U.S. and key challenges
- Opportunities for states to build a workforce that can effectively support individuals with SUD
- Best practices to enhance recruitment, retention, and quality of care
- Strategies to strengthen and support the growing peer recovery and harm reduction workforce"

Deirdre (Dee) Calvert, Director, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Single State Agency (SSA) Director for Massachusetts, and NASADAD Vice President for Internal Affairs is presenting during the webinar.

Registration is required.

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