

May 29, 2025



DC Update: 31 House Members Sign Dear Colleague Letter for PPW Program Funding, CDC Releases Preliminary Data on Overdose Deaths, Study Finds 1 in 4 Kids Has a Parent Struggling with SUD, and More.



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Meet the Member

Megan Mitchell, LCSW, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Vermont

Megan Mitchell, LCSW, currently serves as Director of Clinical Services for the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs. She also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Vermont.

Ms. Mitchell started her career in health and human services as an advocate for individuals affected by intimate partner violence, in addition to working for a community nonprofit as a school social worker in a K-12 school district for a decade. In those roles, she gained first-hand experience in the impact of substance use on individuals and families before moving from direct service to public service through the State of Vermont, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). During her more than 5 years at DVHA, Ms. Mitchell held a number of positions focused on mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries, including serving as Director of Quality Improvement and Clinical Integrity.

Ms. Mitchell transitioned to her current role at the Vermont Department of Health in 2016. In her current capacity, she leads a team who oversees a variety of SUD-related initiatives



across the State, including a statewide network of certified SUD programs and recovery housing programs; the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant; Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program; VTHelplink, Vermont's 24/7 resource for SUD information and referrals; and a variety of other programming supported by the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant.

Ms. Mitchell earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a double major in English Literature from St. Michael's College, and her Master of Social Work from the University of Vermont. She became a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in 2006.

NASADAD News



2025 National Prevention Network Conference- Registration Now Open

The 2025 *NASADAD National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference* will be held August 11-13, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C. The NPN Conference highlights the latest research in the substance use prevention field and provides a forum for prevention professionals, coalition leaders, researchers, and federal partners to share research, best practices, and evaluation results for the purpose of integrating research into practice. This year's theme is: *Substance Use Prevention Across the Lifespan: Creating a Monumental Impact*.

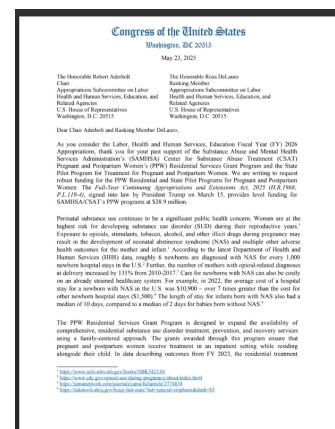
Regular registration is now open through July 21. Additional information can be found on the registration page [here](#).

Capitol Hill Happenings

31 House Members Express Strong Support for PPW Program Funding in Letter to Appropriations Leadership

On May 23, 31 Members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies, seeking robust investments in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's (CSAT) Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential Services Grant Program and State Pilot Program. The letter was led by Representatives Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13) and Shontel Brown (D-OH-11). The letter highlights the need for specific services tailored to the pregnant and postpartum women population and promotes the benefits of the Residential Services and State Pilot programs in expanding access to comprehensive, gender-specific, and family-centered care.

NASADAD recently released an updated fact sheet on *Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women: A Closer Look at SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) Program*. The fact sheet reviews the history of the PPW Residential Services Program, and the addition of the State Pilot Program, when it was created in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) [P.L. 114-198]. The fact sheet can be found on the NASADAD website, [here](#).



We wish to recognize Rep. Budzinski and Rep. Brown's offices for their leadership on this important issue.

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

Around the Agencies

CDC Releases Preliminary Data on Overdose Deaths

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released [preliminary data](#) from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on overdose deaths in the United States from 2023 to 2024. The preliminary data estimates a 26.9% decrease in overdose deaths in the U.S. from 2023 to 2024, down from 110,037 in 2023 to 80,391 in 2024, marking the lowest level of annual drug overdose deaths since 2019. Further, the data indicates that overdose deaths involving opioids, cocaine, and psychostimulants decreased significantly. The data is also broken-down by State and drug type, and will be featured in an interactive web data visualization on CDC's National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts page, [here](#).



CDC attributes the decline in overdose deaths to a comprehensive public health strategy that includes expanded access and distribution of naloxone, improved access to treatment for substance use disorder (SUD), shifts in the drug supply, and sustained investments in prevention initiatives and response efforts.

CDC's press release on the preliminary data can be found [here](#).

HRSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP) Now Accepting Applications

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced a new funding opportunity for the [Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery \(STAR\) Loan Repayment Program](#). This program intends to recruit and retain medical, nursing, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) clinicians and paraprofessionals who provide direct treatment or recovery support to patients with or in recovery from SUD at a Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program-approved facility. Specifically, the program offers financial support, through loan repayments, to eligible professionals in exchange for six years of full-time employment in direct treatment and recovery support provision at a STAR LRP-approved facility.

HRSA will provide up to \$250,000 in loan repayment to eligible health professionals in exchange for a six-year full-time service obligation. Applications are due July 10, 2025.

Additional details, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found, [here](#).

NCSACW Toolkit: Carry the Message How Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies Can Help Child Welfare Agencies Meet the Safety Needs of Children



National Center on
Substance Abuse
and Child Welfare

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) released a toolkit on [Carry the Message How Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies Can Help Child Welfare Agencies Meet the Safety Needs of Children](#). The toolkit is designed to build capacity in the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and child welfare services workforce to better respond to the safety needs of children facing substance use in their homes. Specifically, the toolkit aims to strengthen collaboration between SUD treatment agencies and child welfare agencies, as well as provide training to child welfare staff to understand the safety needs of children and their parents when substance use is present. The toolkit includes two briefs and a presentation package on:

- [*Brief 1: An Overview of Substance Use Trends and Their Potential Effects on Child Safety*](#)
 - “Provides an overview of current and emerging substance use trends and their effects on families and child safety. Includes collaborative based practice- and systems-level strategies to ensure child safety.”
- [*Brief 2: How Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Agencies Can Partner with Child Welfare Systems to Deliver Training to Child Welfare Professionals to Ensure Child Safety*](#)
 - “Considers three main questions for substance use disorder treatment and recovery providers.”
- [*Presentation Package: Advancing a Cross-Systems Collaborative Approach to Support Families Affected by Current Substance Use Trends and Ensure Safety in the Home*](#)
 - “Developed as a resource to enhance collaboration and cross-training partnerships, the presentation package includes a presentation guide, customizable slide deck, comprehensive reference list, and supplemental resources.”

More information about NCSACW resources on SUD can be found [here](#).

Research Roundup

Study Finds 1 in 4 Kids Has at Least One Parent Struggling with SUD

A group of researchers from the University of Michigan recently published a study in *JAMA Pediatrics* on [*US Children Living With a Parent With Substance Use Disorder*](#). The study used data from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to determine the number of U.S. children living in the same household as at least one parent or primary caregiver with a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5 defined substance use disorder (SUD). Specifically, the study found that nearly 19 million children in the U.S. under the age of 18, or about 1 in 4 children, live with at least one parent with a SUD. Other key findings include:

- Of the 19 million children, 7.6 million have a parent with a moderate or severe SUD, and 3.4 million live with a parent dealing with multiple SUDs.
- Of the 19 million children, more than 6 million have a parent dealing with both an SUD and a mental health disorder.
- The most common parental SUD was alcohol use disorder (AUD), estimated at 12 million parents.

The study calls for pediatricians to be more vigilant in screening families and connecting them to treatment for SUD, including promoting routine screening for substance use within families and adding parental substance use to developmental screenings.

Webinars to Watch

NFSTAC Webinar: Substance Use Disorder 101 – What It Is, What It Isn’t



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded [*National Family Support Technical Assistance Center \(NFSTAC\)*](#) is hosting a webinar on [*Family Connections: Substance Use Disorder 101 - What It Is, What It Isn't*](#). This no-cost webinar is on Thursday, June 5, at 1:30 pm ET. The webinar will provide background on substance use disorder (SUD) and its stages, from experimentation, to progression, to disorder. The webinar will also discuss the unique challenges that families and caregivers face and how to access support for SUD. Learning objectives include:

- “Attendees will understand the basics of substance use disorder, and the differences between the stages of experimentation, progression, disorder.
- Attendees will understand the unique challenges facing families and caregivers, and how to access support that strengthens the entire family, empowering them to have conversations with their children of any age, and actively participate in prevention and support.
- Attendees will be able to identify warning signs indicating that support may be needed.”

Registration is required.

PCSS-MOUD Webinar: Methadone in Acute Care Settings

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS) – Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is hosting a webinar on [Methadone in Acute Care Settings](#). This no-cost webinar is on June 3, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar is intended for providers of methadone to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) and will describe the regulations for methadone in emergency rooms and hospitals, including protocols for rapid methadone initiation and applying changes to the 3-day rule. Learning objectives include:

- “Analyze updated data and best practices for rapid methadone initiation.
- Describe the process of methadone initiation in acute care settings (both Emergency Department and hospital).
- Explain regulations impacting acute care methadone, including applying the new 72-hour rule.”

Continuing education credits are available for participation in the webinar.

[Registration](#) is required.

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