

January 29, 2026



DC Update: Rich Lucey Retires from Federal Service, Deadline Fast Approaches for Final Action on FY 2026 Funding, Study Identifies Patterns of Tobacco and Nicotine Product Use Among Young People in the United States, and More.

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NASADAD News

Rich Lucey, Longtime Prevention Champion, Retires from Federal Service

On Thursday, January 22, NASADAD's Dr. Tracy Flinn, Associate Director for Planning and Program Management, and Robert Morrison, Executive Director, attended an event held at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to recognize Rich Lucey's retirement after 25 years of exemplary federal service. His most recent position was Senior Prevention Program Manager within DEA's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Community Outreach and Prevention Support Section. Rich worked with Sean Fearn, Chief of Community Outreach, to expand and strengthen relationships between local DEA liaisons and State alcohol and drug agencies – particularly the prevention leaders in each State or NASADAD's National Prevention Network (NPN) member. In addition, Rich specifically helped educate communities about the benefits of substance use prevention programs and policies in college and university



settings. Before his service at the DEA, Rich worked as special assistant to Fran Harding, then Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). His federal service began as an Education Program Specialist at the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. In 2024, Rich was the recipient of the NPN's Award of Excellence established in 1990 to recognize an individual outside of the Network for their work and leadership in the prevention field. NASADAD and NPN members wish to recognize and thank Rich for his years of federal service and his focus on educating the nation regarding the importance of prevention!

[Pictured above left to right: Sean Fearn, Rich Lucey, Dr. Tracy Flinn, and Robert Morrison).

Capitol Hill Happenings

Friday, January 30 Deadline Fast Approaches for Final Action on FY 2026 Funding

Congress is working with the White House to find a pathway before a January 30 deadline that would allow a final deal on remaining FY 2026 appropriations bills – including the measure funding the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its operational agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). As previously reported, the House considered and approved a package of six FY 2026 appropriations bills last week. Over the weekend, Senate Democrats expressed concerns about policies at the Department of Homeland Security / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after unrest in Minneapolis led to a death that remains under investigation. On Thursday, January 29, the Senate failed to generate enough votes on a procedural motion that would have allowed the 6-bill appropriations package to move a step closer to a final vote. Some observers believe work will move forward to separate the bill providing funding for the Department of Homeland Security from the package and allow a vote on a 5-bill package to move forward. The House of Representatives, however, would have to approve the new 5-bill package but House Members are currently out of town until next week. Some type of government shutdown is possible if action is not completed by the deadline. NASADAD will continue to monitor FY 2026 appropriations and report developments to the membership.

Around the Agencies

FORE Awards Grant to Yale University: Establishes National Methadone Access and Quality Commission



The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) awarded Yale University a \$917,027 grant to establish the [National Methadone Access and Quality Commission \(NMAQC\)](#). This committee is focused on improving access to methadone treatment for people with opioid use disorder (OUD). The commission brings together experts from addiction medicine, public health, policy, health care delivery, and those with lived experience of methadone treatment for OUD, to inform policy and clinical practice change, and increase public understanding of methadone treatment. Key issues to be examined by the commission include:

- “Patient experiences of methadone treatment
- Regulatory and policy barriers that inhibit access

- Opportunities to enhance clinical practice standards and workforce development
- Impacts of financing and reimbursement models
- Innovations in treatment delivery models
- Public health impacts”

SAMHSA Releases Advisory & Blog: Evidence-Based Care & Support for People with Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders and Eating Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released an advisory on [Evidence-Based Care for Clients with Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders and Eating Disorders](#) and a blog post titled [Here's How to Support People with Both Eating and Substance Use Disorder](#). The advisory seeks to highlight the importance of integrated, evidence-based care and treatment for people with co-occurring eating disorders (EDs) and substance use disorders (SUDs). Specifically, the advisory aims to educate providers, discuss the relationship between EDs, SUDs, and issues related to co-occurrence, and provide an overview of screening approaches and evidence-based treatments. The blog further discusses the prevalence of these co-occurring conditions, detailing the link between EDs and SUDs and how integrated care can improve recovery outcomes. Key advisory messages include:

- “EDs that co-occur with SUDs most often are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder.
- EDs and SUDs must both be treated for clients to have the best outcomes, although the initial treatment should address the most serious immediate threats to the client’s health and safety.
- EDs and SUDs have shared etiological factors, including genetics, neurological response patterns, and a history of trauma or adverse childhood events.
- Some effective treatments for EDs, particularly psychosocial therapies, are also effective for SUDs.
- SUD treatment providers should screen clients for EDs and be alert for red flags that signal a possible ED.
- SUD treatment providers should develop referral relationships with ED treatment providers.
- Many ED treatment programs also offer SUD treatment, although availability varies by location.”

Research Roundup

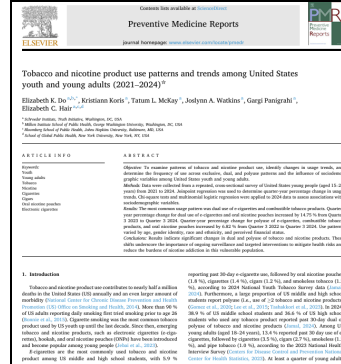
Study Identifies Patterns of Tobacco and Nicotine Product Use Among Young People in the United States

A group of researchers recently published a study in *Preventive Medicine Reports* on [Tobacco and Nicotine Product Use Patterns and Trends Among United States Youth and Young Adults \(2021–2024\)](#). The study analyzed data from a cross-sectional, continuous-tracking survey of young people ages 15-25 in the United States from 2021 to 2024 in order to examine patterns of tobacco and nicotine product use, identify changes in usage trends, and determine the frequency of use across exclusive, dual, and polyuse patterns as well as the influence of sociodemographic variables. Specifically, the study identified changes in dual and polyuse of tobacco and

nicotine products among young people, an increase in dual e-cigarette and oral nicotine pouch use from Quarter 3 2023 to Quarter 3 2024, and an increase in polytobacco use from Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 3 2024. Other key findings include:

- “The most common usage pattern was dual use of e-cigarettes and combustible tobacco products.
- Quarter-year percentage change for dual use of e-cigarettes and oral nicotine pouches increased by 14.75% from Quarter 3 2023 to Quarter 3 2024.
- Quarter-year percentage change for polyuse of e-cigarettes, combustible tobacco products, and oral nicotine pouches increased by 6.82% from Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 3 2024.
- Use patterns varied by age, gender identity, race and ethnicity, and perceived financial status.”

The authors assert that continued monitoring of tobacco and nicotine product use is needed, with shifts in the dual and polyuse of tobacco and nicotine products underscoring the importance of ongoing surveillance and targeted interventions to mitigate health risks and reduce the burdens of nicotine addiction on young people in the United States.



Webinars to Watch

NCSACW Webinar: Strengthening Father Engagement to Improve Child and Family Outcomes

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), jointly funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is hosting a webinar on [Strengthening Father Engagement to Improve Child and Family Outcomes](#). This no-cost webinar is on February 4 from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET. The webinar provides strategies to better integrate fathers into services and increase safety factors for children and families affected by substance use and child welfare involvement. Specifically, the session seeks to explore the importance of engaging fathers, offers ways to overcome engagement barriers in child welfare, SUD treatment, and court services, and shows how these efforts strengthen family supports and improve outcomes. Learning objectives include:

- “Recognize the importance of: 1) including fathers in child welfare and treatment case planning, and 2) promoting father-child relationships
- Learn effective strategies to engage fathers in treatment and services
- Identify ways to promote father engagement within child welfare, SUD treatment, and court systems”

Register [here](#).

NAADAC Webinar: Navigating Ethical Boundaries: Decision Making for Peer Support Specialists and Addiction Counselors

The National Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) is hosting a webinar on [Navigating Ethical Boundaries: Decision Making for Peer Support Specialists and Addiction Counselors](#). This no-cost webinar is on February 11 from 12:00 pm – 1:30



pm ET. The webinar aims to discuss the 2025 updates to the NAADAC Code of Ethics and provide practical tools for ethical decision-making within the behavioral health field. Specifically, the webinar will use real-world case studies to explore topics such as boundary management, dual relationships, ethical self-disclosure, and the prevention of burnout and countertransference. Learning objectives include:

- “Participants will be able to define key ethical principles and 2025 NAADAC Code of Ethics updates relevant to addiction counseling and peer support.
- Participants will be able to apply a seven-step ethical decision-making model to real-world scenarios involving boundaries, self-disclosure, and dual relationships.
- Participants will be able to identify strategies to prevent burnout and countertransference while maintaining culturally responsive, client-centered care.”

CE Certificates are available for participants who view the webinar in its entirety, pass the CE quiz, and complete the online survey evaluation.

Register [here](#).

SAMHSA Webinar: Addressing Veteran Substance Use: Promoting Recovery Through Collaboration and Compassion

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center is hosting a webinar on [Addressing Veteran Substance Use: Promoting Recovery Through Collaboration and Compassion](#). This no-cost webinar is on March 3 from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET. The webinar aims to bring together leaders from the Department of Veteran Affairs, the SAFE Project, and the Oregon Health Authority to discuss evidence-informed strategies, emerging trends, and innovative models to support recovery and resiliency among Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Specifically, these presenters will discuss the importance of coordinated care across systems such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, state health authorities, and community-based organizations, and will highlight programs that are improving access to effective substance use treatment and long-term recovery support. Topics of discussion include:

- “Key trends in Veteran substance use and co-occurring conditions
- Proven treatment and recovery models
- Practical strategies for cross-system collaboration”

Register [here](#).

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