

July 2, 2026



DC Update: House Ways and Means Subcommittee Hearing, CDC Report on Drug Overdose Deaths in Hotels and Motels, Study Investigates Association Between State Kratom Policy Status and Kratom-Involved Overdose Deaths, and More.

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Capitol Hill Happenings

House Ways and Means Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

On Tuesday, June 30, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Subcommittee on Work and Welfare is Chaired by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and the Ranking Member is Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL). The hearing was designed to hear from different stakeholders about MIECHV as the Subcommittee considers reauthorizing the program next year. The witnesses providing testimony included:

- Ms. Wendy Smith of Early Childhood Services in Bloomington, Illinois
- Ms. Shemya Wilson of Changent in Columbus, Ohio
- Ms. Shawn Longoria of Healthcore in Longview, Texas
- Ms. Patricia West of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services in Iowa
- Dr. Paula Sorrell Seanez of the Navajo Nation

The hearing and written testimony from the witnesses can be accessed [here](#).

National Tobacco-Free Recovery Expert Convening

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death among individuals with mental health and substance use conditions. On June 24-25, 2026, Melanie Whitter, NASADAD Deputy Executive Director, attended the SAMHSA Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR) National Tobacco-Free Recovery Expert Convening to develop a National Tobacco-Free Recovery Action Plan. This two-day event brought together a select group of national leaders across public health, health systems, research, industry, and with lived experience to begin to define actionable strategies to close longstanding gaps in access to evidence-based tobacco treatment for people with substance use and mental health conditions.



Around the Agencies

National Deflection Week is Coming Up: July 19 - 25, 2026

National Deflection Week (NDW) will be observed from July 19 to 25, 2026. This year's theme is *Innovation and Inspiration in Deflection: Highlighting Hope, Help, and Heroes in Our Field*. The global campaign recognizes progress and growth within the Deflection field. Specifically, the goals of NDW are to raise awareness and understanding of diversion, educate target audiences, showcase community diversion efforts, and highlight the work of the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC). NDAW resources, messages, hashtags, images, and a [sample proclamation](#) can be found in the PTACC's [2026 NDW Media and Social Media Guide](#).

Research Round-Up

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Drug Overdose Deaths in Hotels and Motels, U.S., 2022–2024

On June 25, 2026, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report titled, "[Notes from the Field: Drug Overdose Deaths in Hotels and Motels — United States, 2022–2024](#)." The report utilized data from the SUDORS to examine drug overdose deaths occurring in hotels and motels between 2022 and 2024. The findings indicate that 56.2% of these overdose deaths took place in the same county where the decedent resided. Among fatal overdoses in which potential bystanders either did not respond or responded with delay, bystander substance use was identified as a contributing factor in approximately 30% of cases, a rate three times higher than that observed among all overdose deaths (8.7%–9.8%). Additionally, opioid involvement was reported in 85.5% of overdose deaths in hotels and motels, exceeding the proportion observed in all overdose deaths (73.4%–81.7%). The findings indicate that incorporating hotels and motels into overdose surveillance data analyses, and, where appropriate, collaborating with hotel and motel operators in the development of overdose prevention programs, may enable public health officials to enhance guest safety and reduce overdose fatalities in these settings.



The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Study Uses SUDORS Data to Investigate Association Between State Kratom Policy Status and Kratom-Involved Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2020–2024

On May 14, 2026, a group of researchers published a study in the [Journal of Substance Use and Misuse](#) titled “[Association Between State Kratom Policy Status and Kratom-Involved Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2020–2024: Analysis of the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System \(SUDORS\)](#).” The study examines the association between state kratom policy status and kratom-detected overdose deaths, utilizing State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) data from 45 jurisdictions where kratom detection was reported. States were categorized according to Kratom policy: Schedule I controlled-substance states, where kratom is classified as a controlled substance; regulated states, where kratom is legal but subject to regulations such as age restrictions or labeling requirements; and unregulated states, which have no statewide regulation or control. The study found that, compared with Schedule I controlled-substance states, kratom detection rates were significantly higher in both regulated states (IRR 3.27; 95% CI 1.78–6.02) and in states without statewide policy (IRR 4.19; 95% CI 2.94–5.98). The authors note that state policy context may influence kratom availability and detection, and that ongoing monitoring and policy evaluation are needed.

The full study can be accessed [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

NCSACW Webinar: Workforce Stability: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is hosting a webinar on “[Workforce Stability: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies](#).” This no-cost webinar will be held on July 16 from 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm ET. This webinar will focus on the recently published resource brief, “[Workforce Stability in the Regional Partnership Grants Program: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies](#).” Specifically, the session will analyze how collaborative service models, including Regional Partnership Grants (RPG) Program recipients and their partners, can strengthen workforce stability.

Registration is available [here](#).

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