

September 27, 2019



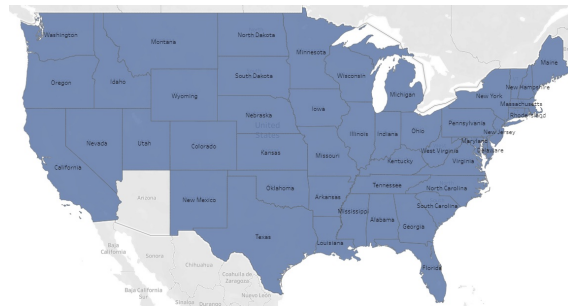
D.C. Update: NASADAD releases State STR/SOR profiles, House Committee on Energy and Commerce holds hearing on e-cigarettes, Congress passes stopgap funding measure, and more

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## News from NASADAD NASADAD releases State STR/SOR Profiles

NASADAD has released [State-specific profiles](#) that describe highlights of each State alcohol and drug agency's efforts to address the opioid crisis with use of the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants, which are managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The State-specific profiles provide background on the STR/SOR grants, outline each State's efforts across the continuum of care, and describe the initial positive outcomes each State has experienced with support from STR and SOR grant funds.



### Meet the Member Cassandra Price, President of NASADAD

Cassandra Price is now serving her third term as President on NASADAD's Board of Directors and is the Director for the Office of Addictive Diseases within the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). She leads a comprehensive system committed to providing easy access to high-quality prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Prior to the creation of DBHDD in 2009, Ms. Price was the women's

treatment coordinator and child & adolescent program administrator, where she was responsible for the implementation and oversight of substance use disorder treatment services for women and children. During this time, Ms. Price served as President of the Women's Services Network (WSN). Ms. Price is a Georgia Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor-II with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia and serves on multiple committees that focus on mental health, substance use, and advocacy for persons with disabilities. In 2017, Ms. Price received the Ramstad-Kennedy Award for her outstanding leadership in support of recovery and Recovery Month.

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## Capitol Hill Happenings

### House Committee on Energy and Commerce holds hearing on e-cigarettes

Robert Morrison, Executive Director, and Shalini Wickramatilake, Federal Affairs Manager, attended a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations within the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The hearing, titled, "Sounding the Alarm: The Public Health Threats of E-Cigarettes", was led by Chairwoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-KY). Other members in attendance were Frank Pallone (D-NJ; Chair of full E&C Committee), Greg Walden (R-OR; Ranking Member of full Committee), Joseph Kennedy (D-MA), David McKinley (R-WV), Paul Ruiz (D-CA), H. Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Susan Brooks (R-IN), Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Ann Kuster (D-NH), Kathy Castor (D-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), and Paul Tonko (D-NY).

The first panel included witnesses Dr. Norman Sharpless, Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Witnesses were asked how their respective agencies are handling the current influx of vaping related lung disease and how they plan to address the growing problem of vaping among youth. The second panel's witnesses included Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Deputy Director for Health at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer of the North Carolina Department of HHS; Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; and Dr. Monica Bharel, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The hearing can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

### FY 2020 appropriations bill for DOJ programs advanced by Senate Subcommittee

The Senate Appropriations Committee [announced](#) the approval of its Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) bill, a \$70.833 billion funding bill that is \$6.7 billion above the FY 2019 enacted level. The bill funds the Department of Justice (DOJ) at \$32.446 billion and provides \$378 million for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) programs, including \$90 million for the Second Chance Act grants which offer substance use treatment, employment assistance, and other rehabilitation services.

### Congress passes stopgap spending measure to avert government shutdown

The House of Representatives and Senate recently passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded after the current fiscal year (FY 2019) ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The President is expected to sign the stopgap funding measure, keeping the government open through November 21<sup>st</sup>. This would give appropriators an additional seven weeks to finalize appropriations for federal programs, including NASADAD's priority programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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## Around the Agencies

### [SAMHSA releases blog post on underage drinking and drug use prevention](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a [blog update](#) from Johnnetta Davis-Joyce, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) within SAMHSA. The blog discusses opportunities for parents and caregivers to have conversations with their children about underage drinking and drug use. Director Davis-Joyce mentions SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You." national media campaign, which provides resources to assist parents, caregivers, and other adult role models in conversations with children as young as nine years old. The blog post also provides "conversation goals" and other resources to help adults start and maintain conversations with their children.

### [SAMHSA releases resources and videos on methamphetamine](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently [released](#) new resources and videos addressing the rise in methamphetamine use. The resource page includes data on methamphetamine, short-term and long-term health risks of using methamphetamine, the number for SAMHSA's National Hotline and Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator, and other relevant resources specific to methamphetamine use.

### [FDA releases statement on efforts to increase availability of naloxone](#)

The Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Ned Sharpless, released a [statement](#) on the agency's continued efforts to increase the availability of all forms of naloxone. The statement notes that most States have passed laws that allow pharmacists to dispense all three forms of naloxone – injectable, auto-injector, and nasal spray – under a standing order. However, many pharmacists may be unaware of the standing orders. Another common misunderstanding is that FDA-approved labeling for the injectable form of naltrexone excludes dispensing by pharmacies or community distribution programs, when in fact all three forms of naloxone are approved for community distribution. The FDA also noted that they have approved the first generic naloxone nasal spray and are in the process of approving naloxone as an over-the-counter (OTC) product.

### [DEA proposal to control chemicals used to illicitly manufacture fentanyl](#)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently [announced](#) a proposal to control three precursor chemicals used to illicitly manufacture fentanyl. Two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking were published in the Federal Register that would make benzylfentanyl and 4-anilinopiperidine list I chemicals and designate norfentanyl as a Schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act. Both notices are based on findings that these substances contribute to the illicit production of fentanyl.

### [SAMHSA National Preparedness Month resources](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has designated September as National Preparedness Month and recently published resources for individuals and families. According to the announcement, those who prepare for disasters may be less likely to experience post-disaster mental health issues and conditions. Resources include a [Family Preparedness checklist](#), guidance on [preparing kits for families and pets](#), and an [emergency preparedness curriculum for children](#) to increase safety and improve mental health and substance use-related outcomes.

### [NIH provides \\$945 million for research on the opioid crisis](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [announced](#) that the agency has awarded \$945 million in FY2019 for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to 41

States through the Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative (HEAL). According to the press release, the NIH HEAL Initiative draws on the expertise of almost every NIH institute to focus on the following areas: translation of research to practice for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD); new strategies to prevent and treat OUD; enhanced outcomes for infants and children exposed to opioids; novel medication options for OUD; clinical research in pain management; and preclinical and translational research in pain management.

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## News from the States

### Governor of Massachusetts orders four-month ban on sale of vape products

Massachusetts Governor, Charlie Baker, recently [declared](#) a public health emergency in response to the growing prevalence of confirmed and suspected cases of lung disease due to the use of e-cigarettes. The Governor also ordered a four-month statewide ban on the sale of all vaping products, including tobacco and marijuana, in retail stores and online. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has received 61 reported cases of vaping-associated pulmonary disease with three confirmed and two probable cases. Governor Baker stated that “the purpose of this public health emergency is to temporarily pause all sales of vaping products so that we can work with our medical experts to identify what is making people sick and how to better regulate these products to protect the health of our residents.” The NASADAD Member from Massachusetts is Deirdre Calvert, MSW, LICSW, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



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## Upcoming Events

### SAMHSA Recovery Month Webinar

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced its 2019 National Recovery Month [webinar series](#). Recovery Month, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, is a national observance held every September to educate Americans on substance use. The final webinar, Celebrating Recovery Across the Nation, will be held September 27<sup>th</sup>, with organizations hosting Recovery Month and other educational events discussing their efforts to raise awareness around substance use disorders.



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## Research Roundup

### Study finds rising rates of infective endocarditis cases associated with drug use

The Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA) published a [study](#) examining the relationship between drug use and an increased risk of infective endocarditis (IE). Researchers noted that there is limited data on the incidence and geographical distribution of drug use-related -IE even though drug use is a major risk factor for IE. Results of the study indicated that drug use-related-IE has increased across the United States, hitting the Midwest particularly hard, over the past 14 years and patients were younger, male, on Medicaid, and in the lowest

quartile of median household income.

### **AHRQ study finds link between opioid prescriptions and new persistent use for women following childbirth**

A [study](#) funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) examined the association between opioid prescriptions after vaginal or cesarean delivery and rates of new persistent opioid use among women. Results of the study found that women who had a cesarean delivery had a 2.2 percent rate of new persistent opioid use and women who had a vaginal delivery had a 1.7 percent new opioid use rate. Both rates are significantly higher than those for women who were not prescribed opioids before or after childbirth.

### **Study finds AHRQ opioid management program improves provider and staff work-life experience**

A recently published [study](#) analyzed the impact of implementing the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) program on improving opioid management in primary care settings. The [Six Building Blocks Program](#) is an evidence-based approach to primary care redesign and includes leadership support; the revision and implementation of new policies and workflows; tracking and monitoring patient care; implementing planned, patient-centered visits; developing resources for complex patients; and measuring implementation success. According to the study, the implementation of the Six Building Blocks improved provider and staff work-life experience, including increased confidence, collaboration, and improved relationships with patients.