

November 7, 2019



D.C. Update: Senate passes appropriations bill funding DOJ, NIH study finds teens prefer mint and mango vaping flavors, and more

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Meet the Member

Rebecca Boss, NASADAD Secretary and Region I Director

Rebecca Boss has served as the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) for three years, since being appointed by Governor Gina Raimondo in 2016. She currently serves on NASADAD's Board of Directors as Secretary as well as Regional Director for Region I. In 2004, Director Boss joined BHDDH and became the Administrator for Substance Use Treatment Services and soon became the Deputy Director of the Department.



Director Boss's goals are to ensure that the Department is running a responsive, caring, and efficient system of person-centered services. Wellness, recovery, and parity are themes on which she insists in order to combat stigma and move closer to an inclusive society. Director Boss and her staff work to create safe, affordable, integrated services while collaborating with community partners to be champions of the people that need assistance in a timely, efficient, and effective manner. This also means building capacity and ensuring every door is the right door for care, while simultaneously working to make sure there is parity and that healthcare is equitable.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate passes appropriations bill funding DOJ; continuing resolution expires Nov. 21st

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed its FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) appropriations bill, which includes proposed funding levels for HHS programs, including those within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In September, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a draft of their L-HHS bill. However, the Senate has not voted on the bill.

FY 2020 began on October 1, 2019, but Congress did not pass any final appropriations bills in time for the new fiscal year. In the absence of any final appropriations, the House and Senate passed a continuing resolution (CR), which was signed by the President, to keep the government open through November 21st. Currently, the House and Senate are not expected to reach final agreement on L-HHS appropriations before the November 21st deadline, and there are indications that they will pass another CR in order to keep the government open.

The Senate also recently passed its Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations bill, which recommends funding levels for NASADAD's priority programs within the Department of Justice (DOJ). The Senate requested \$2.7 billion for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), \$80 million for Drug Courts, \$31 million for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT), \$180 million for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), and \$31 million for Prescription Drug Monitoring. [NASADAD's updated appropriations overview](#) includes a more comprehensive list of funding levels for DOJ programs.

Around the Agencies

1 in 6 1 in 6 adults experienced four or more types of ACEs.

5 of 10 At least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs.

44% Preventing ACEs could reduce the number of adults with depression by as much as 44%.

Overview:
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. Toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. However, ACEs can be prevented.

Preventing ACEs can help children and adults thrive and potentially:

- Lower risk for conditions like depression, asthma, cancer, and diabetes in adulthood.
- Reduce risky behaviors like smoking, and heavy drinking.
- Improve education and job potential.
- Stop ACEs from being passed from one generation to the next.

PROBLEM:
Adverse Childhood Experiences impact lifelong health and opportunities.
ACEs are common and the effects can add up over time.

- 61% of adults had at least one ACE and 16% had 4 or more types of ACEs.
- Females and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for experiencing 4 or more ACEs.
- Many people do not realize that exposure to ACEs is associated with increased risk for health problems across the lifespan.

CDC releases resources on Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Vital Signs series* is focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in this month's issue. The CDC analyzed data from 25 States to estimate the long-term health and social outcomes for adults that experienced ACEs and found associations to 14 negative outcomes. The series notes that preventing ACEs could reduce the prevalence of health conditions including depression, heart disease, asthma, cancer, and diabetes. In addition, a reduction in ACEs could prevent health risk behaviors like heavy drinking and smoking and negative socioeconomic outcomes. The *Vital Signs* report includes an article from *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, fact

sheets, social media tools, and other resources.

ONDCP announces 150 new grants for DFC Support Program

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recently [announced](#) an initial round of 150 new grants for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. The program provides grants to community coalitions to improve infrastructure and work with local partners to reduce youth substance use. The community

coalitions, in collaboration with multiple sectors of the community, use a variety of environmental strategies to engage local youth who may be struggling with substance use. The 150 grants represent a total federal investment of \$18,749,801 to community coalitions with additional FY 2019 DFC grant awards to be announced at a later date.

Research Roundup

NIH study finds teens prefer mint and mango vaping flavors

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new [study](#) suggesting that teens prefer mint and mango flavors in electronic cigarettes. According to the study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, previous research indicates that teens are attracted to vaping due to candy and fruit-flavored products. However, there is limited research on the specific flavors favored by teens. Data from the 2019 Monitoring the Future (MTF) study found that among 10th and 12th graders, mint and mango ranked first and second as most popular, respectively, followed by fruit flavoring. Data also indicated that menthol was among the least popular flavors.

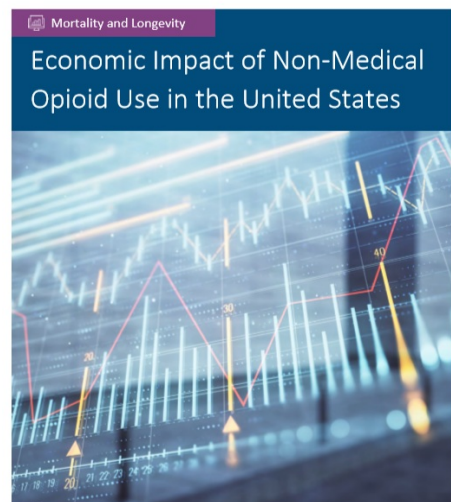
CDC study finds increase in HCV infections in pregnant women with opioid use disorder

A [study](#) published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* examined the rate of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among pregnant women with opioid use disorder (OUD). The CDC analyzed hospital discharge data to determine the rates of HCV infection at delivery for those with and without an OUD. Results indicated that rates for women with an OUD increased from 87.4 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 216.9 in 2015. Rates for women without an OUD increased from 0.7 per 1,000 live births to 2.6. Researchers concluded that treatment for OUD should include screening and referrals for related conditions such as HCV infection.

In the News

Report estimates economic burden of the opioid crisis in 2018

An [article](#) from NPR discusses a [report](#) recently released by the Society of Actuaries estimating the economic impact of the opioid crisis. According to the article, the report found that the opioid crisis cost approximately \$179 billion in 2018, with 29% of those costs borne by federal, State, and local governments. The report also breaks down the overall cost into categories with overdose deaths accounting for the largest proportion at \$72.6 billion. Other categories include \$60.4 billion in health care, \$26.5 billion in lost productivity, \$10.9 billion in criminal justice costs, and \$9 billion in child and family assistance and education.



ASPPH releases report and recommendations to address the opioid crisis

The Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) released a [report](#) titled, "Bringing Science to Bear on Opioids: Findings and Recommendations of the ASPPH Task Force on Public Health Initiatives to Address



BRINGING SCIENCE TO BEAR ON OPIOIDS

Report and Recommendations from the ASPPH Task Force on Public Health Initiatives to Address the Opioid Crisis

November 2019



the Opioid Crisis.” Recommendations from the report include improving the collection of evidence and epidemiological data; combating stigma; ensuring access to medications for opioid use disorder (OUD); reducing associated harms; supporting primary prevention efforts; funding research; and advancing program evaluation and implementation science. Within these categories the task force recommendations include proposed policy changes, investments by governmental entities, or changes in business practices by opioid manufacturers, distributors, and prescribers.