

March 26, 2020



D.C. Update: COVID-19 resources now available on NASADAD website, CDC releases report on opioid overdose mortality rates in 2018, and more

Visit our Website



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### Meet the Member

#### Andy Brown, NASADAD Member

Andrew Brown was appointed to serve as Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Commissioner for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) in May 2019. Prior to being named Commissioner, Mr. Brown, who has more than 20 years of experience in human services program management, served in the role of interim commissioner after starting with KDADS as the BHS Prevention Program Manager in December 2017. Mr. Brown also holds several volunteer positions in local organizations and previously held several officer roles on boards, including the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council Suicide Prevention and Prevention Subcommittees and the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. Brown earned a Bachelor of Applied Sciences in Human Services degree from Washburn University in 2010 and a Master of Social Work, Concentration in Administration, Advocacy and Policy, from the University of Kansas in 2012. He is a 2016 Washburn University Alumni Fellow and a 2015 Leadership Lawrence Alumni.



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**News from NASADAD**  
COVID-19 resources now available  
on NASADAD website

NASADAD has collected important  
COVID-19 updates and resources



- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ▶
- STATE DIRECTORS ▶
- PUBLIC POLICY ▶
- PMWG ▶
- NPN ▶
- NTN ▶
- WSN ▶
- OTN ▶
- HIV ▶
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- COVID-19 RESOURCES ▶
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**NEWS, PUBLIC VIEW**  
**COVID-19 RESOURCES**

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As the country confronts the coronavirus (COVID-19), those with substance use disorders are particularly at risk. [NIDA: COVID-19 potential implications for individuals with SUDs](#). Single State Agencies (SSAs) for alcohol and drug services



specific to substance use and created a dedicated page for this on our website. The webpage provides federal guidance released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). NASADAD is also utilizing the “States helping States” approach by including various resources

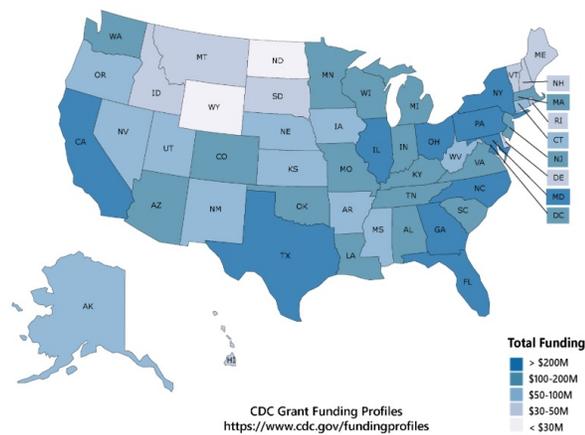
produced by Single State Agencies (SSAs) for alcohol and drug services. The website can be accessed [here](#) and will be updated as new resources become available.

### Around the Agencies

#### CDC updates grant funding profiles

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated their [CDC Grant Funding Profiles](#) site with fiscal year (FY) 2019 data. The site provides interactive data and summaries of CDC grant funding to recipients in States and territories, starting with data from FY 2010. Users can view, sort, and analyze funding data by funding opportunity announcement (FOA), funding source, geography, and recipient name. The site also provides three different views for displaying data including a summary view that provides a funding map for the latest fiscal year; funding query view, allowing users to explore data by fiscal year and filter data through one of 18 categories; and funding category view, presenting the data through pie and bar charts.

Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Funding By State



#### CDC releases report on opioid overdose mortality rates for 2018

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* that includes final data on opioid-involved overdose deaths in 2018. As described in the [report](#), while the opioid-involved overdose death rate decreased 2% from 2017 to 2018, 69.5% of all drug overdose deaths still involved an opioid. Rates decreased among females and among persons aged 15-34 years, 45-54 years, non-Hispanic whites, and in small metro, and non-metropolitan areas. However, rates increased among persons 65 years and older, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics. In terms of specific types of opioids, prescription opioid-involved overdose death rates decreased by 13.5% and heroin-involved death rates decreased by 4.1%. In comparison, synthetic opioid-involved overdose death rates (excluding methadone) increased by 10%.

#### CDC releases new ads and stories to encourage smoking cessation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is beginning to air a new round of ads from their [“Tips From Former Smokers”](#) campaign. The ads will air on



national network and cable television, streaming radio, and online, and will raise awareness about smoking-related diseases such as heart disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and Buerger's disease. In addition to the advertisements, CDC published a

new article called "[Quit For You, Quit For Your Loved Ones](#)" which includes personal stories of individuals living with smoking-related illnesses and two stories from caregivers of individuals who have a smoking-related disease.

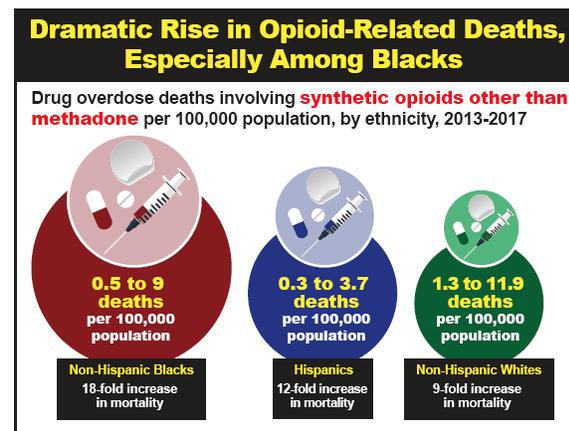
### FDA issues final rule requiring health warnings on cigarette packages and advertisements

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [final rule](#) that will require health warnings on cigarette packages and in cigarette advertisements. As described in the [press release](#), the warnings will include text and color photos depicting some of the serious health risks of cigarette smoking, including impact on fetal growth, cardiac disease, diabetes, and more. Beginning June 18, 2021, the health warnings will be required to appear on cigarette packages and advertisements, covering the top 50% of the area of the front and rear panels of cigarette packages and at least 20% of the area on advertisements. Mitch Zeller, director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), stated that "the 11 finalized cigarette health warnings represent the most significant change to cigarette labels in more than 35 years and will considerably increase public awareness of lesser-known, but serious negative health consequences of cigarette smoking."

### AHRQ research highlights increase in synthetic overdose deaths in minority populations

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a [data spotlight](#) highlighting rising rates of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone in minority populations. Mortality data from 2013-2017 indicated that non-Hispanic Blacks had an 18-fold increase and Hispanics had a 12.3-fold increase in mortality due to synthetic

opioids other than methadone. In comparison, non-Hispanic Whites had a 9.2-fold increase in mortality during the same time period. As described in the data spotlight, members of Black communities have expressed concern about the availability of resources to address this problem and stigma related to opioid use.



### Webinars to Watch

#### Upcoming webinar on combining MRT with MAT for opioid use disorder treatment

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in collaboration with the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), will hold a webinar on combining Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) with medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for the treatment of opioid use disorders (OUD). Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral program that has been used for over 30 years to treat substance use disorders. The co-developer of MRT, Dr. Ken Robinson, and two program facilitators, LeeAnn Lazarony and Kristy Holland, will discuss their experiences using the program. In addition, a clinical overview of evidence-based psychosocial interventions used

with MAT in New York State Opioid Courts will be presented. The webinar will be held April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00pm-3:00pm EST and registration can be found [here](#).

### Webinar covers response to homeless populations during COVID-19 in Washington State

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) recently released a recording of a [webinar](#) titled "COVID-19 Planning and Response: Isolation and Quarantine: Lessons Learned from King County." With Washington State and, in particular, Seattle and King County at the forefront of the response to COVID-19, the webinar highlights the actions taken to establish isolation and quarantine beds and address transportation needs for individuals experiencing homelessness. The webinar includes resources and actions taken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Special Needs Assistance Program regarding homeless populations. Finally, three presenters from Seattle-King County shared specific actions and models that were implemented to address housing, transportation, healthcare needs, and staff safety during the pandemic.

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