

December 2, 2021



D.C. Update: SAMHSA releases advisory on prescription stimulant misuse among youth and young adults, Ohio launches anti-stigma campaign, and more

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Meet the Member

Michelle Nienhius, NPN for State of South Carolina

Michelle Nienhius serves the state of South Carolina as Prevention and Intervention Manager for the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). Ms. Nienhius manages the primary prevention set aside from the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant for the State; serves as the Project Director of the South Carolina Partnership for Success and Preventing Opioid Overdose Death grants; and manages the prevention portion of the State Opioid Response (SOR) discretionary grant. Ms. Nienhius also oversees the South Carolina Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET) initiative for the state. She has presented at numerous national meetings and conferences on prevention workforce development; prevention strategies to reduce underage drinking, opioid, marijuana and youth tobacco use; retailer education; and collaboration between prevention professionals and the law enforcement community to address substance use prevention. Ms. Nienhius completed her Masters of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in 2000 and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the College of Charleston in 1998. She has worked in various roles within the state prevention system at DAODAS since 2001.





Claire Gray, Research Analyst at NASADAD

Claire Gray supports various technical assistance and research projects at NASADAD. She previously supported the Prevention and Treatment Learning Communities as a Research Associate. Notable projects while at NASADAD include an [Early Intervention for Adolescents and Transitional-Aged Youth Resource Guide and Training](#); [Issue Brief on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\) for Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#); and a Health

Equity Resource Center for NASADAD Members. Before coming to NASADAD she worked with a community coalition in Baltimore, supporting environmental strategies for substance use prevention. Claire received a B.A. in Public Health and Global Environmental Change & Sustainability from Johns Hopkins University.

News from the States

Ohio launches anti-stigma campaign

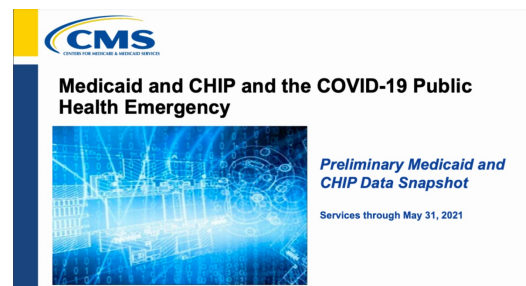
The Ohio Opioid Education Alliance recently launched a new anti-stigma education and awareness campaign. On November 10th, the campaign was launched with a livestream event featuring Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Recovery Ohio Director Alisha Nelson, and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Lori Criss. As described in a [press release](#), the “Beat the Stigma” initiative will appear on broadcast television, streaming services, radio, outdoor advertising, digital and social media, as well as engage communities through grassroots activities.



Around the Agencies

CMS releases COVID-19 Medicaid and CHIP data snapshot

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a new data snapshot regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on families and individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The snapshot includes data from March 2020 through May 2021 for reproductive health services; services delivered via telehealth; service use among beneficiaries who are 18 years of age and under; services for mental health; substance use disorders (SUD); and COVID-19 testing, treatment, and care services. The data snapshot can be viewed [here](#) and information pertaining to substance use disorders (SUD) starts on slide 30.



SAMHSA releases resources on State services for infants and families affected by prenatal substance use

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new three-part series of technical assistance briefs titled [“How States Serve Infants and their Families Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure.”](#) In addition, NCSACW will hold interactive sessions featuring subject matter from the three briefs. On Tuesday, December 14th, the session will summarize steps States have taken to implement the 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

amendments to the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA). The second session, on January 11th, will review States' systems- and case-level strategies for monitoring Plans of Safe Care (POSC) and fulfilling data reporting requirements for CAPTA. Finally, the third session, to be held on February 8th, will provide an overview of the progress, knowledge, and experience States have gained since the passage of the CARA amendments to CAPTA.



SAMHSA releases advisory on prescription stimulant misuse among youth and young adults

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new [advisory](#) regarding prescription stimulant misuse among youth and young adults. As described by SAMHSA, the advisory reviews the evidence on prescription stimulant misuse, discusses the health effects and risk factors for misuse among youth and young adults, establishes prescription stimulant misuse as a public health problem, identifies associated risk and protective factors, opportunities for prevention and treatment, and provides programs and action steps for practitioners, educators, and parents to prevent misuse.

Research Roundup

Study finds alcohol and substance use linked to irregular heart rhythm

A new [study](#) conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) found that the use of methamphetamines, cocaine, opioids, and cannabis, was associated with increased risk of a new diagnosis of atrial fibrillation (AF). AF is a quivering or irregular rhythm in the top two chambers of the heart that can lead to serious complications such as blood clots, stroke, and heart failure. Compared to data from participants who did not use any of the four substances, methamphetamine users had an 86% increased risk, cocaine users had a 61% increased risk, opioid users had a 74% increased risk, and cannabis users had a 35% increased risk. In addition, a separate study also found that acute alcohol consumption was also associated with a higher risk for immediate AF episodes occurring shortly after consumption. Researchers noted that, "given the strong associations we observed in this large and diverse administrative database, future research should be directed at understanding the physiologic implications of these stimulants and depressants on the heart and strengthening efforts within the health care system to reduce substance abuse disorder."
