

November 12, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD releases CARA 3.0 section-by-section summary, APIS releases updated COVID-19 State alcohol policy dataset, and more

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Meet the Member

Amy Cooper, SOTA for State of Colorado

Amy Cooper currently serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for the Colorado Department of Human Services - Office of Behavioral Health. In this role, she manages licensing and compliance related to Colorado's Opioid Treatment Programs, engages with stakeholders around best practices related to medications for addiction treatment, and oversees withdrawal management and other programs utilizing controlled substances to treat addiction. Previously, Ms. Cooper worked as the Women's Services Coordinator for the Office of Behavioral Health and in residential and outpatient levels of care, focusing on women's treatment and offender populations. Ms. Cooper took an interest in working with new clinicians on how to assess and triage clients in need of addiction treatment in corrections settings and how to support clients accessing medications to reduce the risk of overdose after incarceration. She graduated with her Master's in Clinical Psychology with a focus in Addiction Studies.



NASADAD Staff Spotlight

Tracy Flinn, Senior Research Analyst at NASADAD

Tracy Flinn, Ed.D., joined NASADAD in September 2013 as a Senior Research Analyst primarily working with the State and Territory Prevention Directors. In this role, Dr. Flinn provides and arranges for technical assistance to State



and territorial substance use prevention directors; coordinates topic calls and webinars; develops fact sheets and other resources; coordinates the annual National Prevention Research Conference and Prevention Leadership Summits; and oversees and manages day-to-day project implementation.

Dr. Flinn has over 20 years of experience working in prevention at the national, State, and local levels, and is a senior expert in substance use prevention strategies, project management, training and technical assistance, and alcohol and drug research, trends, and policies. She was previously the Associate Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Prevention. Dr. Flinn also directed the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded "A Matter of Degree" coalition at the University of Delaware, where she implemented environmental prevention strategies to reduce alcohol and other drug problems among students and established a statewide prevention coalition of colleges and universities. She received her doctorate in higher education administration and educational leadership from the University of Delaware in 2007.

News from NASADAD

NASADAD releases CARA 3.0 section-by-section summary

NASADAD is pleased to announce the release of a [section-by-section summary](#) of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 3.0. This legislation aims to further bolster efforts to address substance disorders, primarily by increasing federal funding authorization levels for programs across various federal agencies.

CARA 3.0 was introduced in the Senate ([S.987](#)) in March of 2021 and is sponsored by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). The House companion bill ([H.R.4341](#)), introduced in July of 2021, is sponsored by Representatives David Trone (D-MD), Ann Kuster (D-NH), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Tim Ryan (D-OH), David McKinley (R-WV), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Dave Joyce (R-OH)

CARA 3.0 includes several provisions supported by NASADAD including:

- **Improving Treatment for Pregnant, Postpartum, and Parenting Women (Sec. 202)** which would reauthorize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) pregnant and postpartum women (PPW) program and proposes giving preference to grant applicants that: 1) allow clients to receive medication-assisted treatment (MAT); 2) provide culturally competent care; 3) ensure flexible lengths of stay in the treatment program; and 4) use peer recovery advocates.
- **Improving Substance Use Disorder Prevention Workforce Act (Sec. 211)**, which would create a grant program within SAMHSA that would address a large unmet need: supporting our nation's primary prevention workforce. In particular, the grant program would help State alcohol and drug agencies support recruitment, professional development, and training to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the substance use disorder (SUD) workforce; enhance or establish initiatives related to credentialing or other certification processes for prevention; and partner with elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, or institutions of higher education to generate interest in careers in SUD prevention and more.

Around the Agencies

[APIS releases updated COVID-19 State alcohol policy dataset](#)

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's (NIAAA) Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS) announced the release of updated [resources](#) on alcohol-related policies adopted in response to the COVID-19

pandemic. APIS provides an updated Dataset and Codebook to represent state-level policies affecting alcohol availability during the COVID-19 emergency in a form that facilitates incorporating these policies in statistical and other analyses. In addition, APIS released an updated resource that includes a narrative compilation of restrictions adopted in response to COVID-19 on sales and deliveries of alcohol in on-premises and off-premises establishments. The current release of resources provides data for all 50 States and the District of Columbia from the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency through September 15, 2021.

[SAMHSA to hold webinar on supporting military and veteran caregivers](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center announced an upcoming webinar on supporting military and veteran caregivers. Challenges for caregivers include mental health and substance use disorder risks, social isolation, effective communication between caregivers and their children, financial stability, and taking time from one's job. As described by SAMHSA, the webinar will provide a framework for understanding systems of care and support and the impact a Veteran's illness or challenges can have on a family. The webinar will be held on November 16th and registration can be found [here](#).



Research Roundup

[CDC study finds declines in hepatitis C treatment](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced their first [estimates](#) on hepatitis C treatment initiation which show that the number of individuals who initiated treatment in the U.S. declined from 2015 to 2020. As described in a press release, the study found that an average of 120,000 people sought treatment each year which falls short of the 260,000 people that need to be treated annually to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030. In addition, research shows that hepatitis C testing and treatment declined in 2020, likely due to COVID-19. Finally, the study found that acute hepatitis infections quadrupled from 2009 to 2019, with injection drug use the most reported risk factor for hepatitis C.

[NIH study finds disparities in suicide risk among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults](#)

Researchers with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), found that suicide risk among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults vary considerably depending on the intersection between sexual identity and other aspects of identity, such as gender, age, and race/ethnicity. The [study](#) examined data from a nationally representative survey of adults and found that lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults are overall more likely to report suicide-related thoughts, plans, and attempts within the past 12 months compared with heterosexual adults. As described in a [press release](#), the finding indicate that the intersection of social identities may compound suicide risk for some lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals.