

October 28, 2021



D.C. Update: SAMHSA releases 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, HHS Secretary announces release of Overdose Prevention Strategy, and more

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Meet the Member

Patti Clark, Prevention Coordinator for State of Kentucky

Patti M. Clark, Ed.D, MBA, CPS, is the Program Manager of the Prevention and Promotion Branch within the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. She oversees the Kentucky mental health and substance use disorder prevention system. Dr. Clark provides training and technical assistance to prevention providers; supports prevention policy, practice, and program development; and focuses on building prevention systems and creating leveraged collaborations between key stakeholders across communities. She is the Project Director and Principal Investigator for Kentucky's Partnership for Success 2015 grant. She is also the Principal Investigator for Kentucky's Emergency Suicide Response Grant, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Capacity Grant and 988 Planning Grant. She has experience delivering prevention and technical assistance services at the community, State and national levels.



NASADAD Staff Spotlight

Melanie Whitter, Deputy Executive Director of NASADAD

Melanie Whitter is the Deputy Executive Director for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). In this role, she facilitates the translation of research and knowledge into State practice,



sharing State evidence-based and best practices across the nation, and identifying State problems and issues that merit further study and research; provides technical assistance to the NASADAD membership; and coordinates and facilitates timely information exchange to the States concerning policies, programs and practices in the substance use disorder field. Prior to her role at NASADAD, she held the position of Principal Associate and led Abt Associate's Behavioral Health Practice. She has also held the position of Single State Authority for alcohol and other drug services for the State of Illinois and served on the NASADAD Board of Directors, as the Vice-President for Treatment, and as a Regional Director. She is a member and served on the Board of the College for Behavioral

Health Leadership. Over her career, she has been recognized for her commitment to advancing system change by building workforce and infrastructure capacity, creating and sustaining partnerships, and emphasizing research and evaluation.

News from the States

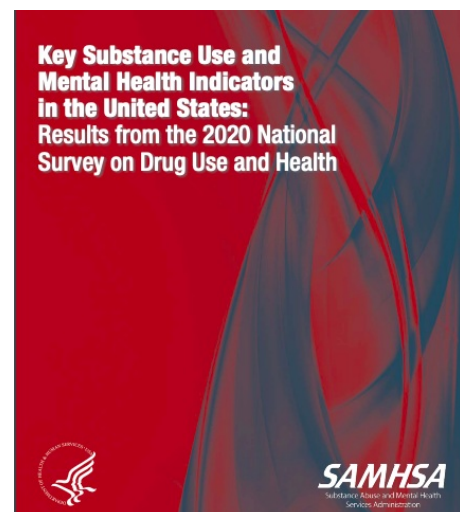
Missouri Department of Mental Health seeking State Department Director

The Missouri Department of Mental Health is seeking a State Department Director. The Director is responsible for overall Department operations and programs in three divisions: Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Administrative Services. The Department has annual budget of over \$2.5 billion and more than 6,500 FTE. The Department of Mental Health Director oversees a department which serves approximately 170,000 Missourians annually through state-operated facilities and contracts with private organizations and individuals. State operated facilities include six psychiatric hospitals, four habilitation centers, three community support agencies, regional offices, a crisis program, and the Sexually Violent Predator program. Qualified persons may send their cover letter and resume by clicking [here](#). Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Around the Agencies

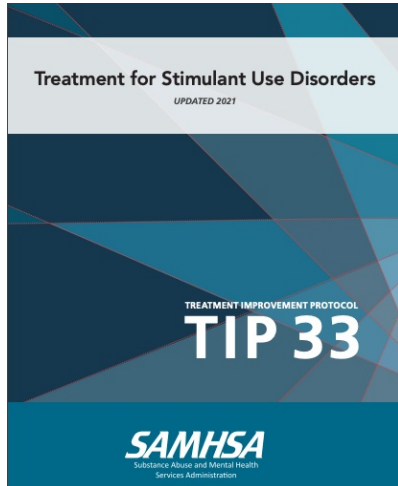
SAMHSA releases 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released findings from the 2020 [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH). As described in a [press release](#), the data suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the nation's well-being. Respondents noted that COVID-19 adversely impacted their mental health, including by exacerbating use of alcohol or drugs among people who had used drugs in the past year. In particular, it is estimated that 25.9 million past-year users of alcohol and 10.9 million past-year users of drugs other than alcohol reported they were using these substances "a little more or much more" than they did before the COVID-19 pandemic began. NSDUH results also indicated that among the 138.5 million people who were current alcohol users, 61.6 million were classified as binge drinkers and 17.7 million were classified as heavy drinkers. In addition, more than 59.3 million people 12 or older used illicit drugs in the past year, including 49.6 million who used marijuana.



HHS Secretary announces release of Overdose Prevention Strategy

Yesterday, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the release of the new HHS [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#). The new strategy focuses on the multiple substances involved in overdose and various treatment approaches for substance use disorders (SUD). As described in a [press release](#), the new strategy prioritizes four key target areas—primary prevention, harm reduction, evidence-based treatment, and recovery support—and reflects the Biden-Harris Administration principles of maximizing health equity for underserved populations. In addition, the strategy provides coordinated, federal support for harm reduction and recovery support efforts, which have been supported by grassroots efforts for decades.



SAMHSA releases updated resource on stimulant use disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [updated](#) a Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) regarding treatment for stimulant use disorders. The updated resource reviews current data on treating the medical, psychiatric, and addiction-related problems associated with the use of cocaine, methamphetamine, and misuse of prescription stimulants. The document includes data on how stimulants affect the brain and behavior, medical aspects of stimulant use disorders, approaches to treatment, practical application of treatment strategies, considerations for special populations, and additional resources.

In the News

Truth Initiative accepting applications for Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program

The Truth Initiative Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program is currently offering grants of up to \$20,000 to community colleges and minority-serving institutions to support the adoption and implementation of a tobacco/vape-free policy.

As described by the Truth Initiative, with 98% of smokers starting before age 26, college campuses are critical to preventing young adults from starting tobacco using, aiding current smokers in quitting, and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. For full details about the program, click [here](#). An informational webinar will also be held on November 4th at 3:00pm EST and registration can be found [here](#).

