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D.C. Update: SAMHSA releases publication on concurrent substance use disorders, NIH study finds people with SUD at higher risk for COVID-19 breakthrough infections, and more

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## Meet the Member

### Beverly Johnson, Prevention Coordinator for State of Alabama

Beverly Johnson has worked for the Alabama Department of Mental Health for seventeen years. Since 2016, she has served as the Director of Prevention Services. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. Ms. Johnson currently serves as the Vice President of External Affairs on the Executive Committee of NASADAD's component group, the National Prevention Network (NPN), and previously served as the Treasurer, Southeast Regional Representative, and Southeast Regional Representative Alternate. Under her tenure, Alabama was awarded the CADCA Outstanding State Member Award (2019). She has presented on prevention topics locally and nationally and currently serves as the Chair of the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee of the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. Ms. Johnson is a graduate of Auburn University at Montgomery and completed her MPA at Jacksonville State University.



## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA releases new resources in their *Talk. They Hear You.* campaign

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released additional resources for their *Talk. They Hear You.* campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to help parents and caregivers begin to talk to their children about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs. The new [resources](#) include public service announcement (PSA) wallet cards and postcards for talking to children before dropping them off at parties or sports events, getting behind the

wheel of a car, dropping them off at parties, and conversation tactics for older children.

### [SAMHSA releases publication on concurrent substance use disorders](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new [publication](#) titled “Treating Concurrent Substance Use Among Adults.” The guide is intended to educate clinicians and other stakeholders about the harms of using more than one substance and considerations for addressing concurrent substance use and substance use disorders. The guide includes an issue brief, current research, guidance for selecting and implementing evidence-based practices, examples of treatment programs, and resources for evaluation and quality improvement.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE SERIES

#### **Treating Concurrent Substance Use Among Adults**



## Research Roundup

### [CDC study finds youth e-cigarette use remains high in 2021](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a new tobacco-related [article](#) in the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. The study used data from the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) to examine e-cigarette use among middle and high school students. Results of the study indicated that more than 2 million youth currently used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days in 2021, and almost 85% of those youth used flavored e-cigarettes. Among all current flavored e-cigarette users, the most commonly used flavors were fruit, candy, desserts, mint, and menthol. The article noted that sustained implementation of tobacco control prevention strategies, coupled with FDA regulation, could help to reduce youth initiation and use of e-cigarettes.



### [NIH study finds people with SUD at higher risk for COVID-19 breakthrough infections](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently published a study on COVID-19

breakthrough infections in individuals with substance use disorders (SUD). Researchers analyzed electronic health records (EHR) and found that the risk of COVID-19 breakthrough infections among vaccinated patients with substance use disorders was low overall, but higher than the risk among vaccinated people without SUD. As described in a [press release](#), the study also found that co-occurring health conditions and adverse socioeconomic determinants of health, which are more common in people with SUD, appear to be largely responsible for the increased risk of COVID-19 breakthrough infections. Results of the study also found that people with SUD had elevated risk of severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death, following breakthrough infections.

### [Study examines association between buprenorphine and mortality risks among veterans](#)

A [study](#) published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* examined the association between buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD) and mortality risk among veterans. Researchers evaluated data from patients across Veterans Health Administration facilities from 2008-2017 and found that veterans who were not receiving buprenorphine were 4.33 times more likely to die by suicide or overdose than those who did receive the medication. Researchers also found that the risk of suicide or overdose was highest 8-14 days from treatment discontinuation.

