

December 9, 2022



**D.C. Update: New NASADAD Technical Brief, HHS Proposes New Rule on Confidentiality for Patients with Substance Use Challenges, SAMHSA Releases Updates to 988 Toolkit, and More.**

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## Meet the Member

### **Dr. Sara Salek, SSA for Arizona, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**

Sara Salek, M.D. has been the Chief Medical Officer for the Arizona Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), since June 2014. In her current role, Dr. Salek spearheads the agency's major clinical initiatives as well as oversees the quality and delivery of the health care services AHCCCS provides. Clinical initiatives currently underway include the expansion of telehealth service delivery, improving child and adolescent preventative care rates, and addressing the opioid epidemic.



Dr. Salek grew up in Tucson, AZ and graduated from The University of Arizona College of Medicine. She completed the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Training Program at Boston Children's Hospital through Harvard Medical School.

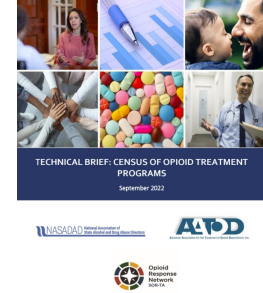
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## NASADAD News

**[New NASADAD Technical Brief: Census of Opioid](#)**

## Treatment Programs

In order to capture current patient census data for people being treated for opioid use disorder (OUD) in opioid treatment programs (OTPs), NASADAD, in partnership with the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD), developed a census survey of all patients enrolled in treatment as of January 1, 2021, in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) certified OTPs in the United States. The project was supported by the SAMHSA-funded Opioid Response Network (ORN).



The purpose of the survey was to determine the number of patients receiving medications for opioid use disorders (MOUD) in OTPs, the types of federally approved medications being used by patients in treatment, and the specific formulations of medication used among the patient population.

This is the first time that such information is being made available to federal and state agencies that have jurisdiction in this area in addition to the general public.

Through this census, NASADAD and AATOD captured crucial and actionable data to better understand treatment demand and demand for specific medications in OTPs. This report lays important groundwork to examine future demand and service issues in OTPs.

At the time of the census, 1,826 OTPs were listed in the SAMHSA OTP directory. A total of 1,547 OTPs across the country completed the census survey, reflecting an 85% response rate. The full report indicates the medication breakdown for 512,224 patients. Of the 512,224 patients in OTPs who reported using MOUDs, 476,763 reported using methadone, 33,473 reported buprenorphine, and the remaining 1,988 reported using naltrexone. In addition to the most common MOUDs being used, the census captured formulation data from 510,557 patients including the most common formulation types, the number of patients using each formulation, and regional differences between formulation use.

The Technical Brief can be accessed on our webpage [here](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA 988 Holiday PSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) posted a [YouTube video](#) of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) promoting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The video features Zak Williams, mental health advocate and the son of the late Robin Williams, and discusses the prevalence of mental health disorder and crisis during the holiday season. The video also highlights resources available to those experiencing a crisis through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

### HHS Announces New Data Regarding Increased OUD Treatment Prescribing and Access



An HHS-authored [study](#) reports that over the past year, the number of health care providers with waivers to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD) increased by 19%. Data also found that the number of naloxone prescriptions increased by 37%, while the average price of naloxone products in pharmacies fell 12%. Secretary Xavier Becerra also announced that HHS will continue to build on the [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#) with new actions, including:

- “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that every state, local, and territorial awardee of the [CDC Overdose Data to Action](#) cooperative agreement can use a portion of their funds to purchase naloxone, giving public health departments robust access to naloxone.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a [Federal Register Notice](#) stating that certain naloxone products have the potential to be safe and effective

for over-the-counter use. In the notice, FDA encouraged applications for over-the-counter naloxone products.”

A fact sheet on the success of HHS’ Overdose Prevention Strategy can be found [here](#).

## FDA Issues Notice on Harm Reduction and OTC Naloxone



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued a notice on [Safety and Effectiveness of Certain Naloxone Hydrochloride Drug Products for Nonprescription Use](#). Published by FDA commissioner Califf, the notice claims that certain naloxone products could be safe for over the counter (OTC) use based on the FDA’s preliminary assessment of the safety and effectiveness of OTC use. These naloxone products include up to 4 milligrams (mg) nasal spray and up to 2 mg autoinjector for intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (SC) use. This preliminary assessment is intended to facilitate the development and approval of certain nonprescription naloxone drug products; however, the FDA has not made a final determination on OTC usage of naloxone. He also invites drug companies to submit applications for OTC naloxone products. The FDA needs additional data to make its final determination, which could include the switch of some naloxone drug products from prescription status to nonprescription status in the near future.

The notice can be read in full, [here](#).

## HHS Proposes New Changes to Confidentiality Rule

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced proposed changes to the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records, under [42 CFR Part 2](#). This [proposed rule](#) would implement provisions of [Section 3221 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES\)](#). The proposed changes, as described by an [HHS press release](#), include the following:

- “Permitted use and disclosure of Part 2 records based on a single patient consent given once for all future uses and disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations.
- Permitted redisclosure of Part 2 records in any manner permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule, with certain exceptions.
- New patient rights under Part 2 to obtain an accounting of disclosures and to request restrictions on certain disclosures, as also granted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
- Expanded prohibitions on the use and disclosure of Part 2 records in civil, criminal, administrative, and legislative proceedings.
- New HHS enforcement authority, including the imposition of civil money penalties for violations of Part 2.
- Updated breach notification requirements to HHS and affected patients.
- Updated HIPAA Privacy Rule Notice of Privacy Practices requirements to address uses and disclosures of Part 2 records and individual rights with respect to those records.”

Public comment is due 60 days after the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) publication in the Federal Register.

## SAMHSA Releases Updates to 988 Partner Toolkit



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released updates to the [988 Partner Toolkit](#), including new 988 branding photos and updated frequently asked questions (FAQs). The new 988 branding photos are available for download on the [Logo and Branding page](#), for partner use only if they are used with the 988 branding, and include 14 new photos with more on the way. The updated FAQs are on the [FAQs about 988 Basics page](#) and concern information about specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth who reach out to 988.

The 988 Communication team sends out regular updates on 988 through its email newsletter, which can be signed up for [here](#).

## SAMHSA Announces Stipends for New Communities Talk About Cycle for 2023



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced it is sponsoring stipends for the 2023 cycle of [Communities Talk to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse](#). This initiative highlights the negative effects of alcohol and other drug misuse and substance use disorder (SUD) on communities and youth in particular. The initiative provides prevention resources and stipends to thousands of community-based organizations, colleges, and universities and, in 2023, stipends will be available every year. Communities Talk activities:

- “Educate communities about the consequences of alcohol and other drug misuses.
- Empower communities to use evidence-based approaches to reduce alcohol and other drug misuses.
- Mobilize communities around substance use prevention initiatives at the local, state, and national levels.”

As part of the Communities Talk About virtual learning series, SAMHSA is hosting a [webinar](#) on Communities Talk to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse to Enhance Prevention Launching New Cycle in 2023. This no-cost webinar will be offered on December 15 at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar will discuss the new Communities Talk program, prevention resources, and activities to reach broader audiences.

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## Webinars to Watch

### HRSA BPHC-BH TA Webinars on Integrating Mental Health and SUD Care

The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care Behavioral Health Technical Assistance (BPH-BH TA) is hosting a set of webinars on technical assistance for integrating mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care into clinical practices.

The first [webinar](#), on Integrated Care for Patients Who Consume Cannabis, is being offered on December 13, at 11:00 am (ET). This no-cost webinar will provide an overview of research on cannabis use risk identification, new motivational intervention techniques to engage with and treat patients, and introduce screening brief intervention and referral (SBIRT) with new clinical tools that screen for cannabis use to advance mental health and SUD integration.

The second [webinar](#), on Cherokee Health Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health Academy, is a two-day virtual training academy being held on December 14 and 15, at 10:00 am (ET), in collaboration with [Cherokee Health Systems](#). This no-cost webinar will review integrated care clinical models and offer best practices for building team-based care, primary care provider and mental health and SUD provider panels, the use of health information technology and data analytics, and financing integrated care.

Both webinars have been approved for educational credits. Registration is required.

### Central East ATTC Webinar: The Impact of Fentanyl on Opioid Addiction and Its Treatment: A Few Observations



The Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) is hosting a [webinar](#) on The Impact of Fentanyl on Opioid Addiction and Its Treatment: A Few Observations. This no-cost webinar is being offered on December 14, 2022, at 11:00 am (ET). The webinar will cover the role of fentanyl in the opioid overdose crisis and its impact on known opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment strategies. Learning objectives include:

- “How fentanyl has impacted known treatment strategies
- Increased opioid overdose deaths
- Extended the time required to complete detoxification
- Association with precipitated withdrawal when starting buprenorphine
- Difficulty to start extended-release injectable (naltrexone) treatment
- What's Next?”

Registration is required.

### **Entertainment Industries Council Webinar: A conversation with Dr. Nora Volkow and Ryan Dusick**

The Entertainment Industries Council (EIC) is hosting a [webinar](#) featuring the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Dr. Nora Volkow, and Maroon 5 co-founder/drummer and person-in-recovery, Ryan Dusick about making a difference through media depictions. This no-cost webinar will be offered on December 14 at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar will share stories about individuals and families affected by mental health and substance use disorders (SUD) and the impact of media depictions on them. The panelists will also cover attempts to self-medicate, the unique challenges women face, and the influence of media depictions of hope for recovery.

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