

August 31, 2023



D.C. Update: International Overdose Awareness Day: August 31, SAMHSA Walk for Recovery: September 7, NIH Establishes Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence, and More.

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Meet the Member

Alicia Cook, CSAC, WSC for Wisconsin, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery, Division of Care and Treatment Services, WI Department of Health Services

Alicia is the women's substance use disorder treatment services coordinator (WSC) for the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) in the Substance Use Services Section at Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). A primary part of her role is to provide technical support and contract administration to substance use disorder (SUD) programs that provide gender-specific services with additional support for the participant's families and children. Alicia advocates for timely, affordable, culturally appropriate, and respectful SUD services for all populations to be available statewide. Alicia has worked in the SUD field since 2010 in a variety of roles in county, hospital, clinic, and non-profit settings. Alicia is passionate about removing barriers to SUD services and treating those who struggle with substance use with dignity.



In her free time, she enjoys hiking, nature photography, gardening, canning, raising chickens, and spending time with her family, friends, and most of all her dog.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Attends Region 3 Recovery Summit in Philadelphia

On Monday, August 21st, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director, participated in the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's \(SAMHSA\) Office of Recovery \(OR\)](#) Summit held in Philadelphia, PA. The SAMHSA Office of Recovery is led by Paolo del Vecchio (pictured, providing welcoming remarks during the meeting). The meeting allowed representatives from SAMHSA Region 3 (VA, D.C., PA, W.V., and MD) to engage in a dialogue about a range of issues related to recovery.



NASADAD Meets with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to Explore Opportunities to Partner

On Tuesday, August 22nd, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director; Lacy Adams, Public Policy Analyst; and Daniel Diana, Legislative Coordinator, met with Laurel Stine, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer, and several members of the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's \(AFSP\)](#) Washington DC office. The meeting helped to explain the role of State alcohol and drug agencies and NASADAD's work around 988 and crisis services. In addition, the meeting allowed the two organizations to identify their respective federal policy and program priorities and opportunities for collaboration. The AFSP also discussed initiatives that they are involved in at the State level that NASADAD may benefit from, as well as expressing interest in expanding their scope to cover more substance use disorder (SUD)-related issues that intersect with suicide prevention.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Study the Effects of the Fentanyl Crisis on Taxpayers

On August 18th, bipartisan legislation, [H.R.5273, the Fentanyl Crisis Research and Evaluation Act](#), designed to research the effects of the fentanyl crisis on taxpayers was introduced. The Act seeks to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on "...the effects of the fentanyl crisis on the labor market, industry sectors, federal tax revenue, federal benefits programs, federal health programs, housing instability, and state finances." The Act would also require the Comptroller General to provide recommendations on how the federal government can support States to better address the fentanyl crisis. The bill was introduced by Representatives Russell Fry (R-SC-7), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-3), Doug Lamborn (R-CO-5), George Santos (R-NY-3), and Madeleine Dean (D-PA-4).

Representative Fry's press release announcing the legislation can be found [here](#).

The full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31 marks [International Overdose Awareness Day \(IOAD\)](#) each year. "IOAD is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind." The IOAD 2023 theme is "Recognizing those people who go unseen." The campaign aims to acknowledge people affected by overdose and increase visibility of overdose issues. The overarching goals of IOAD are:

- "To provide an opportunity for people to publicly mourn loved ones.
- To send a strong message to people who use drugs and people in recovery that they are valued.



- To inform people around the world about the risk of drug overdose.
- To provide basic information on the range of support services that are available.
- To prevent and reduce drug-related harm by supporting evidence-based practice.”

You can sign up to host or attend an IOAD event on the IOAD website, [here](#).

IOAD 2023 campaign resources, including the 2023 Campaign Kit, can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Walk for Recovery: September 7, 2023, at Union Station

In recognition of the 34th year of [National Recovery Month](#), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is leading the [Walk for Recovery](#) on September 7, 2023. This year’s Walk for Recovery will begin at 2:30 pm (ET) at Union Station in Washington, D.C., and end at 3:30 pm (ET) at the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial in front of the Capitol. SAMHSA Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D. will lead SAMHSA and other federal agencies, recovery communities, and organizations on the hour-long walk. There is no cost to participate in the walk; however, [registration is requested](#). Additional resources on National Recovery Month 2023 can be found [here](#).



NIH Establishes Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [awarded \\$24 million in first-year funding to establish Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence](#) as part of [NIH’s Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnant Outcomes Vision for Everyone \(IMPROVE\) initiative](#).

These maternal health research centers are designed to “...develop and evaluate innovative approaches to reduce pregnancy-related complications and deaths and promote maternal health equity.” Depending on the availability of funds, these grants are expected to last seven years, with an estimated total of \$168 million.

The centers of excellence include 10 research centers, a data innovation and coordinating hub, and an implementation science hub, which “...will work to design and implement research projects to address the biological, behavioral, environmental, sociocultural and structural factors that affect pregnancy-related complications and deaths.” Through collaborations with community collaborators, including State and local public health agencies, community health centers, and faith-based organizations, the centers will focus on populations experiencing health disparities. The research centers will also support training and professional development of maternal health researchers. The list of research centers can be found [here](#).

NIH’s press release announcing the Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence can be found [here](#).

HRSA/SAMHSA MOUD Training and Mentoring

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is offering [training and mentoring for clinicians to provide medications for opioid use disorder \(MOUD\)](#). This training is intended to increase the number of clinicians serving high-need areas who are trained to prescribe MOUD, in particular buprenorphine. Eligible clinicians, which include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists, as well as medical students, must have an active Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number to dispense controlled substances. Completion of the 8-hour course will also count toward the DEA requirements for prescribing MOUD. This training is provided through [SAMHSA’s Provider Clinical Support System \(PCSS\)](#).

New SAMHSA Resources on Supporting Pregnant and Parenting People with SUD



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a series of new resources about supporting pregnant and parenting people with substance use disorders (SUD). Each of these resources is intended to be a supplement to [SAMHSA's Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder and Their Infants](#). These resources include:

- [Working with Child Protective Services to Support Pregnant and Parenting People, Their Infants, and Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders: A Factsheet for Health Care Providers](#)
 - This document offers information about child welfare systems and what the health care provider's role is in developing a Plan of Safe Care.
- [Resources for Professionals Working with Pregnant and Parenting People Affected by Substance Use Disorders](#)
 - This document contains information for pregnant people with a substance use disorder and professionals who provide services for them.
- [National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Resources for Professionals Working with Pregnant and Parenting People Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Involved with Child Welfare](#)
 - This document is a compendium of resources for professionals who work with parents involved with child welfare.
- [Preparing For Your Baby: Information for Pregnant People with Substance Use Disorders](#)
 - This document contains information for pregnant people with a substance use disorder and preparing to deliver.

Research Round-Up

NIH Study Finds Marijuana, Hallucinogen Use, and Binge Drinking Reached Historic Highs Among Adults 35 to 50

A [study](#) funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that younger adults aged 35 to 50 reported marijuana, hallucinogen use, and binge drinking at or near historically high levels in 2022. These findings come from the Monitoring the Future (MTF) panel study, an annual survey of substance use and attitudes of adults 19 to 60 years old funded by NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Key findings include:

- “Reports of past-year marijuana use among adults aged 35 to 50 reached an all-time high in 2022 (28%). This had increased from the previous year (25% in 2021) and five years ago (17% in 2017), and more than doubled compared to 10 years ago (13% in 2012).”
- Past-year hallucinogen use reached historically high prevalence among adults 35 to 50 years old, reported by 4% in 2022. The prevalence reported in 2022 was also a substantial increase compared to the year before (2% in 2021) and five and 10 years ago (no greater than 1% in both 2017 and 2012).
- Alcohol use among adults aged 35 to 50 has shown a gradual increase over the past 10 years, with past-year drinking increasing from 83% in 2012 to 85% in 2022. Binge drinking in this older group reached its highest levels (29% in 2022), and increased over the past year, five years, and 10 years (26% in 2021; 25% in 2017; 23% in 2012).”

NIH also released a [report with additional key findings from the MTF study](#).

Webinars to Watch

The [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) Region 5 Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs \(IEA\)](#), in collaboration with the [HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce \(BHW\)](#), the [National Clinician Consultation Center](#), and the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\) Center of Excellence at the University of Rochester](#), is hosting a [Rural Behavioral Health and Workforce Virtual Summit](#). This 2.5 hour no-cost webinar is being offered on September 6, at 10:00 am (ET). In addition to providing an overview of federal workforce programs targeting rural communities, the webinar will “...provide technical assistance to address the lack of behavioral health providers in rural areas, stigma in treating substance use disorders, and strategies to improve care for behavioral health patients.” Registration is required.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Associate and Analysts

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Associate I, an AOD Research Analyst II- Treatment Task Leader, and an AOD Research Analyst II- Women’s and Youth Services. See the job listings and links to apply below:

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Associate I

NASADAD seeks a team-oriented person interested in substance use disorder (SUD) issues and systems. The candidate should: possess an understanding of substance use issues, have excellent writing and communication skills, and demonstrate strong research and analytic capabilities.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Treatment Task Leader

NASADAD seeks a knowledgeable and experienced person in substance use disorders (SUD) treatment, who is team-oriented, has excellent writing and research abilities, data analysis experience, and strong communication skills.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women’s and Youth Services

NASADAD seeks an experienced, team-oriented person with a demonstrated understanding of substance use issues related to women and youth, excellent writing and research abilities, data analysis experience, and strong communication skills.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Flinn, Ed.D., Senior Research Analyst, at: tflinn@nasadad.org.

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