

November 16, 2023



D.C. Update: Spotlight on Outcomes: Maine, House and Senate Pass Short-Term Spending Bill to Fund the Government, SAMHSA Releases 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Results, and More.

[Visit our Website](#)



Meet The Member

Sharon Liu, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Colorado

Sharon Liu is the Community Prevention and Early Intervention Director in the Violence and Injury Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Branch, Prevention Services Division, at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Sharon also currently serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Colorado. In her role, she oversees the 20% set aside prevention component of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant in addition to other State and federal prevention funding.



Sharon has 23 years of experience in the substance use prevention field. She started as a Research and Evaluation Consultant focusing on evidence-based policies, programs, and practices. In 2009, she joined the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, and became the Senior Manager working with providers receiving SUPTRS prevention funds. She also served as the Principal Investigator for the Strategic Prevention Framework, Partnership for Success (SPF- PFS) funding for 10 years. During SPF-PFS, she launched a statewide social marketing campaign, which received two silver awards and one gold award from the Colorado Chapter of Public Relations Society of America in 2014. Sharon also launched the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) in which the first-ever Colorado Epidemiological Profiles were created in 2019. Through SEOW, a key alliance was made with the Colorado Attorney General's Substance Abuse Trends and Response Task Force as the Data Committee. SEOW is still in operation and continues to be the Data Committee for the task force. Sharon also serves as a representative on the Governor's Office of Marijuana Education Oversight Committee.

Spotlight on Outcomes: Maine

Maine is reporting reductions in substance use by high school students following an increase in prevention activities. From 2016 to 2022, Maine implemented 310 [Prime For Life](#) classes, conducted 245 Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) trainings, and held 118 [Student Intervention and Reintegration Program \(SIRP\)](#) classes. In all, 812,588 Maine adults engaged with [Sipping Point](#) and [Good to Know](#) substance use prevention campaigns over that same period. These efforts have contributed to a decline in high school past 30-day and lifetime use of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs. Maine reported the following decreases from 2019 to 2021 in past 30-day use by high school students of the following substances: alcohol use decreased to 19% from 22.9%, marijuana use decreased to 17.9% from 22%, and prescription drug use decreased to 4.1% from 5%. Maine is led by NASADAD member Sarah Squirrel, Director, [Office of Behavioral Health, Maine Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#), and National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator Megan Scott, Substance Use Prevention Program Manager, [Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), Maine DHHS.

Maine collects its data on youth substance use primarily from the [Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey \(MIYHS\)](#), a biennial survey of students in grades 5 through 12 administered by the Maine DHHS and the Maine Department of Education. This survey of youth attitudes and behaviors on substance use is funded through three sources: the Maine CDC with tobacco settlement funds and Maternal and Child Health State match funds; the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant; and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through a grant administered by the Maine Department of Education. Schools must opt into the survey, which is transitioning from paper to online administration starting in 2023. A total of 26,964 high school students were polled in 2021, compared to 35,156 in 2019.

Nominations are OPEN for the 2023 Ramstad/Kennedy Annual Award!

Nominate a Single State Agency Director (SSA) by Tuesday, November 21 at 11:59 p.m. ET who provided outstanding leadership and innovation in:

- Promoting the goals of National Recovery Month during 2023, including support of the permanent tagline, “Every Person. Every Family. Every Community.”
- Strengthened and expanded Recovery Month activities within their agency and throughout other state agencies.
- Provided support to strengthen and expand Recovery Month activities and programs that supported individual and family recovery throughout their state.
- Expanded the number and impact of National Recovery Month activities in their local communities.

The 2023 Award will be presented as part of an online event in conjunction with NASADAD Awards on Monday, December 11, 2023, from 3 PM to 4 PM EST.

[Visit Faces and Voices webpage to nominate an SSA and for more information.](#)

Awards Event: Celebrate Leaders in the Substance Use Disorder Field

Please join us from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST on **Monday, December 11th**, as we convene the [2023 NASADAD Virtual Awards Program](#) that will feature the winner of the 2023 Ramstad-Kennedy Award for leadership related to recovery.

The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy, former Congressman from Rhode Island, and the founder of [The Kennedy Forum](#), will provide remarks.

Register [here](#).

A zoom link will be sent to the corresponding email address once registration is complete.

Other awards will include:

- **NASADAD Service Award** - The award is given to a State Director (SSA) who has contributed outstanding service to the Association.
- **State Service Award** - This award goes to a State Director (SSA) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their respective State.
- **Henrick J. Harwood & Robert E. Anderson Service Award in recognition of distinguished Service in the field of addiction research, training, and evaluation** - This award is given to an individual or organization for exemplary work in the area of substance use disorder research, training, or evaluation.
- **Friend of NASADAD Award** - The award is given to a non-member of NASADAD to recognize outstanding service and leadership to the field of substance use disorders.

NASADAD Takes Site Visit to Learn More About Opioid Treatment Programs

On Tuesday, November 14, NASADAD Legislative Coordinator Daniel Diana visited the [Institutes for Behavior Resources' \(IBR\) Recovery Enhanced by Access to Comprehensive Healthcare \(REACH\) Health Services program](#) in Baltimore, Maryland, to learn more about local service delivery in general, and the work of an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) in particular. REACH is a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded comprehensive, outpatient substance use services program that includes medication assisted treatment (MAT). Ms. Vickie Walters, Executive Director, REACH Health Services, hosted Daniel and noted that the program's core philosophy is putting people first. Ms. Walters reviewed the program's health home model, its various resources and funding, and the variety of outpatient services available. Ms. Walters also noted the importance of developing partnerships with other substance use disorder (SUD) organizations and entities, including with the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) and the Director of the State Alcohol and Drug Agency, Alyssa Lord. NASADAD wishes to thank Ms. Walters and the rest of the REACH team for the site visit and the exemplary work they lead.



Pictured: Daniel Diana, NASADAD; and Vickie Walters, REACH.

Thank You and Goodbye to Lori Criss!

NASADAD sends their well wishes to Lori Criss who is leaving her position as the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OMHAS) to pursue a new career opportunity at The Ohio State University. Lori has served on NASADAD's Board of Directors as Vice President for Internal Affairs and has been a valuable voice in guiding the policies and priorities of the Association. We will miss her but wish her luck in her new role. Go Buckeyes!



Pictured: Sara Goldsby, SSA, SC; Tom Coderre, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Lori Criss, SSA, OH; and Rob Morrison, NASADAD.

Capitol Hill Happenings

House and Senate Pass Short-Term Spending Bill to Fund the Government

A continuing resolution ([H.R.6363](#)) to temporarily fund the government at the same amount as last year passed the House on Tuesday in a vote of 336-95 and in the Senate

on Wednesday in a vote of 87-11. President Biden has signaled he will sign the bill before the current continuing resolution ([P.L.118-15](#)) is set to expire tomorrow. H.R.6363 funds four of the appropriations bills through January 19, and the remaining eight (including the Department of Health Human Services) through February 2, 2024.

This week, the House adopted 93 amendments to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill ([H.R.5894](#)). Trade press reports that the majority of amendments related to COVID-19 policies and Biden-Harris administration regulations. The Senate Appropriations Committee has already marked up their version of the LHHS appropriations bill ([S.2624](#)).

Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Increase Naloxone Distribution

Last week, Representatives Gallego (D-AZ-03) and Nunn (R-IA-03) introduced the [Overdose Reversal Medication Act](#), a bill designed to increase the distribution of naloxone to help address the opioid overdose crisis. The bill seeks to ensure that businesses, schools, federal buildings, and other public spaces have access to opioid overdose reversal medications. Specifically, this bipartisan legislation would:

- “Direct Occupational Safety and Health Administration to publish a standard requiring employers to maintain opioid overdose reversal medication onsite and provide their employees training on how to administer it and recognize overdose signs/symptoms.
- Expand the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program with a grant specifically targeting local businesses, individuals, and community entities that do not qualify for substance abuse-related grant programs. This grant can be used to acquire opioid overdose reversal medication and provide training on administering it.”

Representative Gallego’s press release announcing the bill can be found [here](#).

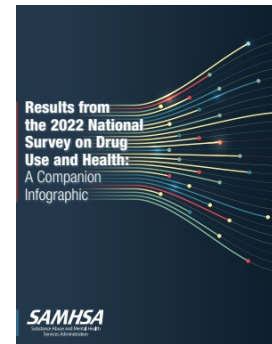
Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Releases 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Results

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\) results](#) along with a [companion infographic](#). The NSDUH tracks self-reported information on substance use, substance use disorder (SUD) and treatment, mental health, and recovery of noninstitutionalized U.S. citizens ages 12 or older. Key findings for the 2022 NSDUH include:

- “Among the 137.4 million (or 48.7%) current alcohol users aged 12 or older in 2022, a little less than half (or 44%) were past month binge drinkers. About a quarter of people aged 12 or older (or 26%) who were binge drinkers in the past month were heavy alcohol users in 2022.
- Among the 5.8 million (or 15.1%) of underage people aged 12 to 20 who were past month alcohol users in 2022, over a half were past month binge drinkers (or 54%), and around 20% of underage people who were binge drinkers in the past month were heavy alcohol users.
- In 2022, 70.3 million people aged 12 or older (or 24.9%) used illicit drugs in the past year. Marijuana was the most used illicit drug, with 22.0% of people aged 12 or older (or 61.9 million people) using it in the past year.”

The companion infographic can be downloaded [here](#).



CDC Funding Opportunity: Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Understanding Drug Use and Overdose Risk and Protective Factors

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a new funding

opportunity for [Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Understanding Drug Use and Overdose Risk and Protective Factors](#). This new program is designed to support CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPIC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01) by providing an intensive, supervised/mentored career development experience in substance use or overdose prevention research. Specifically, this funding aims to support research of the relationship among risk and protective factors related to substance use and key outcomes, including overdose, substance use disorder (SUD), and stigma. Research will focus on individuals experiencing a disproportionate burden of SUD and overdose. The grant program offers 3 awards of up to \$150,000 per year for a total of \$1,350,000.

Applications are due December 1, 2023, with a projected start date of September 30, 2024. Additional details on the program, including eligibility, can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Resource: SAMHSA's National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification (Spanish Version)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released the [SAMHSA's National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification](#) in Spanish. This model standards guidance document "...outline model standards for substance use disorder, mental health, and family/youth peer support certification." This new Spanish version contains the same information as the [2022 release](#), including the process for developing the National Model Standards, their applications, the standards themselves, and strategies for applying them.

The resource can be downloaded [here](#).

CoE-PHI Resource: Guidance on Remote Communication Technologies for Delivering Audio-Only Telehealth



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) released a new resource on [Guidance on Remote Communication Technologies for Delivering Audio-Only Telehealth](#). The resource breaks down updated guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regarding the use of remote communication technologies, including audio-only technology, to provide telehealth in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The resource covers the timeline of the COVID-19 public health emergency and OCR's enforcement penalties for violating HIPAA privacy requirements when providing telehealth services and how those have changed since the end of the public health emergency. The key takeaway is that providers covered by HIPAA are permitted to use remote communication technologies, including audio-only telehealth services, to provide substance use disorder (SUD) care in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

The resource can be downloaded [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA Webinar: Striving and Thriving Among Certified Peer Specialists

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Office of Recovery is hosting a webinar on [Striving and Thriving Among Certified Peer Specialists](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 27 at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will review the results from the [Certified Peer Specialist \(CPS\) Career Outcomes Study](#), the first-time longitudinal analysis of a 3-year study documenting the career outcomes of CPS', including wages, financial wellbeing, workplace burnout, and CPS in rural communities. The webinar will then offer lessons learned and avenues for future research and policy change to support the CPS workforce. Registration is required.

NIAAA Webinar: Harnessing Technology and

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is hosting a webinar on [Harnessing Technology and Social Media to Address Alcohol Misuse in Adolescents and Emerging Adults](#). This no-cost webinar is on December 13, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar features two presentations discussing prevention and intervention research around various innovations for using technology to prevent and reduce alcohol misuse among youths, including telehealth, social media, and other methods. Registration is required.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Analyst

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women's and Youth Services. See the job listing and link to apply below:

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., Associate Director of Planning and Program Management, at: tflinn@nasadad.org.

NASADAD | 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite M 250, Washington, DC 20006

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