

November 21, 2024



DC Update: Coalition Sends Letter to Congress on NIH Funding, Third Extension of Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescribing Controlled Medications, 35th Surgeon General's Report on Tobacco, and More.



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Meet the Member

Jessica Lavelle, MSW, LISW-S, Women's Services Network (WSN) Coordinator for Ohio

Jessica Lavelle, MSW, LISW-S, currently serves as Mental Health Administrator IV at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). Ms. Lavelle also serves as the Women's Services Network (WSN) Coordinator for Ohio.



With over a decade of experience in social work, Ms. Lavelle is committed to advancing women's treatment needs across the State. In her current capacity, Ms. Lavelle oversees the Women's Set-Aside within the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, which currently funds 54 programs across Ohio. Here, she provides technical assistance, information sharing, and networking opportunities to enhance grantees' service delivery. She also actively contributes to various committees aimed at fostering cross-agency collaboration to promote effective solutions for women's mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

Passionate about improving quality of care and advocating for women's treatment needs,

Ms. Lavelle brings an understanding of trauma-informed care, evidence-based practices, and the importance of community-based support. Ms. Lavelle is an independently licensed social worker and, prior to this role, has provided therapeutic care and clinical supervision in various settings, including community mental health, hospitals, and correctional settings with justice-involved women. This work has informed her current role and has made her passionate about driving positive change, advocating for policies that better serve women, and expanding access to vital mental health and SUD resources.

Capitol Hill Happenings

House Appropriations Committee Hearing: National Institutes of Health (NIH)



On November 19, at 10:00 am ET, the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, held a hearing on *the National Institutes of Health (NIH)*. The hearing reviewed NIH's structuring, research priorities, and funding request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Witnesses included:

- Monica M. Bertagnolli, Director, NIH

NASADAD's Maddie Hise, Public Policy Intern, attended the hearing in-person.

The recording of the hearing can be watched on the Committee's webpage, [here](#).

Nearly 400 Organizations Send Letter Urging Appropriators to Finalize NIH Funding

On November 18, the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research](#), a coalition of nearly 400 health organizations, sent a [letter](#) to Appropriations leaders urging them to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill by the end of the calendar year with a robust investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Specifically, the letter urges Congress to allocate no less than \$48.9 billion for NIH in FY 2025, the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved funding level, in addition to funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). The letter cites robust investments in NIH as key to its ability to conduct critical medical research to improve public health.

NASADAD joined the nearly 400 organizations of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research in signing the letter requesting robust funding for NIH.

Around the Agencies

DEA and HHS Issue Third Extension of Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications Through 2025

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in concert with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), jointly issued a [third extension of telemedicine flexibilities for the prescribing of controlled medications](#) through December 31, 2025. Originally issued to prevent lapses in care during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, these flexibilities allow practitioners to prescribe schedule II-V controlled medications via telemedicine, even when the practitioner has not conducted an in-person medical evaluation of the patient. DEA and HHS are extending the current telemedicine flexibilities, which were set to expire on December 31, 2024, as they work to promulgate a final set of telemedicine regulations.

DEA's press release announcing the extension can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA's press release announcing the extension can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Releases NSDUH Data Spotlights on Health Disparities Among the Asian Population and the Hispanic/Latino Population



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released two new data spotlights from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) on [Health Disparities among the Asian Population](#) and [Health Disparities among the Hispanic/Latino Population](#). These resources disaggregate 2023 NSDUH data on key mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) indicators for Asian and Hispanic/Latino populations to more accurately analyze the experiences of those populations. Highlights from the new reports include:

- "Adults aged 18 or older of Filipino origin were more likely to have had either AMI or an SUD (27.9%) compared with Chinese (20.4%) or Asian Indian adults (19.3%)."
- Adults aged 18 or older of Puerto Rican origin were more likely to have had AMI (25.2%) or serious mental illness (SMI) (7.1%) compared with adults in most other Hispanic subgroups."

Additional SAMHSA resources on NSDUH data can be found [here](#).

CDC Releases Updated DOSE Data on Emergency Department Visits and Inpatient Hospitalizations for Nonfatal Overdose, 2018-2023

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated data for the [Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology \(DOSE\) Dashboard on Nonfatal Overdose Emergency Department and Inpatient Hospitalization Discharge Data](#). The recent update includes the latest information on nonfatal drug overdoses in the US from 2018 to 2023, as well as data on a series of new indicators. Specifically, the update covers:

- "ED and inpatient hospitalization discharge data from 28 states (will eventually contain data from 33 states and DC).
- Updated historic data from 2018–2022 and new data for 2023.
- A total of eight drug indicators, with four new drug indicators: fentanyl-, benzodiazepine-, methamphetamine-, and cocaine-involved overdose, in addition to all drug-, all opioid-, heroin-, and all stimulant-involved overdose.
- The rate of ED visits or inpatient hospitalizations for nonfatal overdoses in participating states by year.
- Enhanced usability and data visualization."

Additional improvements to the DOSE Discharge Dashboard are planned for the next 3-6 months. The Dashboard is updated in real-time as new data is gathered.

NIDA Releases Guide to Hosting a Naloxone Demonstration

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released a [Guide to Hosting a Naloxone Demonstration](#). The guide is intended for educators, parents, and anyone who works with youth and provides information about identifying drug overdose, using naloxone to respond to one, and tips for staging a naloxone demonstration event. The guide also includes links to supplementary presentations, on-demand trainings, and additional background on opioid overdose reversal medications.

The guide can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

Guide to Hosting a Naloxone Demonstration

Introduction: Knowing About Naloxone Matters — This Guide Can Help
Naloxone is a medicine that can save lives when someone is experiencing an overdose — if someone is nearby and has it on hand. Anyone, including teens, can carry naloxone and administer it to someone experiencing an overdose.

This guide is intended to help people host a naloxone demonstration. A naloxone demonstration can work well as part of a hosted [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® \(NDAFW\)](#) event, as an overdose awareness educational opportunity, or as a supplement to an established curriculum.

Knowledge Check: Overdoses and Opioid Overdose Reversal Medications 101
Naloxone and nalmefene are two FDA-approved medicines that rapidly reverse an overdose from opioids. This is especially important because the potent, synthetic opioid fentanyl is often found in illicit drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamines, and pills that are made to resemble prescription medications.

Knowing how to recognize and respond to an overdose, including the use of naloxone or nalmefene when available, has the potential to save a life. Both medications are available in a nasal spray version, but nalmefene requires a prescription, whereas naloxone is more widely available over the counter without a prescription.

- Use the supplementary PowerPoint presentation as a standalone educational tool or as an introduction to a naloxone demonstration activity.
 - [PPT LINK/button](#)
- Review information about opioid overdose reversal medications for additional background on these potentially lifesaving medications:
 - [Overdose Reversal Medications](#) (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
 - [Lifesaving Naloxone](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention page)
 - [Naloxone](#) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration page)

Staging an Event to Demonstrate How to Use Naloxone

A naloxone demonstration event can be tailored to fit the needs of your audience and community. While specialized training is not required to obtain or use naloxone, learning more about this potentially lifesaving medicine and how to use it can help improve readiness and confidence in responding to someone who may be experiencing an overdose.

Virtual On-Demand Learning Options

If in-person trainings are difficult to organize, use or adapt these videos, online guides, and modules.

- [How to Use Naloxone Nasal Spray](#) video from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Opioid Overdose Prevention and Response toolkit](#) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [Bystander demonstration training modules](#) from GetNaloxoneNow

Research Roundup

35th Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health: Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death: Addressing Disparities

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Surgeon General Vivek H. Murphy released the 35th report on [*Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death: Addressing Disparities, A Report of the Surgeon General*](#). The new report reviews the latest scientific evidence concerning commercial tobacco-related health disparities in the US, including commercial tobacco product use, exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, exposure to marketing of tobacco, and smoking-related health outcomes. Key findings include:

- “Despite strong progress in reducing tobacco use at the population level, disparities in use persist by race and ethnicity, level of income, level of education, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of occupation, geography, and behavioral health status.
- Social, structural, and commercial determinants of health—such as persistent poverty and inequitable economic and social conditions—lead to inequitable opportunities for living a life free from tobacco-related death and disease.
- For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted its products and marketing to specific groups, including through concentrated marketing in neighborhoods with greater percentages of Black people, Hispanic people, and residents with lower incomes
- Each year, more than 50,000 Black adults, 15,000 Hispanic adults, and 400,000 White adults are estimated to die from causes attributable to cigarette smoking.”

HHS also released the *Tobacco-Related Health Disparities Fact Sheet*, which can be downloaded [here](#).

The report can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

NIAAA Webinar: How Does Alcohol Impact the Lives of Older Adults – And What Can We Do About It?

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), is hosting a webinar on [*How Does Alcohol Impact the Lives of Older Adults – And What Can We Do About It?*](#) This no-cost webinar is on December 3, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will discuss how alcohol impacts the lives of older adults and opportunities to address alcohol use and aging. The webinar is divided into three parts on trends in alcohol use among older adults, the impact of alcohol use in older adults, and strategies to address alcohol use in older adults.

Registration is required. To register, please send an RSVP by November 25, to dana.west@icf.com.

SAMHSA CFRI Webinar: Financing Measurement-Based Care in Community Behavioral Health Settings

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform & Innovation (CFRI) is hosting a webinar on [*Financing Measurement Based Care in Community Behavioral Health Settings*](#). This no-cost webinar is on December 10, at 3:00 pm ET. The webinar will feature a panel of speakers from SAMHSA and national experts in the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) field and will explore reimbursement and financing solutions to increase the use of measurement-based



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