

Drug User Health Program and Policy Highlights

Since its founding in 1992, NASTAD and our Members have been concerned about the role of substance use in the transmission of HIV (and later HCV), health outcomes for persons living with HIV and viral hepatitis who use drugs, and the structural and policy barriers to effectively address the prevention, care and treatment needs of persons who inject drugs. To address the prevention, care and treatment and policy needs related to drug user health, NASTAD has approached the issues through coalition engagement, technical assistance and policy change. To best meet the needs of people who inject drugs, NASTAD has partnered with federal, state and local governments and for- and not-for-profit community partners to continue to raise awareness of and action to address this important population. In addition to partnerships with key organizations, NASTAD has produced documents, provided technical assistance to our Members, and advocated for an effective science based public health approach to addressing the needs of people who inject drugs. This timeline does not reflect all of NASTAD's drug user health related activities, but highlights specific examples of our commitment.

1994

NASTAD Policy Statement

[Reducing Transmission of HIV Through Increased Access to Clean Needles and Syringe](#)

1995

NASTAD Resolution

[Action to Reduce the Transmission of HIV and Other Diseases Through Increased Access to Clean Needles and Syringes](#)

1997

NASTAD Resolution

[Action to Reduce the Transmission of HIV and Other Diseases Through Increased Access to Sterile Needles and Syringes](#)

1999

AMA, APhA, ASTHO and NASTAD Joint Policy Statement and Dear Colleague Letter

[HIV Prevention and Access to Sterile Syringes](#)

NASTAD Survey and Report

[Working Together: State Agency Activity to Coordinate HIV, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services](#)

2000

NASTAD Monograph

[Linking HIV/AIDS Services with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Programs](#)

ADA, AADE, AMA, APhA, ASTHO and NASTAD Policy Statement

[Safe Community Needle Disposal](#)

2001

NASTAD Document

[*Viral Hepatitis and Injection Drug Users*](#)

A document for HIV and viral hepatitis providers on injection drug use, HIV and viral hepatitis, general health issues of people who inject drugs, addictphobia, interventions, harm reduction, etc.

NASTAD Document

[*Viral Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS Integration: A Guide for HIV/AIDS Programs.*](#)

A guide for HIV programs on how to effectively integrate viral hepatitis into existing programs. Topics include integration in correctional settings, community planning groups, HIV/STD testing sites, etc.

2002

NASTAD Member Profiles

[*Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association Supplement: Preventing Blood-Borne Infections Through Pharmacy Syringe Sales and Safe Community Syringe Disposal*](#)

2003

NASTAD creates Hepatitis C Appropriations Partnership (HCAP)

The Hepatitis C Appropriations Partnership (HAP), now the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP) is a national coalition which includes community-based organizations, public health and provider associations, national hepatitis and HIV organizations, and diagnostic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies from all over the country. HAP works with policy makers and public health officials to increase federal support for hepatitis prevention, testing, education, research and treatment. Since its inception, HAP has included advocacy for appropriations language lifting the ban on federal funding for syringe services programs as a priority focus.

2006

Annual Meeting Plenary

[*The Future of HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Among IDUs*](#)

Annual Meeting Screening

[*Meth – The Movie*](#)

2008

Member Webinar

[*HIV and Viral Hepatitis Prevention: Addressing the Needs of Young People Who Inject Drugs*](#)

Convened

[*National Viral Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting*](#)

The only national meeting for health department Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinators, NASTAD convenes this meeting to address the prevention, care and treatment and advocacy needs of the individuals responsible for coordinating the statewide response to viral hepatitis. Drug user health is a component of this meeting and is included on the agenda.

Recommendations

[*CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan*](#)

NASTAD encouraged the Division of Viral Hepatitis to prioritize the HCV prevention needs of people who inject drugs.

Recommendations

[Obama Administration First 100 Days Recommendations for Viral Hepatitis](#)

NASTAD encouraged the Obama Administration to increase funding for viral hepatitis and to lift the ban on federal funding for syringe services programs.

2009

Recommendations

[National HIV/AIDS Strategy \(NHAS\)](#)

NASTAD recommended continuing to address the HIV prevention needs of people who inject drugs, and to address co-occurring issues such as HCV and drug addiction.

Consultation (with Harm Reduction Coalition)

[Ending the Federal Funding Ban](#)

NASTAD and the Harm Reduction Coalition convened health departments and syringe services programs to dialogue and prepare for responding to the prevention needs of people who inject drugs after the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange programs is lifted.

Recommendations

[Institute of Medicine Panel on Viral Hepatitis Prevention](#)

As the Institute of Medicine panel on viral hepatitis was convened to provide recommendations to the federal government, NASTAD recommended prioritizing the HCV prevention needs of persons who inject drugs.

Annual Meeting Plenary

[After the Ban: Incorporating Syringe Exchange into CDC and Health Department Prevention Programs](#)

[Federal Funding Ban for Syringe Exchange Programs Lifted](#)

2010

[NASTAD Fact Sheet - Health Departments Role in Expanding Syringe Access](#)

[Viral Hepatitis Incorporated into Mission](#)

2011

NASTAD Fact Sheet

[Viral Hepatitis and People who Inject Drugs](#)

Annual Meeting Session

[Overdose Prevention and HIV/Viral Hepatitis in Persons who Inject Drugs](#)

Statement of Commitment

[Promoting Injecting Drug User Health](#)

While there have been HIV prevention successes with people who inject drugs, there continue to be new HIV and HCV infections in this population, as well as preventable overdoses. NASTAD and its members committed to explicitly identify and implement effective public health programs for IDUs and to advocate for increased and targeted resources.

Member Webinar

[Promoting Injecting Drug User Health: Overdose Prevention](#)

Convened

[National Viral Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting](#)

NASTAD Document

[*A Traves de Nuestros Ojos \(Through Our Eyes\): Promoting Health and Social Equity to Address HIV/AIDS Among Latino Gay Men*](#)

This document includes HIV and HCV prevention messages for Latinos who inject drugs, and specifically addresses syringe services programs.

[Federal Funding Ban for Syringe Exchange Programs Reinstated](#)

2012

Testimony at FDA

[*Role of Naloxone in Opioid Overdose Fatality Prevention*](#)

NASTAD Document (with UCHAPS)

[*Syringe Services Program \(SSP\) Development and Implementation Guidelines for State and Local Health Departments*](#)

NASTAD Blog

[*The Impact of Stigma on Public Health Practice*](#)

NASTAD Fact Sheet

[*Federal Funding and Syringe Exchange Programs*](#)

Annual Meeting Plenary

[*The Search for America's Next Drug User Health Rock Star*](#)

2013

Annual Meeting Plenary

[*Hepatitis C Infection Among Young Drug Users*](#)

NASTAD Blog

[*Hepatitis C Infection among Young Injection Drug Users*](#)

Memo Encouraging Member Action

[*ONDCP National Drug Control Strategy*](#)

The release of the ONDCP National Drug Control Strategy offers opportunities for health department HIV and viral hepatitis programs to collaborate with health department behavioral health programs. This memo specifically encouraged action to highlight the new Strategy.

Recommendations

[*HHS Viral Hepatitis Action Plan Renewal*](#)

The renewal of the Action Plan should prioritize the HCV prevention and care and treatment needs of persons who inject drugs, and the U.S. should act with more urgency to respond to the emerging HCV epidemic among young people who inject drugs.

Convened

[*Viral Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting*](#)

Policy Recommendations

[*Breaking the Silence on an Epidemic: Policy Recommendations to End Viral Hepatitis*](#)

2014

Policy Recommendations

[*Raising the Bars: Policy Recommendations to Enhance Health Departments' Efforts to End the HIV Epidemic*](#)

NASTAD Blog

[*How Health Departments Are Addressing the Viral Hepatitis Epidemic in the U.S*](#)

Convened

HIV, Hepatitis and Overdose among Drug Users: The Health Department Role in an Effective Response

Congressional Briefing

The Public Health Response to Hepatitis C Infection among Young People who Use Drugs (4/24/14)