



Annual Report

2020

Introduction

Dr. Stephen Lee
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



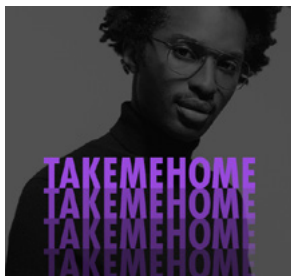
I don't think it will surprise anyone if I open this annual report by saying that 2020 was a difficult year. I had just started in my role as NASTAD's new executive director in February, and a few weeks later we were transitioning to working remotely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whatever plans I had for my first year had to be quickly reevaluated.

It was challenging to take on a leadership role and connect with my new coworkers and NASTAD's members remotely, but I was impressed by the resiliency of the NASTAD staff and membership. We all already had enough work on our plates, and suddenly found ourselves adjusting to remote work while responding to the pandemic.

Our health department members found themselves being pulled into their jurisdictions' responses to the pandemic. Our staff had to get creative in how they hosted trainings and conferences in a new virtual environment. And then, once we started adjusting to our new normal, a series of racist killings of Black Americans shook us all to our core.

I am very proud of how NASTAD responded to these difficult challenges. In this report, you'll read how we created resources to help health departments respond to the pandemic, responded to the racist violence of the 2020 summer, transitioned trainings to a virtual environment, and continued to launch groundbreaking projects like TakeMeHome and the Harm Reduction TA Center.

I want to conclude my first Annual Report opening letter by thanking the NASTAD staff, NASTAD members, and our partners for welcoming me and working with me through a year that provided more challenges than we could have anticipated. I am very happy to have joined you all, and I am looking forward to working with you in the years to come as we strive towards our goal of ending the HIV and hepatitis epidemics.



2020 Highlights

[NASTAD Welcomes Dr. Stephen Lee](#)

Dr. Stephen Lee joined NASTAD as the organization's new executive director in February 2020. Prior to joining NASTAD, Dr. Lee held numerous positions at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, most recently Vice President for Program Implementation and Country Management, where he managed the development and implementation of programs that provided prevention, care, and treatment services to individuals affected by HIV. He has also acted as a senior advisor for HIV care and treatment in the Bureau of Global Health at USAID, and worked as an HIV advisor for USAID focusing on disease prevention and monitoring throughout Europe and Eurasia.

COVID - 19

COVID-19 Impact on Health Departments

The COVID-19 pandemic placed a significant burden on the public health systems across America. NASTAD created a [microsite](#) to collect and disseminate information and resources about the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on health departments. In addition to the microsite, NASTAD conducted two requests for information (RFI) from its members to learn more about the impact COVID-19 was having on their programs, one in May 2020 and another in August 2020.

NASTAD also developed several resources to help health departments respond to COVID-19, including:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Guidance for Syringe Services Programs, Health Departments, and People Who Use Drugs](#)
- [COVID-19's Impact on PrEP/PEP and Sexual Health Services](#)
- [NASTAD Calls for Inclusion of People Impacted by HIV and Hepatitis in COVID-19 Vaccination Plans](#)
- [Accountability as a Public Health Response: COVID-19's Impact on Communities of Color](#)
- [Sex and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on HIV and Hepatitis Programs](#)

COVID-19 Impact on NASTAD

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on NASTAD staff. The organization transitioned staff to full-time remote work in March 2020. Trainings that had already been scheduled were forced to transition to a virtual environment, including the 2020 Annual Meeting and 2020 National HIV and Hepatitis Technical Assistance (TA) Meeting. Despite the limitations of the virtual environment, the TA Meeting had more than 700 people attend, double the typical annual attendance of the in-person meeting.

[Black Lives Matter Statement](#)

In June 2020, protests erupted across the nation in response to violent, racist killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and other

Black Americans. As a public health organization, NASTAD has actively worked to dismantle systems of racism, discrimination, prejudice, health inequity, and stigma. In June 2020, NASTAD released a statement recommitting us to this vital work. NASTAD also centered Black lives in the 2020 National HIV & Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting, with the theme “Centering Black Lives to End the Epidemics.”

[TakeMeHome](#)

In March 2020, NASTAD partnered with Building Healthy Online Communities (BHOC) and launched the TakeMeHome program, which offered free rapid HIV self-tests to residents in 17 jurisdictions from March 2020 to March 2021. The program provided testing options during a time when COVID-19 stay-at-home orders were released which resulted in the closings of many establishments that provided HIV testing. Testing was also interrupted during this time due to many health departments shifting their duties from other health issues to the COVID-19 response. Registering for an at-home test kit was quick and the kits shipped directly to the participants’ residence. The TakeMeHome program mailed out over 5,000 kits. The goal of this program was to provide testing options to people who might have been hesitant or unable to seek testing in a community or clinical setting.

The TakeMeHome program began as an innovative HIV testing experience and evolved into a needed HIV prevention strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program allows for vulnerable populations to access HIV testing in a quick, easy, and comfortable manner. Jen Hecht, co-founder of BHOC, stated “We want to make getting a test even easier than ordering pizza, and make it free.” Innovative strategies like the TakeMeHome program work to make HIV prevention services equitable and provide an opportunity for vulnerable populations to receive better health outcomes. NASTAD is committed to developing groundbreaking programs that will push us towards the vision of a world free of HIV.

[Minority Leadership Program](#)

Minority Leadership Program (MLP) is a leadership development and investment program for persons of color who work at various levels in a state or CDC-funded health department with HIV, viral hepatitis, or drug user health programs. Rooted in social justice, MLP serves as

a community and support system to engage in critical conversations about necessary skills for job advancement, leadership development, and growth opportunities. Since relaunching in 2017, 57 individuals have participated in the program. In 2020, 17 participants completed the first virtual MLP program. Despite the virtual environment, participants responded positively to the MLP programming.

[Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center](#)

NASTAD's Drug User Health Team, in partnership with AIDS United, Inc., has expanded its reach and impact by successfully creating and implementing the National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center, which in its second year expanded to include additional TA providers from the National Harm Reduction Coalition and the University of Washington. NASTAD has fielded over 80 individual TA requests, created Regional and issue-based calls to connect the harm reduction community and support workforce development, and collaborated with harm reduction consultants to develop resources, such as SSPs, Winterization, and COVID-19 and Centering Sex Workers in Harm Reduction. In addition, The NASTAD Drug User Health Team released the Syringe Services Program Technical Package in collaboration with the CDC. This first of its kind document pairs empirical literature supporting SSP best practices with qualitative data gathered by successful programs on the ground.



As another component of the National Harm Reduction TA Center cooperative agreement, NASTAD launched an intensive technical assistance program with eight Patient Navigation Demonstration Sites. This demonstration project aims to document implementation and programmatic issues related to creating and sustaining effective Patient Navigation services in the context of pre-existing SSPs. This project will capture best practices, lessons learned, and effective implementation strategies that will be available to SSPs across the country in 2021-2022.

Finances

Revenue	<i>(USD Thousand)</i>
Grants and Contributions	\$7,858.6
Membership Dues	\$1,248.0
Registration Fees	\$138.6
Other	\$2.9
Interest	\$14.3
Total Revenue	\$9,262.4
Expenses	<i>(USD Thousand)</i>
Program Services	\$6,951.8
General and Admin	\$1,568.2
Fundraising	\$232.9
Total Expenses	\$8,752.9

