

NIMA SHAHIDINIA (U.S. CITIZEN)

nshahidi@rand.org | 408.250.0941

EDUCATION

Pardee RAND Graduate School PhD Candidate in Policy Analysis	Santa Monica, CA Expected 2021
American University Master of Public Policy	Washington, D.C. Jun 2013
Santa Clara University Bachelor of Science, Political Science, Economics	Santa Clara, CA Jun 2010

SKILLS

Computer skills

Dedoose, DistillerSR, Excel, PowerPoint, Stata, R

Languages

English, Persian (Farsi)

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Policy Researcher / PhD Candidate RAND Corporation	Santa Monica, CA Aug 2016-Present
---	--------------------------------------

- Conducted a literature review on demographic predictors of substance use and alcohol use disorders, such as education, income, marital status, and rural/urban residence
- Recommended revisions to the federal government's formula determining each U.S. state's allotment of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- Performed a systematic literature review for a study estimating the effectiveness of various treatments approved by the U.S. Department of Defense for servicemembers for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Performed a systematic literature review for a study estimating the ability of formerly opioid-dependent soldiers to be re-deployed after having undergone medication-assisted treatment
- Used DistillerSR to accept or reject over 2,000 compiled journal articles according to criteria specified by the principal investigator (PI) and the U.S. Department of Defense
- Developed survey questions for the *RAND Health Behavior Survey* regarding adolescent use of digital devices, smart phones, and social media to help determine correlations with substance use and mental health issues
- Reviewed recent literature in the past decade to confirm the effectiveness of various behavioral health therapies that help prevent juvenile crime in Los Angeles County, such as multisystemic therapy, gender-specific communities, and special needs courts

- Abstracted data from journal articles regarding medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid dependence; used Microsoft Excel to note the sample size, treatment(s), and outcomes (mean and standard deviation, or percent of participants) of each study for use in data analysis by the research team
- Interviewed participants of an IT training program sponsored by the City of New Orleans' Office of Workforce Development to gauge the program's success in improving participants' employment prospects
- Conducted face-to-face interviews with staff of various non-profit agencies to provide nutrition and education health programs for families and local school districts in Los Angeles County

Chief Operations Officer (U.S.)

Livermore, CA

Omeid International (OI)

Nov 2014-Nov 2016

- Managed OI's social media platform and organized fundraising event in Metropolitan Washington, D.C. to increase subscribership by 13 percent and raise over \$1,000 in one month to maintain the education, healthcare, and extracurricular activities of 12 orphan Afghan boys aged 12-17 in Mumbai, India
- Maintained OI's website and documented regular updates from on-site staff and faculty
- Developed annual work plans and managed consensus-based activities of the Omeid International Board to meet monthly benchmarks

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst

Washington, D.C.

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Authority Directors
(NASADAD)

Jul 2013-Jul 2016

- Researched state and national developments in AOD treatment and recovery, particularly opioid dependence and treatment, and produced research reports based on findings
- Documented and developed a report on the establishment of Recovery Idaho, the State of Idaho's first recovery community organization, for future prospective recovery organizations to use as a toolkit
- Drafted a report on the history of Rhode Island Health Homes, and an expository report on Washington State's Integrated Client Database
- Surveyed NASADAD's stakeholders, documented the results, and produced briefs on current state practices in alcohol and substance abuse treatment
- Coordinated with national stakeholders from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), including State Opioid Treatment Authorities, to plan and facilitate committee affairs, monthly meetings, and annual events

Public Affairs Intern

Washington, D.C.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

Feb 2012-Jul 2013

- Managed bookkeeping database for project expenditures of up to \$200,000 for the Greater Washington Area's Homeland Security Grant

- Contributed articles to *The Yardstick* by conducting research on developments in Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and reported on various COG events and projects
- Provided logistical support for departmental projects, events, and committee meetings involving regional supervisors, police and fire chiefs, and other elected officials, prepared news releases, brief speeches, and prepared presentations

Public Policy Intern
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN)

San Jose, CA
Feb 2011-Jun 2011

- Co-authored a report regarding financial issues of over 200 nonprofits across seven counties, which SVCN published statewide, and presented findings to executive directors of community-based organizations from each county
- Reported to SVCN Board on CA Governor Jerry Brown's budget proposals, state budget updates, and the impact of budget cuts on nonprofit organizations and their clients
- Provided key staff support for rallies and events before the San Jose City Council and Board of Supervisors, including speaking at a City Budget Hearing before Mayor Chuck Reed

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed

Ashwood, J. Scott, Karen Chan Osilla, Maria DeYoreo, Joshua Breslau, Jeanne S. Ringel, Cheryl K. Montemayor, **Nima Shahidinia**, David M. Adamson, Margaret Chamberlin, and M. Audrey Burnam, *Review and Evaluation of the Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Homelessness Grant Formulas*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, RR-2454-ASPEC, 2019. As of November 22, 2019: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2454.html

Ashwood, J. Scott, Karen Chan Osilla, Maria DeYoreo, Joshua Breslau, Jeanne S. Ringel, Cheryl K. Montemayor, **Nima Shahidinia**, David M. Adamson, Margaret Chamberlin, and M. Audrey Burnam, *Federal Block Grants to States for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Homelessness: Potential Improvements to Funding Formulas*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, RB-10049-ASPEC, 2019. As of November 22, 2019: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB10049.html

Fain, Terry, Susan Turner, and **Nima Shahidinia**, *Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act: Fiscal Year 2016–2017 Report*, Los Angeles County Probation Department, RR-2401-LACPD, 2018. As of November 22, 2019: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2401.html

Maglione, M.A., Raaen, L., Chen, C., Azhar, G., **Shahidinia, N.**, Shen, M., Maksabedian, E., et al. (2018). Effects of medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder on functional outcomes: A systematic review. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*

Kebhaj, S., **Shahidinia, N.**, Testa, A., & Williams, J. (2013). Collateral damage & the war on drugs: Estimating the effect of zero tolerance policies on drug arrest rates, 1975–2002. *The Public Purpose*, 11, 1-25

Other

HIV Coordinators Conference Call. (2015, August 5). National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), “STDs among Transgender College Students in the US: The Role of Experienced Discrimination”

Capitol Hill Policy Reception. (2013 April). American University School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC, “Collateral Damage and the War on Drugs”

The Yard Stick. (2012, June 26). Minimizing housing and transportation costs in metro Washington <http://www.regionforward.org/minimizing-housing-and-transportation-costs-in-metro-washington>

The Yard Stick. (2012, May 31). Reaping the fruits of education in metro Washington <http://www.regionforward.org/reaping-the-fruits-of-education-in-metro-washington>

HONORS AND AWARDS

Pi Alpha Alpha, American University	2013
2nd Place – Mid Atlantic Regional of Policy Solutions Challenge, USA	2013
Cum Laude; Pi Sigma Alpha; Political Science Honors Program, Santa Clara University	2010