

October 2021 Newsletter
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CANNABIS VAPING WOOS THE YOUNG

According to a new study published by Preventative Medicine, cannabis vaping is on the rise, particularly among young people, and is associated with a number of high-risk behaviors. Read more [here](#).

PERINATAL MARIJUANA HOSPITALIZATIONS ON THE RISE

A new working paper on perinatal health found a 23 percent uptick in maternal hospitalizations for marijuana-use disorder within the first three years of the implementation of adult-use legalization. Read more [here](#).

RISK OF COVID-19 BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION DOUBLES FOR PEOPLE WITH SUD

People who have substance use disorders are more likely to get a COVID-19 breakthrough infection after being fully vaccinated compared to the general vaccinated population, according to a new study from the National Institutes of Health released October 6th. Read more [here](#).

LEGAL MARIJUANA PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER VAPING ILLNESS RATES

In a study published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, researchers found that legal marijuana and medical marijuana home grow were associated with lower rates of vaping-related illnesses. Read more [here](#).

FENTANYL DRIVING INCREASE IN COCAINE-INVOLVED DEATHS

NIDA Director Nora Volkow, MD, highlighted factors causing higher mortality rates involving the use of different stimulants, and also shared updates on the development of several treatment interventions, during a session presented October 15 at the *Cocaine, Meth & Stimulant Summit*. Read more [here](#).

FDA AUTHORIZES E-CIGARETTES FOR FIRST TIME

On October 12, health officials authorized the first electronic cigarettes in the U.S., saying the R.J. Reynolds vaping products can benefit adult smokers. Read more [here](#).

BUPRENORPHINE MISUSE DECREASED AMONG ADULTS WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER

According to a study conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, published October 15 in *JAMA Network Open*, nearly three-fourths of U.S. adults reporting buprenorphine use did not misuse the medication in the past 12 months. Read more [here](#).

DEA TO AGAIN INCREASE RESEARCH MARIJUANA PRODUCTION

According to an October 18 Federal Register Notice, the DEA wants to increase the amount of marijuana produced for research in 2022. The agency wants to produce 3,200,000 grams of marijuana and 1,000,000 grams of marijuana extract in 2022. Read more [here](#).

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RELEASES FISCAL 2022 LABOR HHS BILL

On October 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the remaining nine Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Bills, including the Labor, Health and Human Services bill. The bill includes \$47.9 billion for NIH and \$1.8 billion for NIDA. Read more [here](#).

NIH OUTLINES BARRIERS TO MARIJUANA RESEARCH

A report on barriers to researching Schedule I substances was submitted by NIH to Congress per a 2020 request from the House Appropriations Committee. Read more [here](#).

GUPTA CONFIRMED TO HEAD ONDCP

On October 28, Rahul Gupta was confirmed by the Senate as the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Read more [here](#).

LINKS BETWEEN BINGE DRINKING AND MARIJUANA USE

According to a study from the CDC, people who binge drink are more likely to use marijuana. Read more [here](#).

HHS RELEASES OVERDOSE PREVENTION STRATEGY

On October 27, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a high-level Overdose Prevention Strategy. Read more [here](#).

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON DRAFT HHS STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking public comment on its draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 - 2026. HHS will receive comments through November 7. Read more [here](#).