

**April 2022 Newsletter**  
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**Drug Use Severity In Adolescence Affects Substance Use Disorder Risk In Adulthood**

According to a study funded by NIDA and published in *JAMA Network Open*, people who reported multiple symptoms consistent with severe substance use disorder at age 18 exhibited two or more of these symptoms in adulthood. Read more [here](#).

**House Votes to Decriminalize Marijuana**

On April 1, the House of Representatives voted 220-204 to federally decriminalize marijuana. Passage was largely along party lines. Senate Democrats have a similar legalization bill in the upper chamber, but neither that bill nor the House-passed bill is expected to clear the 60-vote threshold for passage in the Senate. Read more [here](#).

**DOJ Issues Protection Guidance For Those With Opioid Use Disorder**

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has published new guidance on how the Americans with Disabilities Act protects those who are in recovery for opioid addiction. Read more [here](#).

**More Research Needed Into Cannabis Use By Women**

According to a recent review published in *BMC Women's Health*, existing research on attitudes towards cannabis among women of child-bearing age lacks reliable, quantitative measures that could inform public health policy. Read more [here](#).

**House Oversight and Reform Committee Report Faults McKinsey For Opioid Conflicts of Interest**

On April 13, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform released a report presenting findings alleging conflicts of interest by consultancy firm McKinsey & Co. in its work with opioid manufacturers. Read more [here](#).

**White House Releases National Drug Control Strategy**

On April 21, the White House submitted its first National Drug Control Strategy document to Congress. The plan, which acts as a comprehensive road map for the Administration's approach to drug policy across the federal government, has two main pillars: addressing untreated addiction, and combating drug trafficking. Read more [here](#).

**Tobacco Smoking Rates Decreasing In People With Major Depression and Substance Use Disorder**

According to a new study conducted by researchers at NIDA and SAMHSA, and published in *JAMA*, significant reductions in cigarette use were found among U.S. adults with major depression, substance use disorder, or both, from 2006 to 2019. Read more [here](#).

**FDA Proposes to Ban Menthol Cigarettes, Flavored Cigars**

On April 28, the FDA proposed a long-awaited ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, targeting products used by more than a third of smokers. Read more [here](#).

**HHS Releases New Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefit Resources**

On April 28, HHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) released new guidance intended to help patients and families better understand their rights under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). The Agencies also released a guidance for states. Read more [here](#).