

**August 2022 Newsletter**  
**Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates**

**Pallone Sends FDA Letter on Menthol Cigarette Ban**

On August 4, House Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) sent a letter to the FDA reiterating his longstanding support for the FDA's plans to ban menthol cigarettes. Read more [here](#).

**Warner Pushes for Plan to Ensure Patient Access to Care Pending Expiration of COVID-19 PHE**

On August 17, Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) sent a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) asking the agencies to explain their plan to ensure continuity of care for patients being prescribed controlled substances via COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) telemedicine flexibilities. Read more [here](#).

**Marijuana and Hallucinogen Use Among Young Adults Reached All-time High In 2021**

According to the latest data from the Monitoring the Future study, the percentage of young adults 19 to 30 years old who reported using marijuana reached an all-time high in 2021. Read more [here](#).

**FDA's Announces Overdose Prevention Framework**

On August 30, the FDA announced it has opened an extensive review of opioid regulations and is launching a framework aimed at preventing overdose-related deaths nationwide. Reads more [here](#).

**Pandemic Telehealth Rules Linked To Reduced Overdoses Among Medicare Patients**

According to a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse published in *JAMA Psychiatry* on August 31, pandemic waivers allowing doctors to prescribe drugs to treat opioid use disorder after telehealth appointments may have contributed to lower overdose rates among Medicare beneficiaries while keeping the patients in treatment. Read more [here](#).

**Out-of-Pocket Cost of Naloxone Increase for Uninsured Individuals**

According to findings from a study published in *JAMA Health Forum*, while the cost of naloxone has declined for individuals with health insurance, the cost of the opioid overdose reversal medication has sharply risen for uninsured individuals in recent years. Read more [here](#).