

September 2022 Newsletter

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Study on Risks of Prenatal Cannabis Use

New research published in JAMA Pediatrics suggests prenatal cannabis exposure after the middle of the first trimester was associated with mental disorders in children through early adolescence. Read more [here](#).

CDC Data Shows Drug Overdose Deaths Beginning To Level Off

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data suggests that the sharp increase in drug overdose deaths has begun to level off slightly since 2021 and even started a slight decline. Read more [here](#).

Medicare Access To OUD Treatment Insufficient Report Says

According to a new report from the HHS Office of Inspector General, Medicare is vastly underserving older Americans with opioid use disorder. Read more [here](#).

Bill Would Make Dealing Fentanyl Felony Murder Offense

On September 20, Sens. Mike Braun (R-IN), Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Marco Rubio (R-FL) unveiled legislation that would make the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death punishable by federal felony murder charges. Read more [here](#).

Survey Finds That Crossfaded Driving Common

A new survey conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety indicates that one third of drivers who combine alcohol and marijuana often drive within two hours of consumption. Read more [here](#).

NIDA Releases New Strategic Plan

On September 21, NIDA released their new Strategic Plan, which outlines the Institute's research priorities for the next five years. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

World Anti-Doping Agency Maintains Marijuana Ban

On September 23, the World Anti-Doping Agency decided not to lift its ban on marijuana. WADA faced calls to rethink its position on THC after Sha'Carri Richardson was kicked off the U.S. Olympic team for testing positive for it. Read more [here](#).

Congressional Report Shows Cost of Opioid Crisis

According to an estimate by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, the ongoing US opioid crisis cost nearly \$1.5 trillion in 2020. Read more [here](#).

ARPA-H Director Named

On September 12, President Biden announced Dr. Renee Wegrzyn as the inaugural Director of ARPA-H. Read more [here](#).

HHS Provides \$1.6 Billion in Latest State Opioid Response Program

On September 23, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced its 2022 awards to states under the State Opioid Response program. Read more [here](#).

Continuing Resolution Passes Through December 16

On September 30, Congress passed a continuing resolution which extends FY22 spending levels for most federal programs through December 16, 2022, while Congress negotiates a full-year spending plan. Read more [here](#).

NCCIH Request for Information (RFI) on Cannabis Research Interests and Barriers

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), in collaboration with NIDA and several other NIH institutes and centers, released a Request for Information (RFI): Investigators' interests in and barriers to research studies on the health effects of cannabis and its constituents. Responses will be accepted until October 15, 2022. Read more [here](#).