

December 2022 Newsletter
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Medical Marijuana Associated with Opioid Reduction

According to a new study published in JAMA Oncology, medical marijuana legalization and regulation on the state level was associated with reductions in opioid dispensing among cancer patients 18- to 64-years old. The policy was also associated with a reduction in pain-related ER visits and hospitalizations among certain patients. Read more [here](#).

HHS Announces New Data Showing Nation Has Expanded Ability to Treat Addiction

According to HHS research released December 2, the use of buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) and naloxone to reverse opioid overdose is on the rise. During the previous year, an almost 20 percent increase was observed in the number of health providers with waivers for prescribing buprenorphine for OUD, and the number of prescriptions for naloxone have increased by 37 percent. Read more [here](#).

SAFE Banking Act Fails to Pass In 117th Congress

The SAFE Banking Act was not included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act or the year end omnibus bill, marking yet another setback for the legislation, which enjoys widespread bipartisan support but has repeatedly stalled out on Capitol Hill. Read more [here](#).

NIDA to Review Cannabis Research Contract Proposals

NIDA will hold a meeting January 6 to review and evaluate contract proposals on cannabis research according to a December 7 federal register filing. The National Institute on Drug Abuse Special Emphasis Panel; Production of Cannabis and Related Materials for Research will hold the closed-door meeting. Read more [here](#).

New Overdose Data from Surveillance Dashboard

More than 180,000 nonfatal opioid overdoses were reported to emergency services in the U.S. during the past 12 months, according to new data from the new nonfatal opioid overdose surveillance dashboard. Read more [here](#).

SAMHSA Proposes Update to Federal Rules to Expand Access to OUD

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) proposed to permanently allow the prescribing of buprenorphine to treat OUD via telehealth without requiring an in-person visit. Read more [here](#).

Drug Abuse Warning Network 2021 Findings from Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released statistics for drug-related emergency room visits in 2021, compiling records from the 52 hospitals around the country that report to the agency's DAWN database. Read more [here](#).

NIH Launches Harm Reduction Research Network

To address the overdose crisis in the United States, the National Institutes of Health has established a research network that will test harm reduction strategies in different community settings to inform efforts to help save lives. Read more [here](#).

Monitoring the Future Survey Released

The 2022 Monitoring the Future survey was released on December 15. Read more [here](#).

Covid-19 and Overdose Deaths Drive U.S. Life Expectancy to a 25-year Low

According to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, life expectancy in the United States dropped last year to its lowest since 1996, extending a downward trend that began in 2020. Read more [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Passes

On December 20, lawmakers released an FY23 omnibus appropriations bill. The bill includes \$47.5 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2.5 billion or 5.6 percent over FY22. The bill also includes \$1.6 billion for NIDA, \$67.2 million over FY22. Read more [here](#).