

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

**Study Released on Psilocybin to Treat Depression**

A high dose of the psychoactive chemical in magic mushrooms was shown to help people with treatment-resistant depression, according to a new clinical trial published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Read more [here](#).

**Estimated Deaths Attributable to Excessive Alcohol Use Among Adults Aged 20 to 64 Years**

A new study published November 3 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open* finds that an estimated 1 in 5 deaths among adults aged 20–49 years is due to excessive alcohol use. Read more [here](#).

**CDC Softens Guidelines for Doctors Prescribing Opioids**

On November 3, CDC softened its guidelines for U.S. doctors prescribing oxycodone and other opioid analgesics. Read more [here](#).

**SAMHSA Releases Interim Strategic Plan**

On November 10, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the agency's Interim Strategic Plan (ISP). Read more [here](#).

**More than 3 Million Youth Reported Using a Tobacco Product in 2022**

According to a survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration, more than 3 million middle and high school students have used a tobacco product in the past month. Read more [here](#).

**Study: Smoking Marijuana More Harmful Than Cigarettes**

According to a new study in Canada, smoking marijuana could be more harmful to lungs than cigarettes. Read more [here](#).

**FDA Takes Step Toward Expanding Naloxone Access**

On November 15, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that certain forms of naloxone may be eligible for nonprescription use, pending a review of additional data, in a bid to facilitate development and approval of nonprescription or over-the-counter naloxone. Read more [here](#).

**Senate Clears Medical Marijuana Research Measure**

On November 17, the Senate by unanimous consent passed the Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act (H.R. 8454) that will streamline the application process for scientific marijuana studies and remove existing barriers for researchers. The Senate vote comes after the House passed the legislation in July. President Biden is expected to sign the measure in the near future. Read more [here](#).

**House Launches Psychedelics Caucus**

On November 17, Reps. Lou Correa (D-CA) and Jack Bergman (R-MI) launched the Congressional Psychedelics Advancing Clinical Treatments "PACT" Caucus. The caucus intends to promote research on the efficacy of psychedelics in treating brain conditions. Read more [here](#).

**Booker, Paul Introduce Legislation to Promote Research and Access to Psychedelic Therapies**

On November 17, Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced legislation designed to expand research and make it easier for patients to access therapies involving psychedelic drugs MDMA and psilocybin. The lawmakers say the bill would enable the DEA to make the findings necessary to move those drugs from Schedule I to Schedule II under the Controlled Substances Act. Read more [here](#).

### **OPM Proposes Limiting Questions about Cannabis Use**

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is proposing to modify its questions about past marijuana use for potential federal government workers in response to the rapid spread of state-legal markets. Read more [here](#).

### **HHS Proposes New Protections for Patients with Substance Use Challenges**

On November 28, the Department of Health and Human Services released a notice of proposed rulemaking to make it easier for providers to share patients' substance use disorder treatment records. Read more [here](#).

### **Cannabis Legalization Associated with Increased Youth Use**

According to a new study in the journal Addictive Behaviors, recreational cannabis legalization may impact cannabis use disorder (CUD) among adolescents and young adults. Read more [here](#).

### **Media Hype Could Contribute to Cannabis Placebo Effect**

According to a review of clinical trials for cannabis and pain published in JAMA, cannabinoid therapies did not perform better than a placebo, but media hype could impact the placebo response in future trials. Read more [here](#).

### **Hearing on State Cannabis Laws and Bipartisan Cannabis Reforms at the Federal Level**

On November 15, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing to examine the benefits of cannabis decriminalization at the federal level, including addressing racial disparities in the criminal justice system, improving treatment options for veterans, and allowing marijuana companies to access traditional banking services. Read more [here](#).