

January 2023 Newsletter
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SAMHSA Announces National Survey on Drug Use and Health

According to a newly released survey from the Department of Health and Human Services, substance use disorders and mental health issues went hand in hand during the pandemic. Read more [here](#).

Medical Cannabis Use Leads to Decrease in Consumption of Painkillers

According to a new research letter in *JAMA*, medical cannabis use led to a decrease in consumption of both prescription and over-the-counter painkillers. It had a mixed impact on non-pharmaceutical interventions like physical therapy and meditation. Read more [here](#).

FDA Advisors to Meet on OTC Naloxone

The FDA plans to convene a joint meeting of two advisory committees next month to discuss Emergent BioSolutions' application for an over-the-counter version of its naloxone spray. Read more [here](#).

Pediatric Hospitalizations for Unintentional Cannabis Poisonings Associated with Product Legalization

According to a new study published in *JAMA Health Forum*, accidental ingestions of cannabis edibles by children were associated with adult-use legalization and cannabis regulations that allowed for edible forms of marijuana. Read more [here](#).

Overdose Deaths Involving Buprenorphine Did Not Proportionally Increase With COVID-19 Flexibilities

According to a study published on January 20 in *JAMA Network Open*, the proportion of opioid overdose deaths involving buprenorphine did not increase in the months after prescribing flexibilities were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study was a collaborative effort between researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read more [here](#).

Study Finds that Telemedicine Doesn't Boost Access to Opioid Use Treatment

A new study published in *JAMA Network Open* found that while telehealth visits saw a spike in use during the pandemic, they didn't lead to a marked increase in access to opioid use disorder treatments such as buprenorphine, as measured by metrics such as visit volume, treatment initiation, or prescription refills. Read more [here](#).

Teen Access to Buprenorphine Low

An article in the journal *Pediatrics* found teens' access to buprenorphine is low despite the growing number of youth with opioid use disorder. Read more [here](#).

FDA Issues New Guidance for Clinical Cannabis Research

On January 23, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued guidance for clinical researchers developing cannabis or cannabis-derived drugs. Read more [here](#).

FDA Rejects CBD as Dietary Supplement

The FDA announced January 26 that it will not be regulating CBD as a dietary supplement despite calls from the hemp industry and legislation introduced by multiple members of Congress. Read more [here](#).

Energy and Commerce Holds Roundtable on Fentanyl

On January 25, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans held a roundtable on "Big Tech and the Fentanyl Poisoning Crisis." Read more [here](#).