

February 2023 Newsletter
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Volkow Op-ed: Pregnant People With Substance Use Disorders Need Treatment, Not Criminalization

Dr. Nora Volkow authored an op-ed in STAT on pregnant people with substance use disorders. Read more [here](#).

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Fentanyl

On February 1, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee held a hearing entitled, “Lives Worth Living: Addressing the Fentanyl Crisis, Protecting Critical Lifelines, and Combatting Discrimination Against Those with Disabilities.” Read more [here](#).

Request For Information To Extramural Research Community

On February 14, NIH issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking information from extramural research community members regarding the current state of postdoctoral research training and career progression within the biomedical research enterprise. Responses must be [received](#) by April 14, 2023. Read more [here](#).

FDA Advisers Recommend Making Naloxone Spray available OTC

On February 15, Food and Drug Administration advisers recommended making naloxone brand Narcan available over the counter as a nasal spray. Read more [here](#).

Drug Overdose Deaths Steadily Declining

The number of drug overdose deaths in the U.S. has been steadily declining since the middle of last year, according to provisional data released on February 15 by the CDC. Read more [here](#).

External Review of FDA Regulation of Opioid Analgesics Final Report

According to a recently published report, Congress could grant the FDA the authority to require that new opioid products show a benefit over painkillers already available. The report from a team of experts at The Ohio State University found that the FDA “has made clear, important progress” in implementing opioid recommendations from a 2017 National Academies of Sciences report that Commissioner Robert M. Califf commissioned during his previous stint leading the FDA. Read more [here](#).

NIDA Announces New Funding Opportunity

NIDA’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research launched a Challenge competition, “Substance Use Prevention Services in Primary Care.” The Challenge will offer up to four awards of \$25,000 each. Submissions are due May 19, 2023. Read more [here](#).

Federal Tobacco Office Prepares For Overhaul

The Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products will be implementing immediate changes to its tobacco regulatory program, including developing a five-year strategic plan to clarify its focus that it plans to finalize by the end of the year. The actions are a response to an independent report from the Reagan-Udall Foundation, a group FDA Commissioner Robert Califf tasked with reviewing the agency’s tobacco regulatory operations. Read more [here](#).

DEA Announces Proposed Rules for Permanent Telemedicine Flexibilities

On February 24, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced proposed permanent rules for the prescribing of controlled medications via telemedicine, expanding patient access to these therapies beyond the scheduled end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The public will be able to comment for 30 days on the proposed rules. Read more [here](#).