

September 2023 Newsletter
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National Academies Consensus Study on Building a National Prevention Infrastructure

NIDA, along with nine additional NIH institutes and offices, is sponsoring a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Consensus Study: *Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Behavioral Health Disorders*. Read more [here](#).

SAMHSA Solicitation for Maternal Mental Health Task Force Representatives

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is soliciting applications from qualified individuals or organizations to be considered for non-voting representative positions on the Maternal Mental Health Task Force subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Women's Services (ACWS). Read more [here](#).

Higher Buprenorphine Doses Associated with Improved Retention in Treatment for OUD

According to a study published in *JAMA Network Open*, individuals with opioid use disorder who were prescribed a lower buprenorphine dose were 20 percent more likely to discontinue treatment than those on a higher dose. Read more [here](#).

U.S. to Name Synthetic Drugs Envoy

On September 19, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced during the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly that the U.S. will name an envoy to work with foreign governments on combating illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl. See announcement [here](#).

Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA) Practice Guide 2023

SAMHSA, in collaboration with RTI International, has released two resources intended to aid community practitioners in the ongoing work to end the overdose crisis. The guides are based on insights and tools from the ongoing HEALing Communities Study. Read more [here](#).

Senate HELP Committee to Hold Hearing on NIH Nomination in October

Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) announced that the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee will hold a nomination hearing in October for Monica Bertagnolli, the White House's pick to lead the National Institutes of Health. Read more [here](#).

Senate Banking Committee Advances SAFER Banking Act

On September 27, the Senate Banking Committee approved the SAFER Banking Act, 14-9, which would make it easier for banks to serve the cannabis industry. Read more [here](#).

House Judiciary Committee Approves SUPPORT Act Reauthorization

On September 28, the House Judiciary Committee approved the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act (HR 4531), legislation to reauthorize the SUPPORT Act. While the legislation reauthorizes several programs that treat and respond to the opioid crisis, lawmakers made it clear that one of their top concerns was xylazine. Watch markup [here](#).

Congress Averts Shutdown

On September 30, Congress passed a continuing resolution funding the government at current levels through November 17 and averting a government shutdown. Read more [here](#).