December 2023 Newsletter
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Tranq Research Act Signed into Law

On December 4, the House endorsed by voice vote Senate-amended legislation requiring the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to coordinate science and research into illegal drugs containing the horse tranquilizer xylazine. The Tranq Research Act was signed by President Biden. Read more here.

New Framework Released to Reduce Opioid Overdose

On December 5, the HEALing Communities Initiative, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative launched the Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA): A Policymakers Guide to Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies that Address Opioid Overdose. Read more here.

Cannabis Exposure and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes

According to an NIH funded study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, cannabis use during pregnancy was associated with significantly higher rates of adverse outcomes, particularly low birth weight. Read more here.

2023 Adolescent Reported Drug Use Below Pre-pandemic Levels

According to the latest results from the Monitoring the Future survey, the percentage of adolescents reporting they used any illicit substances in 2023 continued to hold steady below the pre-pandemic levels reported in 2020. Read more here.

FDA Approves First Test to Help Identify Elevated Risk of Developing OUD

The FDA has approved the first test using DNA to assess whether certain individuals may have an elevated risk of developing opioid use disorder (OUD). Read more here.

House and Senate Move on SUPPORT Act Reauthorization

The week of December 11, the full House approved H.R. 4531, legislation to reauthorize the SUPPORT Act, by a vote of 386-37, and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee advanced its SUPPORT Act reauthorization bill (S. 3393) by a vote of 19-1. The House bill includes a provision making Xylazine a schedule III drug while exempting from scheduling the FDA-approved animal drug. Read more here.