

May 28, 2026



DC Update: Senate Hearing on Prediction Markets & Sports Gambling, Congress Faces a Busy Agenda After Memorial Day, Study Evaluates Relationship Between Nicotine Pouch Use, Tobacco-Use Behaviors, and Demographic Characteristics, and More.

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Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy Hearing on Prediction Markets & Problem Gambling



On May 20 at 10:00 am, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy convened a hearing titled "[No Sure Bets: Protecting Sports Integrity in America](#)." The subcommittee is chaired by Senator Marsha Blackburn, with Senator John Hickenlooper serving as Ranking Member. The hearing examined whether prediction markets should be regulated similarly to the gambling industry. Witnesses included Mr. Bill Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Gaming Association; Ms. Mary Beth Thomas, Executive Director of the Tennessee Sports Wagering Council; Mr. Scott Sadin, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Integrity Compliance 360; Hon. Patrick McHenry, Senior Advisor to the Coalition for Prediction Markets; and Dr. Harry Levant, Director of Gambling Policy at the Public Health Advocacy Institute.

The full webcast of the hearing can be accessed [here](#).

Mr. Bill Miller's testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Ms. Mary Beth Thomas testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Mr. Scott Sadin's testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Hon. Patrick McHenry's testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Dr. Harry Levant's testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Congress Faces Busy Agenda After Memorial Day Break

Congress remains on recess through the end of the week but faces a busy agenda once they return during the first week of June. One priority will be for work to move forward on FY 2027 appropriations for federal programs, including those at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its operational divisions such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and others. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education is scheduled to consider its bill on June 5th and the full Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the measure on June 9th. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not released a precise schedule. Congress also faces the task of moving forward a second reconciliation bill focused on defense and immigration funding. The next break for Congress is scheduled to take place around the July 4th holiday.

Around the Agencies

HRSA Funding Opportunity: Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is now accepting applications for the [Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program](#). This funding will award up to \$100,000 in student loan repayment to eligible health professionals in exchange for a three year, full-time service commitment to be employed, or participate in a fellowship or residency program at a Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program-approved facility. Eligible applicants include clinicians who provide patient care under the following disciplines and specialties:

- Pediatric medical subspecialists
- Pediatric surgical specialists
- Child and adolescent mental and behavioral health providers, including substance use disorder prevention and treatment services

Applications are due by June 30, 2026, 7:30 p.m. ET on [My BHW](#).

Research Round-Up

Study Evaluates Relationship Between Nicotine Pouch Use, Tobacco-Use Behaviors, and Demographic Characteristics

Researchers recently published a study in the journal of [Substance Use & Misuse](#) titled "[Characterizing Current Nicotine Pouch Use Overall and to Attempt Quitting Tobacco and E-Cigarettes: Analysis of the US Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health \(PATH\) Study Wave 7 \(2022–2023\)](#)." Data from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health

(PATH) Study Wave 7, collected between 2022 and 2023, were analyzed using weighted multivariable logistic regression models to describe the relationships between NP use, demographic characteristics, and tobacco-use behaviors. The study found that the use of nicotine pouches for attempting tobacco cessation or switching was more common among individuals who had engaged with FDA-approved cessation treatments and those with social networks that included pouch users, suggesting that NPs are being used alongside traditional cessation treatments and their use may be influenced by social exposure. Additional findings include:

- “Among US adults, 3.3% had used NPs, while 1.6% and 0.8% were past-year and past-month consumers, respectively.
- Among individuals who used tobacco and made a quit attempt, 5.9% attempted to quit tobacco with NPs, and 3.6% intended to switch from cigarettes to NPs.
- Correlates of attempting to quit tobacco with NPs were having people one considered important (vs. none) using NPs (AOR: 4.7; 95% CI: 1.3, 16.3) and past year use (vs. no use) of smoking cessation treatment (AOR:2.9; 95% CI:1.4, 5.9).
- The most common NP brand used by past-month users was Zyn (57.9%, 95% CI: 50.2, 65.3).”

The study can be accessed [here](#).

NDEWS Report: EMS Encounters for Nonfatal Drug-Related Overdoses Involving Medetomidine



On May 22, 2026, the [National Drug Early Warning System](#) released a report on “[EMS encounters for nonfatal drug-related overdoses involving medetomidine in the US January 1, 2023 - April 30, 2026](#).” Medetomidine, an alpha-2 adrenergic agonist traditionally used in veterinary medicine for sedation and analgesia, has been increasingly detected as an adulterant in the unregulated drug supply. Between January 1, 2023, and April 30, 2026, 182 emergency medical services (EMS) encounters for nonfatal drug-related overdoses involving medetomidine were reported nationwide. This report presents demographic characteristics of non-suppressed EMS encounters, including age, sex, and race; encounters with fewer than 10 are suppressed. Among the non-suppressed data, 62.5% of encounters involved white individuals, 21.6% were of unknown race, and 10.4% involved Hispanic individuals. Male patients were more frequently encountered than female patients, with the majority of men aged 40–49 and the majority of women aged 30–39.

This report can be accessed [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

Greenspace Health Webinar: Advancing Substance Use Disorder Treatment Through Measurement-Based Care

Greenspace Health is hosting a webinar on “[Advancing Substance Use Disorder Treatment Through Measurement-Based Care](#).” This webinar will be held on June 4 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET. This webinar presents founders from the Yale Measurement-Based Care (MBC) Collaborative. MBC is a clinical process in which mental health clinicians and clients utilize patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) data to monitor progress and guide treatment decisions. Specifically, the speakers will share insights from their work advancing MBC across diverse care environments, including a high-level overview of MBC in the context of SUD, implementation approaches, and what organizations need to know to successfully leverage MBC throughout substance use care to inform treatment discussions, goals, and decisions.

Registration is available [here](#).

HRSA Workshop: Healthy Grants Workshop

The Health Resources and Services Administration is hosting two presentations as part of its [2026 Healthy Grants Workshop](#) series. This no-cost workshop will be held on June 10 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm ET. The first session, Allowable and Unallowable Costs, will take place from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET and is intended for new recipients or those seeking a refresher on 2 CFR 200.403. The second session, Best Practices for Budgeting and Rebudgeting, is designed for advanced participants but is open to all. This session will address preparing line-item budgets and budget justifications, including personnel changes, budget adjustments, and rebudgeting requirements. It will also explore cost principles and provide illustrative examples of common budgeting and rebudgeting errors and effective practices.



Registration is available [here](#).

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