

October 22, 2026



The D.C. Update

President Trump signs new executive order, Red Ribbon Week & More.

[Visit our Website](#)



White House Happenings

President Trump signs Executive Order in support of women's health

On October 19th, President Donald Trump signed an executive order, Advancing Women's Health to Improve Outcomes in All Phases of Life, which directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish within 90 days a new Women's Health

Division within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This new division would aim to increase scientific review of understudied women's health conditions; promote advanced



research technologies and personalized medicine; strengthen interdisciplinary research; improve understanding of sex-specific health outcomes; increase inclusion of women and girls in clinical trials; reinforce NIH requirements to account for sex as a biological variable; and translate scientific discoveries into clinical practice.

To read the Executive Order, click [here](#).

To read the HHS press release, click [here](#).

Around the Agencies



National Training and Technical Assistance Center hosts webinar on strengthening crisis care systems for children and youth

The National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) is hosting a webinar on strengthening substance use and mental health crisis care systems for children and youth on Wednesday, November 4th, at 3:00 PM ET. This event will help describe Medicaid's role in supporting a comprehensive youth mental health and addiction crisis continuum, explore how System of Care principles can be integrated into youth crisis response systems, and examine state implementation and promising practices for developing youth-focused crisis response systems. This webinar is designed for state Medicaid staff and others involved in crisis service initiatives within your state.

To register, click [here](#).

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare hosts webinar on guide for youth



The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is hosting a free, 30-minute webinar on its youth guide "Stronger Than You Know: Tools for Navigating Life's Challenges," to help young people affected by their parents' substance use, mental health challenges, and child welfare involvement build resilience, stay safe, and navigate difficult life experiences on Thursday, November 19th, at 2:00 PM ET. The session will aim to strengthen participants' ability to recognize and respond to the unique needs of youth affected by parental substance use, mental health challenges, and child welfare involvement; disseminate knowledge of resources and tools that help youth prepare for independence, including financial and transitional-age resources; demonstrate how the guide can be applied through a real-world case example; and provide participants with a practical tool that can be used with youth immediately.

To register, click [here](#).



Drug Enforcement Administration & Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration: Red Ribbon Promotion Joint Letter signed by leadership

As Red Ribbon Week 2026 approaches, Dr. Timothy Westlake, Chief of Staff for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and Terry Cole, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator have co-signed a joint letter promoting Red Ribbon, linked [here](#).

National Drug Early Warning System releases briefing on ketamine

On October 16, the National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS), released its weekly briefing on ketamine. NDEWS is a project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that monitors drug use morbidity and mortality data in 17 sites across the country. The briefing explains ketamine itself, data describing emergency medical services (EMS) encounters for suspected nonfatal overdoses involving ketamine, and a focus on trends related to ketamine use among college students.



To view the briefing, click [here](#).

To learn more about NDEWS, click [here](#).



Drug Enforcement Administration hosts 31st National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 24th

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in collaboration with more than 4,300 law enforcement partners, will host the 31st National Prescription Drug Take Back Day from 10 AM – 2 PM (local time) on Saturday, October 24th. More than 4,400 collection sites will be set up across the country to dispose of unneeded, expired, and unused prescription medications. This is a simple step that aims to prevent diversion, reduce risk of accidental poisoning, and help protect communities.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement

To view the full press release, click [here](#).

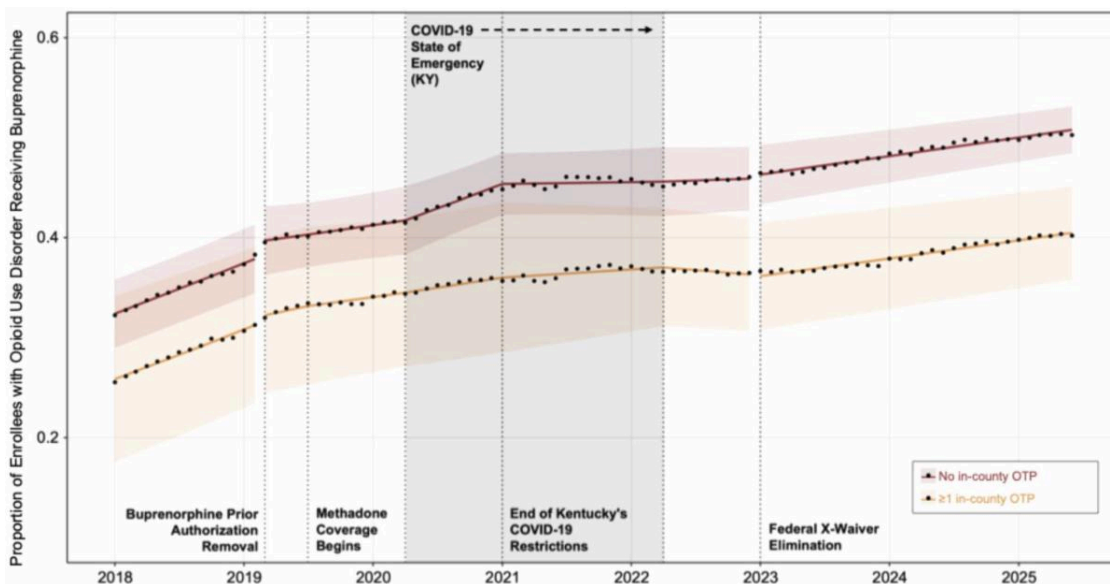
Problem Gambling

National survey finds most parents concerned about underage gambling, but only half have had "The Gambling Talk"

A new national survey conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) finds that 64% of parents with children under 18 are concerned about them taking part in gambling activities before they reach legal gambling age, but only half of parents of kids aged 6–17 have already talked with them about the risks of gambling.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Research Roundup



Drug & Alcohol Dependence: County-level context and differential policy impacts on buprenorphine use among Medicaid enrollees with opioid use disorder in Kentucky, 2018-2025

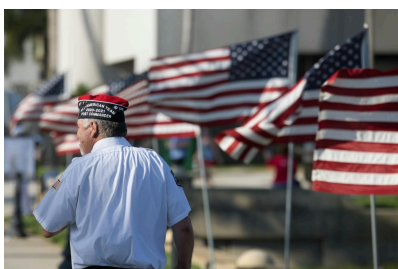
The purpose of this study was to estimate changes in buprenorphine use among Kentucky Medicaid enrollees with opioid use disorder (OUD). Removal of administrative and regulatory barriers, especially prior authorization removal and X-waiver elimination, was found to be associated with increased buprenorphine use among Kentucky Medicaid enrollees with OUD, with effects varying by opioid treatment program (OTP) availability.

To read more, click [here](#).

Child & Family Social Work: The Protective Influence of Relationship Satisfaction and Peer-Led Recovery Support Groups Among Trauma-Exposed Parents with Substance Use

The authors analyzed parents from a midwestern state with co-occurring substance use and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their findings suggest that relationship satisfaction and engagement in peer-led recovery support groups can have a beneficial impact on factors associated with risk of maltreatment and harmful parenting.

To read more, click [here](#).



Addictive Behaviors: Probable alcohol use disorder in the U.S. Veteran population – Results from the 2025-2026 National Health and Resilience in Veterans study

Researchers estimated prevalence of probable alcohol use disorder (AUD) among U.S. veterans over the course of six years, which remains elevated and is

characterized by early adversity, co-occurring psychiatric conditions, and elevated suicide risk. Targeted outreach and integrated approaches may help to address this complex issue.

To read more, click [here](#).

The Journal for Nurse Practitioners: Microteaching Intervention Targeting Motivational Interviewing for Substance Use Disorders

Rural areas are disproportionately affected by substance use disorders (SUDs) but often lack specialty treatment access. Following a 1-hour microlearning session focused on motivational interviewing (MI) for SUDs, participants' confidence increased significantly, and 40% demonstrated basic proficiency in MI skills. The findings provide preliminary support for implementing MI-focused microlearning sessions in practice settings.

To read more, click [here](#).

Webinars to Watch



TCA & Congressional Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus: Substance Use Disorder and Gambling – What to Do When Your Luck Runs Out

Tuesday, October 29th @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Presented by **Chinazo Cunningham, MD, New York SSA Director and NASADAD Vice President**; Cole Wogoman, JD; Brian Dolan, MHC, CRC & Seep Varma

As online gambling, online sports wagering, and online prediction markets proliferates in the US, the intersection of gambling disorder and substance use may require greater understanding and attention, with people increasingly presenting in need of treatment with related needs. This panel will include a timely conversation featuring national and state leaders, policy experts, and persons with lived experience. Panelists will explore emerging risks, treatment needs, and potential policies that strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery systems.

To register and receive additional information, click [here](#).

To join the meeting directly, click [here](#). Please note that this link connects directly to the meeting room and will otherwise not be monitored.



Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Navigating the Menopause Transition – Substance Use, Mental Health, and Lived Experience

Wednesday, October 28th @ 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

This webinar will explore how menopause-related changes may affect substance use risk, resilience, treatment, and recovery. Presenters will discuss overlapping menopause, mental health, and substance use symptoms and identify opportunities to strengthen prevention, screening, treatment, recovery support services, and coordinated menopause-informed care.

Register [here](#).



NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals: Common Practices that Hurt Survivors and their Antidotes

Wednesday, October 28th @ 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET
Presented by Gabriela Zapata-Alma, LCSW, CADC

Some standard practices in substance use disorder (SUD) care may unintentionally endanger survivors of intimate partner violence. This webinar highlights seven common approaches that create barriers to safety and healing. Participants may learn practical "antidotes" and trauma-informed alternatives to better support survivors in recovery.

Register [here](#).



Georgetown University: M.S. in Addiction Policy and Practice Informational Session

Monday, October 26th @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
Presented by Ann Herbst

The session is designed to discuss Georgetown University's Master's Program in Addiction Policy and Practice. This session is hosted in collaboration with Young People in Recovery (YPR), a national nonprofit providing peer recovery support services for youth/young adults in (or seeking) recovery from SUDs, represented by Ann Herbst, its executive director.

Register [here](#).



Addiction Policy Forum (APF): Alcohol Use Disorder – Addressing the Special Needs of Women and Understanding Recovery Trajectories and Relapse

Thursday, October 29th @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET
Presented by Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH; John Kelly, PhD, ABPP & Redonna Chandler, PhD

This webinar will examine alcohol use and alcohol use disorder (AUD) among women in the US, with a focus on the evidence base for treatment and clinical considerations that may shape women's experiences when seeking care. Presenters will review widely used models of recovery, recovery trajectories, and current research on recurrence of alcohol use, including factors that may increase risk and those that may support long-term wellness.

Register [here](#).

Thank you for reading.

NASADAD | 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite M 250 | Washington, DC 20006 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!