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D.C. Update: opioid use among women, underage drinking prevention, and more

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Around the Agencies

AHRQ releases analysis of opioid use among women

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently [found](#) that opioid-related hospitalization rates among women in 2016 were highest among Caucasians (428 per 100,000 people), followed by African Americans (380 per 100,000) and Hispanics (152 per 100,000). AHRQ's analysis also showed that the percentage of opioid-related hospitalizations involving women who were pregnant or giving birth was lowest among African Americans (5 percent), followed by Caucasians (8 percent), and Hispanics (9 percent). These findings and others, including data on opioid-related hospitalization rates according to income and location, were drawn from AHRQ's Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, the largest source of hospital care data in the United States.

CDC releases report on fentanyl drug submissions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a [report](#) analyzing the numbers of fentanyl drug submissions—drug products obtained by law enforcement—to State, local, and federal laboratories in the U.S. during 2010–2017. The number of US fentanyl submissions observed between July and December 2017 declined by 2% compared to January–June 2017, after increasing an average of 87% during each consecutive half-year period beginning in the first half of 2013. The decline in 2017 coincides with a stabilization in synthetic

SAMHSA launches Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking

Approximately every two years, SAMHSA distributes planning stipends to community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and Statewide or State-based organizations to host events that educate youth, families, and communities about the potentially harmful consequences of underage and problem drinking among individuals 12 to 25 years old. The latest [Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking](#) kicked off this month. As [described](#) by Acting Director of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Luis Vasquez, "For years, Communities Talk events have provided an environment for open conversations among youth, parents, and community leaders about the importance of preventing underage drinking."

SAMHSA releases tips for finding quality addiction treatment

Acting Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Anne Herron, recently wrote a [blog post](#) offering individuals and families tips on how to find quality treatment for addiction.

The post describes the process of finding a treatment provider, and particular aspects to look for in a provider. As described in the post, the five main points to look for in a treatment program or provider are: accreditation; evidence-based treatment;

opioid overdose deaths excluding methadone (e.g., primarily fentanyl) starting in the second half of 2017.

medication-assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol use disorders; valuing family involvement in the treatment process; and continuing care post-treatment.

Capitol Hill Happenings



Energy & Commerce Committee leaders announce roster

Last week, [Chairman Frank Pallone](#) (D-NJ) and [Ranking Member Greg Walden](#) (R-OR) of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over a broad variety of issues, including health care and substance use disorders, announced the Committee roster for the 116th Congress.

Members of the E&C Subcommittee on Health are: Chairwoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Ranking Member Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), Eliot Engel (D-NY), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Kathy Castor

(D-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA), Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), Peter Welch (D-VT), Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Ann Kuster (D-NH), Robin Kelly (D-IL), Nanette Barragán (D-CA), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Bobby Rush (D-IL), Fred Upton (R-MI), John Shimkus (R-IL), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Billy Long (R-MO), Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Susan Brooks (R-IN), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Richard Hudson (R-NC), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Greg Gianforte (R-MT), Frank Pallone, *Ex Officio*, and Greg Walden, *Ex Officio*.

Federal Funding

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grant applications due March 22nd

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that it is accepting applications for Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (STOP Act) grants. The goal of this program is to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20 in communities throughout the United States. The grant-funded activities will aim to: address community norms regarding alcohol use by youth; reduce opportunities for underage drinking by limiting youth access to alcohol; create changes in underage drinking enforcement efforts; address penalties for underage use; and/or reduce the prevalence of negative consequences associated with underage drinking. As described in the [application](#), eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities that are current or former Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFC) recipients. Past STOP Act recipients are also eligible to apply. However, recipients who received funding under SP-16-007 are not eligible to apply for funding under this grant. SAMHSA plans to issue 20 grants of up to \$50,000 per year for up to 4 years.

News from the States

DC Mayor announces increased investment in naloxone

Last week, Mayor of Washington, DC, Muriel Bowser, [announced](#) an increased investment in naloxone, pledging to purchase more than 50,000 kits in an effort to curb opioid overdose deaths. The kits will be distributed to DC police officers, community organizations, individuals who use drugs, and others who may benefit from having the opioid antidote on hand. In a statement, Mayor Bowser said, "We're very focused on developing solutions to the opioid epidemic that meet the needs of our specific community. This plan takes into account the experiences and advice of our public health and safety experts, and represents our commitment to doing everything we can to save lives and end this epidemic. By working together as a community – across government agencies and with our residents and community partners – we can increase awareness and prevention efforts, enhance treatment offerings, and strengthen our recovery supports."

Upcoming Events

Rx Summit to be held April 22-25 in Atlanta, GA

The 2019 Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit is the annual event for addressing the opioid crisis. Government officials, first responders, law enforcement personnel, clinicians, physicians, nurses, educators, public health and prevention officials, and families and people in recovery are represented and discuss solutions for addressing the opioid epidemic and healing our communities. The Rx Summit agenda is designed with timely and relevant information to address what is working in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The 2019 Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, April 22–25. Visit the [Summit website](#) to explore the Summit's comprehensive curriculum spearheaded by field experts and leading organizations engaged in producing the nation's largest and most recognized conference addressing the opioid crisis.

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