

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: May 22, 2020



New York

[COVID-19 cited in spike of opioid overdoses](#)

Pandemic has worsened the opioid crisis. More people are dying of overdoses and fewer are being admitted for treatment.

Investigative Post

Reduction in treatment options

Erie County and its Opioid Epidemic Task Force have been lauded in recent years for their efforts to reduce the number of overdose deaths by launching programs like Opioid Court and Rapid Evaluation Appropriate Placement, both of which offer support and treatment options to people with substance abuse issues.

Buffalo City Court's Opioid Court has been suspended since March, when all courts closed to nonessential matters. Meanwhile, service providers and support groups have had to scale back in-person operations to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

[Cheryl Moore, director of the Erie County Department of Health Opioid Program] and others in public health fear many people will relapse during the pandemic.

Tennessee

[Drug overdoses in Memphis spike during virus outbreak](#)

Associated Press

In Shelby County, drug courts and drug treatment facilities have remained open during the virus outbreak. The health department is providing free overdose reversal kits and treatment resources at locations around Shelby County this week.