

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

September 24, 2021



Indiana

[Continuing the Fight Against Substance Use Disorder](#)

Inside Indiana Business

Our researchers continue to study and recommend effective policies and law at both the state and national level. They are working with people in long-term recovery to examine the use of medication assisted treatment. They continue to research the economic impact substance use has on our country and in the workforce, and they continue to provide programming for at-risk youth in local schools and in the juvenile justice system.

We are proud of the work we are doing, but we acknowledge there is much more work to be done. Many aspects of people’s lives — socioeconomics, education, mental health, and more — play a role in the disease. It will take all of us, working together as a supportive community to combat it.

We must all keep moving forward and remember that in the end, this work isn’t just about laws, money, or medicine. It is about people.

Kentucky

[Gov. Beshear recognizes National Recovery Month](#)

Ohio County Monitor

Today, Gov. Andy Beshear, the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services recognized September as National Recovery Month and celebrated the thousands of Kentuckians who have achieved recovery while also reaffirming the commonwealth’s commitment to [help] even more Kentuckians overcome addiction.

The Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health manages a vital website, www.findhelpnowky.org, for Kentucky health care providers, court officials, families and individuals seeking options for substance abuse treatment and recovery. It offers real-time information about available space in treatment programs, and guides users to the right type of treatment for their needs. The site provides a search engine for drug treatment, helping users locate treatment providers based on location, facility type and category of treatment needed.

Kentucky

[New addiction recovery center opens in Perry County](#)

WYMT

The opioid epidemic is running rampant, especially in Eastern Kentucky,” said Clinical Supervisor Angela Hall. “People are searching for various substances just to not have feelings. We’re in a very rural area and there’s not a lot of resources or opportunities.”

While already a known issue facing the region, the COVID-19 pandemic has made things worse for a variety of reasons.

“With everything that is going on right now, we have seen that multiple people are afraid to come in,” said Operational Director Whitney Ritchie. “They’re mostly staying home and self-medicating. With that, we’re getting high rises in overdoses.”

Working to help those in need are staff at BrightView, an addiction recovery center. A new location was unveiled on September 13th in Perry County.

“...is a Suboxone medically assisted treatment facility that can help people get off meth, heroin, opioids, things like that. So, they can try to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency,” said Hall.

Maine

[A \\$2.5 Million Federal Grant Will Help Expand Addiction Treatment in Northern and Down East Maine](#)

Maine Republic

Aroostook Mental Health Center has been awarded a \$2.5 million federal grant to respond to the opioid epidemic in northern Maine.

The agency says the money will be used to support and expand medication-assisted treatment services in Aroostook, Washington, and Hancock counties over five years.

Last year, 504 Mainers died from drug overdoses, and state officials say they expect that number to grow this year.

Maine

[Opioids: A continuing epidemic, within a pandemic](#)

Maine-Monitor

[Scott Knowles] continued using and selling drugs for a decade until being arrested at 30 on drug trafficking charges. Through drug court and his involvement in a 12-step program, Knowles learned about the benefits of recovery coaching. A friend recommended he train to be one himself.

Knowles has been with Maine Recovery Core for two years and is working on a degree from the mental health and human services program at Eastern Maine Community College. He celebrated three years of sobriety in August.

Punishing people for addiction disorders doesn't work, Knowles said. It's better to treat them.

"Listen, I see miracles every single day," Knowles said. "Like addicts in recovery that should have been dead a long time ago, and now they're out here making a difference helping other people."

Michigan

[‘The medication is the treatment’: MAT in substance use disorder](#)

Record-Eagle

Medication-assisted treatment is more humane and ethical when it comes to getting someone off drugs.

So says Dr. Robert Heimer of the Yale School of Public Health, the featured speaker at a recent Traverse City event sponsored by Harm Reduction Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

For those not ready to quit, there are needle exchanges and overdose-reversing kits — both of which save lives, he said.

Heimer has made a career of studying IV drug use and the effectiveness of programs such as syringe exchanges in preventing HIV and hepatitis infections, take-home naloxone kits that can prevent death in an opioid overdose and MAT, which uses medications such as methadone and buprenorphine to sustain early recovery and prevent overdose.

North Dakota

[Breaking point: Masking mental health with addiction](#)

Dickinson Press

Amy Spangler, who works as a clerk of the court for the City of Dickinson, noted she has also seen the implications of mental health and the lack of services in southwest North Dakota. On a day-to-day basis, Spangler said she's seen the "damaging effects of untreated mental health issues."

"Mental health affects far more than just crime; it's a part of how you look at any aspect of your life. I know this sounds a little strange, but the easiest way for me to see it is in someone trying to get their suspended driver's license reinstated. They have outstanding traffic tickets, which have to be paid first. Then, more often than not, the individual needs an SR-22 (high risk insurance) and needs to make sure that gets

submitted to the licensing agency, and then pay the reinstatement fee. Most people would get their own information or be pointed in the right direction by us at the Clerk's Office, and take care of it step-by-step," she said. "But when anxiety is a part of your everyday life, each one of those steps can seem like a mountain. The amount of money to pay those traffic tickets, for example, becomes an unachievable goal. The idea of having to wait on the phone on hold, and not understanding what questions to ask, is another.

