

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

September 2, 2022



National

[National Recovery Month 2022](#)

SAMHSA

National Recovery Month (Recovery Month), which started in 1989, is a national observance held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.

SAMHSA aims to increase public awareness surrounding mental health and addiction recovery. In the years since Recovery Month launched, SAMHSA has timed announcements of initiatives and grant funding during Recovery Month, while collaborating with private and public entities to celebrate individuals during their long-term recoveries.

National

[A national survey of state laws regarding medications for opioid use disorder in problem-solving courts](#)

Health & Justice Journal

Problem-solving courts have the potential to help reduce harms associated with the opioid crisis. However, problem-solving courts vary in their policies toward medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), with some courts discouraging or even prohibiting MOUD use.

Nine states (including Washington, D.C.) had a total of 37 state laws regarding MOUD in problem-solving courts or diversion programs: California, Washington, D.C., Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Washington. Of the 37 laws, most were recent, with only two laws effective prior to 2015. We identified two overarching categories of state laws, described in greater detail below: laws that prohibit MOUD bans in problem-solving courts (n = 24; 64%) and laws potentially facilitating access to MOUD in problem-solving courts (n = 13; 36%).

National

[Assessing the effectiveness of problem-solving courts on the reduction of overdose deaths in the United States: A difference-in-difference study](#)

Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports

There was a significant effect of drug courts in reducing county overdose mortality by 2.924 (95% CI: -3.478 – -2.370), after controlling for annual trends. Additionally, having a higher number of outpatient SUD providers in the county (coefficient 0.092, 95% CI: 0.032 – 0.152), a higher proportion of uninsured population (coefficient 0.062, 95% CI: 0.052 – 0.072), and being in the Northeast region (coefficient 0.51, 95% CI: 0.313 – 0.707), was associated with higher county overdose mortality.

National

[Medication-Assisted Treatment in Problem-solving Courts: A National Survey of State and Local Court Coordinators](#)

Journal of Drug Issues

Problem-solving courts (PSCs) are a critical part of a societal effort to mitigate the opioid epidemic's devastating consequences. This paper reports on a national survey of PSCs (N = 42 state-wide court coordinators; N = 849 local court coordinators) and examines the structural factors that could explain the likelihood of a local PSC authorizing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and MAT utilization. Results of the analyses indicate that MAT availability at the county level was a significant predictor of the likelihood of local courts authorizing MAT. The court's location in a Medicaid expansion state was also a significant predictor of local courts allowing buprenorphine and methadone, but not naltrexone. Problem-solving courts are in the early stages of supporting the use of medications, even when funding is available through Medicaid expansion policies. Adoption and use of treatment innovations like MAT are affected by coordinators' perceptions of MAT as well as structural factors such as the availability of the medications in the community and funding resources. The study has important implications for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

National

[Integrating Addiction Medicine with Treatment Courts](#)

American Society of Addiction Medicine

This 6-hour, live course provides the education needed for prescribing clinicians to strengthen skills in partnering with treatment court and advocating for patients who are involved in treatment court. The course will include didactic presentations, small group discussions, FAQs, and challenging case studies.

ASAM is partnering with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) through an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) grant initiative to allow medical providers active with and new to the drug treatment court field access

to training to help guide them in successful integration of services for individuals with substance use disorders involved in the justice system.

Utah

[Mother carries on son's legacy to de-stigmatize substance use disorder](#)

KJZZ

But before his death, Evan's work de-stigmatizing substance use disorder is leaving a lasting impact as he helped get the phrase 'family drug court' changed to 'family recovery court.'

"When he passed away, I got so many messages from social workers he worked with, with judges that just respected his work and felt like he was one of them and helped make positive changes," Gold said.

Virginia

[Culpeper receives first payment in statewide opioid settlement funds](#)

Culpeper Star Exponent

Culpeper County will receive about \$1.3 million through pending allocations. It received its initial payment July 29.

The money can also be used to support drug treatment and drug courts, as started in the spring in Culpeper County. The money can be for pregnant women or mothers with opioid-use disorder and mental health issues, as well as the needs of her family, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, according to a memorandum with the state that the county approved last year.

The money can be used to purchase Naloxone, used for reviving people overdosing from opioids, or for medication-assisted treatment for people physically dependent on opioids.

The state Opioid Abatement Authority, established last year, will receive 55 percent of all settlement funds. Its mission is to remediate the opioid epidemic in the commonwealth through grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and misuse.