

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

March 31, 2023



### National

[FDA approves over-the-counter Narcan. Here's what it means](#)

Associated Press

The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) on Wednesday approved selling the leading version of naloxone without a prescription, setting the overdose-reversing drug on course to become the first opioid treatment drug to be sold over the counter.

It's a move that some advocates have long sought as a way to improve access to a life-saving drug, though the exact impact will not be clear immediately.

### Indiana

[Drug overdose deaths continue to climb nationally and locally](#)

Greenfield Reporter

Beth Ingle is the coordinator of the Hancock County Circuit Court Drug Court program and noted it's sad OD deaths are still on the rise, especially in a county with so many resources.

"We are doing our best to help our participants get the needed substance abuse treatment necessary to end that cycle and save lives," Ingle said.

She noted the program always works toward improving the success statistics in drug court, but a meta analysis completed for the National Drug Court Institute (2016) stated, "The best adult drug courts were determined to reduce recidivism by 35% to 80%," based on the graduates.

"Hancock County Drug Court is experiencing a 70% reduction in recidivism right now and our success rate is at 52% so, yes, we feel we are making a big difference in helping those who want to change their lives and end the cycle of addiction," Ingle said.

### Massachusetts

[Association of Implementation of Postoverdose Outreach Programs With Subsequent Opioid Overdose Deaths Among Massachusetts Municipalities](#)

JAMA Psychiatry

Importance: Nonfatal opioid overdose is the leading risk factor for subsequent fatal overdose and represents a critical opportunity to reduce future overdose and mortality. Postoverdose outreach programs emerged in Massachusetts beginning in 2013 with the

main purpose of linking opioid overdose survivors to addiction treatment and harm reduction services.

Results: Postoverdose programs were implemented in 58 municipalities (62%). Following implementation, there were no significant level changes in opioid fatality rate...However, there was a significant slope decrease in opioid fatality compared with the municipalities without the outreach programs. Similarly, there was a significant slope decrease in opioid-related EMS response.

## Virginia

### [Dissertation: Cumberland County Adult Treatment Court Comparing Opioid Participants' Successful and Unsuccessful Completion](#)

Liberty University

The purpose of this quantitative, retrospective, causal comparative study was to determine if differences existed between opioid-addicted participants who successfully completed or failed to complete the Cumberland County Adult Treatment Court. The current study was formulated on the theoretical framework of therapeutic jurisprudence and structural ritualization. The research questions were developed to determine whether there were differences in the demographics (age, gender, and education level) and treatment services utilized between participants who successfully completed and failed to complete the program...Results indicated no significant differences existed in program completion as a function of demographics. The Chi-square showed four of the treatment methods including inpatient, halfway house, outpatient, and CBT showed significant differences in program completion when participants experienced the modality. The treatment modality analysis showed that seven of the 11 remaining treatment methods offered showed no significant differences in program completion when participants experienced the different modalities.

## Washington

### [City of Wenatchee to receive additional \\$600,000 as part of opioid settlement](#)

Wenatchee World

For example, the city's opioid funds could go toward "revitalizing drug court and mandatory drug treatment sentencing, recovery coaching programs, outreach for homeless/opium addiction and Behavioral Health Unit/Police integration among other opioid abatement strategies," according to the agenda report.