

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

May 20, 2022



National

[FY 2022 Solicitations That Support Courts](#)

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program

National

[Overdose deaths hit an all-time high in 2021. Why some drug policy experts still have hope](#)

The Today Show

The coronavirus pandemic has changed the field

Harm reductionists interviewed for this story agreed that there have been major policy shifts since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020.

“Sadly, it took a pandemic to lift regulations that should have been lifted a very long time ago, specifically around methadone and buprenorphine,” said Jasmine Budnella, director of drug policy at VOCAL-NY, referring to two medications used to treat addiction by affecting brain receptors to limit opioid cravings. Their use is referred to as medically assisted treatment or medical maintenance.

Maryland

[Montgomery County programs celebrate the power of change at grad ceremonies](#)

WUSA9

The power of change was on full display at two poignant graduation ceremonies in Montgomery County on Wednesday.

At the first, four people graduated from the county’s [adult drug court program](#). The voluntary program takes nearly two years to complete and participants must finish all phases of the program and show a commitment to recovery and sobriety.

It’s a huge accomplishment in the fight against addiction.

Montana[‘I hand out NARCAN like Tic-Tacs’: Options for residents with opioid, fentanyl dependence](#)

Montana Standard

Similarly, Butte City Court Judge Jerome McCarthy said people who have built up a tolerance to oxycodone will sometimes take one not knowing it contains fentanyl.

“You could have an opiate addict that’s used to taking morphine or oxy — the prescription — and they get into a position where they’re buying ... what they believe is an Oxy 30 or Oxy 50,” McCarthy said.

“But it’s not an Oxy 30 or 50, it’s been pressed with fentanyl ...and boom.” The next thing you know, he said, that person is dead...

Rowling is also heavily involved with the courts to get people with misdemeanors into treatment programs like the Montana Chemical Dependency Center in Butte, rather than prison.

Judge McCarthy said this is a huge benefit in Butte because in many other places, someone must face a felony before treatment becomes an option.

West Virginia[Overdose and Hope](#)

The Exponent Telegram

That survival rate is better than heart disease, cancer and diabetes. I [Lou Ortenzio, Executive Director, Clarksburg Mission] see miracles every day at my job. I see folks turn it around at the Mission, at sober living homes, in recovery meetings like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Celebrate Recovery and in drug court. I see former addicts working jobs, paying bills, renewing relationships with their children and living a good life.