

May 2019 Newsletter
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OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING COCAINE AND METH RISE SHARPLY

According to a May 2 CDC report, synthetic opioids like fentanyl drove recent spikes in fatal overdoses deaths related to cocaine and psychostimulants such as methamphetamine. Read more [here](#).

WARREN, CUMMINGS ROLL OUT REVAMPED \$100B OPIOID PLAN

On May 8, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) unveiled a revamped \$100 billion plan to respond to the opioid crisis. Read more [here](#).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON PROGRESS SINCE OPIOID COMMISSION REPORT

On May 8, the White House released a report on progress achieved to date on the goals included in the President's Commission's report. Read more [here](#).

CDC: 300 PERCENT SPIKE IN HEPATITIS A LINKED TO DRUG USE, HOMELESSNESS

According to a new CDC study, cases of hepatitis A spiked nearly 300 percent in recent years, a trend linked largely to injection drug use amid the opioid crisis. Read more [here](#).

HHS ESTABLISHES ANOTHER COMMITTEE TO TACKLE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

HHS announced on May 14 the creation of a new committee to identify areas for improved coordination related to substance use disorder (SUD) research, services, supports and prevention activities across all relevant federal agencies. The HHS secretary will also appoint several non-governmental members and nominations for the committee are due June 14. Read more [here](#).

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES PLANS FOR ADDRESSING DRUG ADDICTION

Various 2020 Presidential candidates have announced their plans for tackling drug addiction should they be elected President in the next election. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

CLARK, ROGERS RELEASE REPORT EXPOSING PURDUE PHARMA'S INFLUENCE AT THE WHO

On May 22, Congresswoman Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY) released a report exposing that Purdue Pharma L.P. funded organizations, people, and research to influence the World Health Organization's opioid prescribing recommendations. Read more [here](#).

OPIOID LEGISLATION

Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Annie Kuster (D-NH) introduced legislation to bolster the federal response to the opioid epidemic. The measure would create a \$25 billion Opioid Epidemic Response Fund to provide \$5 billion annually over five years targeted to numerous key activities involving such agencies SAMHSA, CDC, NIH and HRSA. Read more [here](#).

FDA FLOATS SPECIAL PACKAGING GUIDELINES FOR OPIOIDS

FDA is seeking feedback on potential new rules that would make certain opioids available to be issued in fixed-quantity blister packs. Read more [here](#).

FDA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON CBD

On May 31 the FDA held a public meeting to obtain scientific data and information about the safety, manufacturing, product quality, marketing, labeling, and sale of products containing cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

HHS TASK FORCE WARNS ABOUT OVERRELIANCE ON PDMPs

A federal interagency task force on pain management recommended on May 30 that state PDMPs may contain errors and should not be used to cut off patients from opioid prescriptions without consultations to determine whether the move is appropriate. Read more [here](#).