

June 2019 Newsletter
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CDC RESEARCHERS SEE LINK BETWEEN OPIOID MISUSE AND BINGE DRINKING

A study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine on June 11 finds that more than 2 million Americans who misused opioids between 2012 and 2014 also identified as binge drinkers. Read more [here](#).

E&C REQUESTS FENTANYL BRIEFING FROM AGENCIES

A bipartisan group of Energy and Commerce Committee leaders sent letters to six federal agencies on June 13 requesting briefings on the illegal flow of fentanyl into the country as part of their ongoing investigation into the threat posed by the synthetic opioid. Read more [here](#).

CANNABIS USE RISING AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

Cannabis use more than doubled among pregnant women in the United States from 2002 to 2017, according to a survey conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and published in JAMA. Read more [here](#).

FDA WORKING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFETY OF CBD

In a consumer update, the FDA said it is working to learn more about the safety of cannabidiol (CBD) and CBD products. Read more [here](#).

FDA RELEASES DRAFT GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING RISKS AND BENEFITS OF OPIOIDS

On June 20, the FDA announced [draft guidance](#) aimed at assessing the benefits and risks of new opioids within a broader public health context. The agency will hold a public meeting in September to discuss the plan. Read more [here](#).

FDA EXTENDS CANNABIS COMMENT WINDOW

The FDA is allowing an additional two weeks — until July 16 — for the public to submit comments about how it should approach regulating cannabis and cannabis-derived products. Read more [here](#).

HOUSE PASSES LABOR HHS BILL

On June 19, the House passed, on a 226 to 203 vote, a package of fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills, including the bill funding the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Read more [here](#).

HOUSE E&C LEADERS REQUEST FDA BRIEFING ON OPIOIDS

The bipartisan leaders of the Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health and Oversight subcommittees are asking for briefings on FDA decisions surrounding Insys Therapeutics' fentanyl products and Purdue Pharma's Oxycontin. Read more [here](#).

HOUSE FDA FUNDING PACKAGE DIRECTS \$100K TO CBD EFFORTS

The House passed a minibus funding package on June 25 that aims to give FDA a \$184 million funding boost over fiscal 2019 levels and redirect \$100,000 from the agency's general purpose funding towards its efforts to establish a safe, lawful level of cannabidiol (CBD) to be allowed in food and dietary supplements. Read more [here](#).

WYDEN URGES FDA TO ISSUE CBD GUIDANCE

On June 25, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) sent a letter to FDA urging them to issue guidance that ensures the regulatory pathway Congress intended for the lawful use of hemp-derived cannabidiol as a food additive and as a dietary ingredient in dietary supplements. Read more [here](#).

OPIOIDS: EUROPE'S TOP DRUG-RELATED KILLER

A June 26 United Nations report found that opioids are the leading cause of drug-related deaths in Europe. Read more [here](#).

CANNABIDIOL, MARIJUANA RESEARCH BILL

On June 27, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced legislation to encourage scientific and medical research on marijuana and its compounds including cannabidiol, or CBD. Read more [here](#).