

October 2019 Newsletter
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DEA LET OPIOID PRODUCTION RISE AMID MOUNTING OVERDOSE DEATHS

An assessment from the Justice Department's inspector general concludes the Drug Enforcement Administration failed to oversee the legal opioid market effectively, allowing drug makers to dramatically increase production of addictive painkillers as overdose deaths soared. Read more [here](#).

INCREASE IN HEPATITIS RATES AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

According to the CDC, the prevalence of hepatitis C among pregnant women surged between 2000 and 2015, in large part due to injection drug use tied to the opioid crisis. Read more [here](#).

SUBCOMMITTEE URGES NIH TO RESEARCH LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF E-CIGARETTES

On October 1, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, sent a [letter](#) to the National Institutes of Health urging the agency to increase support for research into the long-term health effects of electronic cigarette usage. Read more [here](#).

HHS WARNS AGAINST CUTTING OFF OPIOID PATIENTS

On October 10, HHS officials again urged doctors not to abruptly cut off chronic pain patients' access to opioids, arguing it could lead to adverse reactions and land more of those patients back in the hospital. Read more [here](#).

GOTTLIEB OP-ED ON VAPING and BARRIERS TO RESEARCH

In an October 10 op-ed, former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb talks about the link between the vaping health crisis and the barriers to federal research into cannabis-derived products. Read more [here](#).

FDA ADVISES AGAINST CBD, THC WHILE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING

On October 16, the FDA cautioned that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should avoid any form of marijuana, citing unanswered questions about the science, safety and quality of products containing CBD. Read more [here](#).

DRUG CAUCUS HEARING

On October 23rd, members of the Senate International Narcotics Control Caucus held a hearing entitled "Marijuana and America's Health: Questions and Issues for Policy Makers." Read more [here](#).

WHITE HOUSE UNVEILS RESEARCH ROAD MAP TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS

On October 24, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released a comprehensive road map to guide research and development that scientists say is needed to address the opioid crisis. Read more [here](#).

DRUGS MOST INVOLVED IN OVERDOSE DEATH VARY BY REGION

Fentanyl remains the drug most associated with deaths in the United States, but methamphetamine is linked to more deaths in some parts of the country, according to federal drug overdose data released October 25. Read more [here](#).

WHITE HOUSE UNVEILS NEW ADDICTION TREATMENT WEBSITE

On October 30, the Trump administration launched a website intended to help people find addiction treatment services as part of its response to the opioid crisis. Read more [here](#).