

## Aug. 28, 2020: State Advocacy Update

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### Select 2020 research relating to the nation's drug overdose epidemic

The AMA has updated its compilation of select 2020 research as part of its continued work to provide relevant, evidence-based data, research and other information to help inform evidence-based solutions to the nation's drug overdose epidemic. The August update includes research published by the CDC, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the Government Accountability Office and *Health Affairs*:

- New data showing syringe service programs (SSP) play a pivotal role in distributing naloxone to help save lives from overdose. The research found that 263 of the nation's SSPs distributed more than 700,000 doses of naloxone in the 12-month study period.
- Current data from DuPage County, Illinois, showing increases in overdose and suicide during the first six months of 2020.
- Research showing that in-patient receipt of medications to help treat opioid use disorder was associated with a decreased risk of "against medical advice" discharge.
- A "secret shopper" study showing the association of pregnancy and insurance status with treatment access for opioid use disorder.
- Comparative data showing that quality increased for patients treated by primary care physicians, as well as specialists for patients receiving buprenorphine as part of their treatment.
- Findings that the "use of injectable and implantable buprenorphine to treat [opioid use disorder] is relatively low compared to oral forms of buprenorphine."

The research compilation can be found on the AMA overdose microsite.

### More articles in this issue

- Aug. 28, 2020: Advocacy spotlight on AMA asks FDA for increased transparency with physicians on COVID-19 vaccine development
- August 28, 2020: National Advocacy Update