

Issue brief: Reports of increases in opioid-related overdose and other concerns during COVID pandemic

***Updated September 8, 2020**

As the COVID-19 global pandemic continues, so does the nation's opioid epidemic. The AMA is greatly concerned by an increasing number of reports from national, state and local media suggesting increases in opioid-related mortality—particularly from illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. More than 40 states have reported increases in opioid-related mortality as well as ongoing concerns for those with a mental illness or substance use disorder in counties and other areas within the state. This also includes new reports about the need for evidence-based harm reduction services, including sterile needle and syringe services and naloxone.

The AMA is pleased that the [U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) and [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#) (DEA) have provided increased flexibility for providing buprenorphine and methadone to patients with opioid use disorder. The AMA is further pleased at [increased flexibility provided by the DEA](#) to help patients with pain obtain necessary medications.

The AMA urges governors and state legislatures to take action

- Governors must adopt the new SAMHSA and DEA rules and guidance in-full for the duration of the national emergency—this includes [flexibility for evaluation and prescribing requirements](#) using telemedicine;
- States must enact as part of their own Emergency Orders and other actions a complete removal of prior authorization, step therapy and other administrative barriers for medications used to treat opioid use disorder;
- States must [remove existing barriers for patients with pain](#) to obtain necessary medications. This includes removing arbitrary dose, quantity and refill restrictions on controlled substances; and
- States must enact, implement and support harm reduction strategies, including removing barriers to sterile needle and syringe services programs.

[Read the full range of AMA recommendations for states](#) to help patients with opioid use disorder and pain as well as how to further harm reduction efforts. [Also see this recent discussion of the nation's overdose epidemic](#) by three leading physicians and national experts, including AMA Immediate Past President Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA; Stephen Taylor, MD, MPH; and Charles Reznikoff, MD.

A sample of national and state reports are below.

For more information, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

National reports

- **The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic.** <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-opioid-crisis-already-serious-has-intensified-during-coronavirus-pandemic-11599557401> September 8, 2020
- **Opioid overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, despite telemedicine care.** <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/opioid-overdoses-rise-covid-19-pandemic-telemedicine-care/story?id=72442735> August 24, 2020
- **U.S. Sees Deadly Drug Overdose Spike During Pandemic.** <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/13/901627189/u-s-sees-deadly-drug-overdose-spike-during-pandemic> August 13, 2020
- **As overdoses rise during pandemic, 2 moms share their stories of loss.** <https://www.today.com/health/overdoses-rise-during-coronavirus-pandemic-moms-speak-out-t188420> August 5, 2020
- **AMA Urges Changes After Dramatic Increase in Illicit Opioid Fatalities.** <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/934548> July 24, 2020
- **Drug overdose deaths jump in 2019 to nearly 71,000, a record high, CDC says.** <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/15/health/drug-overdose-deaths-2019/index.html> July 16, 2020
- **'Opioid overdoses are skyrocketing': as Covid-19 sweeps across US an old epidemic returns.** <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/09/coronavirus-pandemic-us-opioids-crisis> July 9, 2020
- **High Rate of Stimulant Use in Opioid ED Cases.** <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/933527> July 7, 2020
- **Coronavirus Crisis Disrupts Treatment For Another Epidemic: Addiction.** https://khn.org/news/coronavirus-crisis-disrupts-treatment-for-another-epidemic-addiction/?utm_source=National+Conference+of+State+Legislatures&utm_campaign=e7504bd7d3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_07_03_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1716623089-e7504bd7d3-377887712 July 6, 2020
- **'Cries for help': Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic.** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/01/coronavirus-drug-overdose/> July 1, 2020
- **Expanded Telehealth Helps Communities Address Opioid Use Disorder During Pandemic; Practitioners see benefits for patients and providers, especially in rural areas.*** <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/07/01/expanded-telehealth-helps-communities-address-opioid-use-disorder-during-pandemic> July 1, 2020
- **Pandemic unleashes a spike in overdose deaths.** <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2020/06/pandemic-unleashes-a-spike-in-overdose-deaths-1959428?source=email> June 29, 2020
- **Despite the Challenges, We Must Fight Harder to Address the Nation's Opioid Epidemic; Patrice A. Harris, MD.** <https://morningconsult.com/opinions/despite-the-challenges-we-must-fight-harder-to-address-the-nations-opioid-epidemic/> June 17, 2020.
- **A New Addiction Crisis: Treatment Centers Face Financial Collapse.** <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/06/15/865006675/a-new-addiction-crisis-treatment-centers-face-financial-collapse> June 15, 2020
- **Substance use up amid pandemic: survey.** <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/501923-substance-use-up-amid-pandemic-survey> June 9, 2020
- **The Escalation of the Opioid Epidemic Due to COVID-19 and Resulting Lessons About Treatment Alternatives.** <https://www.ajmc.com/journals/issue/2020/2020-vol26-n7/the->

[escalation-of-the-opioid-epidemic-due-to-covid19-and-resulting-lessons-about-treatment-alternatives](#) July 2020

- **Drug overdoses climb during COVID-19 pandemic; Officials nationwide report spikes less than a year after the Trump administration touted progress in battling the crisis.** <https://www.rollcall.com/2020/05/27/drug-overdoses-climb-during-covid-19-pandemic/> May 27, 2020
- **The pandemic is triggering opioid relapses across Appalachia.** <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/14/health/opioids-addiction-appalachia-coronavirus-trnd/index.html> May 14, 2020
- **Don't Forget the Other Pandemic Killing Thousands of Americans.** <https://www.thedailybeast.com/opioid-deaths-surge-during-coronavirus-in-americas-overdose-capitals> May 4, 2020
- **The pandemic may fuel the next wave of the opioid crisis.** <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/04/coronavirus-pandemic-may-fuel-the-next-wave-of-the-opioid-crisis/> April 21, 2020

State reports

1. Alabama

- **Opioid overdoses on the rise since pandemic began.** <https://www.wbrc.com/2020/08/18/opioid-overdoses-rise-since-pandemic-began/> August 18, 2020
- **Drug Overdoses Increase During the Pandemic.** <https://wbhm.org/feature/2020/drug-overdoses-increase-during-the-pandemic/> July 20, 2020
- **Madison County seeing a spike in overdoses, deaths amid pandemic.** <https://www.rocketcitynow.com/article/news/local/madison-county-seeing-a-spike-in-overdoses-deaths-amid-pandemic/525-021e43d6-44de-4c50-99ee-a326f2394a22> May 13, 2020

2. Arizona

- **Tucson's rise in drug overdose deaths could be linked to pandemic.** https://tucson.com/news/tucson-s-rise-in-drug-overdose-deaths-could-be-linked-to-pandemic/article_ed773af2-5dfc-5fc6-85c1-2ddd0b9cde02.html https://tucson.com/news/tucson-s-rise-in-drug-overdose-deaths-could-be-linked-to-pandemic/article_ed773af2-5dfc-5fc6-85c1-2ddd0b9cde02.html August 18, 2020
- **Health officials report increases in drug overdoses, suicides during COVID-19 pandemic.** <https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2020/08/11/health-officials-report-increases-in-drug-overdoses-suicides-during-covid-19-pandemic/> August 11, 2020
- **Suicides, overdoses are up amid COVID-19 pandemic, according to health expert.** <https://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/suicides-overdoses-are-up-amid-covid-19-pandemic-according-to-health-experts> July 18, 2020
- **Deaths escalated as opioids flooded tribal lands, report says.** <https://katu.com/news/recover-northwest/report-deaths-skyrocketed-as-opioids-flooded-tribal-lands> June 30, 2020
- **The battle of addiction during the time of novel coronavirus: Mental anguish, idle hands may be recipe for relapse.** <https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/the-battle-of-addiction-during-the-time-of-novel-coronavirus.154044> April 20, 2020

3. Arkansas

- **Drug overdoses skyrocket in Fort Smith during COVID-19.**
<https://www.arkansasnews.com/news/20200809/drug-overdoses-skyrocket-in-fort-smith-during-covid-19> August 9, 2020
- **Number of overdose saves tops 500 through Arkansas program.**
<https://www.fox16.com/news/local-news/number-of-overdose-saves-tops-500-through-arkansas-program/> June 10, 2020
- **Number of Narcan ‘saves’ triple during COVID-19 pandemic.**
<https://www.thv11.com/article/news/health/opioids/saving-a-generation/number-of-narcan-saves-triple-during-covid-19-pandemic/91-20cbe0b2-8cf1-454f-9ac7-493e1e1a7546> April 22, 2020

4. California

- **Pandemic is Not Only Killing COVID-19 Patients, But Those With Opioid and Drug Addiction.** <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/pandemic-is-not-only-killing-covid-19-patients-but-those-with-opioid-and-drug-addiction/2386359/> August 16, 2020
- **Colliding epidemics: Need for ‘safe consumption sites’ more dire in COVID era, scientists and lawmakers say.** <https://missionlocal.org/2020/07/colliding-epidemics-need-for-safe-consumtion-sites-more-dire-in-covid-era-scientists-and-lawmakers-say/> July 20, 2020
- **A collision of epidemics: Coronavirus disrupts addiction treatment.**
<https://calmatters.org/projects/california-coronavirus-treatment-drugs-opioid-addiction/> June 23, 2020
- **Beware of Potentially Fatal Fentanyl Pills Disguised as Xanax.**
<https://www.fresnosheriff.org/media-relations/beware-of-potentially-fatal-fentanyl-pills-disguised-as-xanax.html> May 13, 2020
- **Man, woman overdose in car in Redwood Village; woman dies.**
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2020-04-30/male-female-car-occupants-die-of-apparent-drug-overdoses> April 30, 2020

5. Colorado

- **Pueblo diversion program showing success.***
<https://www.chieftain.com/news/20200823/pueblo-diversion-program-showing-success> August 23, 2020
- **How the pandemic is impacting another health crisis: opioid addiction.**
<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/coronavirus-pandemic-impacting-opioid-addiction-health-crisis/73-3010b7cc-86be-4009-a8e8-c66b9e1e15ac> August 22, 2020
- **Fentanyl And Meth Fuel Record Colorado Overdose Deaths Amid Coronavirus Pandemic.** <https://www.cpr.org/2020/08/07/colorado-fentanyl-meth-overdose-deaths-coronavirus-pandemic/> August 7, 2020
- **Opioid crisis in Colorado could get worse amid pandemic.**
<https://apnews.com/bf1c11ac45d63808ffae945c750cd81> June 28, 2020
- **After COVID-19 addiction treatment may never be the same.**
https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/columns/after-covid-19-addiction-treatment-may-never-be-the-same/article_cf73cf6e-a9d9-11ea-8370-7358eaf6d90.html June 8, 2020
- **Struggling with addiction in quarantine? You’re not alone.** <https://krdo.com/news/local-news/2020/04/23/struggling-with-addiction-in-quarantine-youre-not-alone/> April 23, 2020

6. Connecticut

- **Coronavirus CT News: Drug overdose increase in Connecticut linked to coronavirus pandemic.** <https://abc7ny.com/ct-news-connecticut-covid-19-coronavirus-update/6397299/> August 31, 2020
- **Overdose Deaths on the Rise in CT Amid COVID-19 Pandemic.** <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/governor-to-hold-news-conference-on-addiction-overdoses/2324688/> August 27, 2020
- **Two epidemics taking a toll in CT as opioid overdoses rise amid coronavirus.** https://www.connecticutmag.com/health-and-science/twin-epidemics-taking-a-toll-in-ct-as-opioid-overdoses-rise-amid-coronavirus/article_c4e0eb86-d4d1-11ea-ab35-f7ab9cf49d13.html August 2, 2020
- **With over 1,000 Connecticut deaths last year, opioids demand even greater attention during pandemic.** <https://ctmirror.org/2020/07/09/with-over-1000-deaths-last-year-oxioids-demand-even-greater-attention-during-pandemic/> July 9, 2020

7. Delaware

- **Commissioner Navarro Partners with Aquila to Distribute Overdose Medication.** <https://news.delaware.gov/2020/07/20/commissioner-navarro-partners-with-aquila-to-distribute-overdose-medication/> July 20, 2020
- **Providers say drug and alcohol use up during pandemic following record year of Delaware overdoses.** <https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/providers-say-drug-and-alcohol-use-during-pandemic-following-record-year-delaware-overdoses> June 21, 2020
- **Suspected Overdose Deaths for May in Delaware Tie Previous Monthly High Set in 2018.** <https://news.delaware.gov/2020/06/16/suspected-overdose-deaths-for-may-in-delaware-tie-previous-monthly-high-set-in-2018/> June 16, 2020

8. District of Columbia

- **Rise in fatal drug overdoses in D.C. region likely tied to pandemic, officials say.** https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/drug-overdose-washington-coronavirus/2020/08/20/2a4c64b8-e0a4-11ea-ade1-28daf1a5e919_story.html August 21, 2020
- **One doctor is working to fight D.C.'s opioid epidemic, even as a pandemic rages.** https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/one-doctor-is-working-to-fight-dcs-opioid-epidemic-even-as-a-pandemic-rages/2020/08/04/c5c1cc54-d662-11ea-aff6-220dd3a14741_story.html August 4, 2020

9. Florida

- **Experts: Coronavirus Contributing To Increase In Substance Abuse.** <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2020/09/01/coronavirus-substance-abuse-south-florida/> September 1, 2020
- **Overdose calls up 40% during COVID-19 pandemic; treatment centers seeing relapses in long-time sober patients.** <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/gmj/jfrd-averaging-15-overdose-calls-a-day-group-provides-narcan-training-in-response/77-fa78a385-d445-4e64-b31c-bcabb57a0925> July 23, 2020
- **Manatee County reports 44% increase in opioid overdoses since last year.** <https://www.fox13news.com/news/manatee-county-reports-44-increase-in-opioid-overdoses-since-last-year> July 7, 2020
- **Fake pills laced with fentanyl are causing overdoses in west Pasco, deputies say.** <https://www.tampabay.com/news/pasco/2020/05/05/fake-pills-laced-with-fentanyl-are->

[causing-overdoses-in-west-pasco-deputies-say/](#) May 5, 2020

- **Jacksonville overdose calls increased 20% in March.**
<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2020/04/14/jfrd-jacksonville-overdose-calls-increased-by-20-in-march/> April 13, 2020

10. Georgia

- **‘An Epidemic Within This Pandemic’: Reported Drug Overdoses Rise In Georgia Amid COVID-19, Groups Say.** <https://www.wabe.org/nonprofits-respond-to-a-reported-rise-in-overdoses-in-georgia-amid-the-pandemic/> August 31, 2020
- **DPH warns of overdose increases in Georgia amid COVID-19.** <https://times-herald.com/news/2020/08/dph-warns-of-overdose-increases-in-georgia-amid-covid-19> August 7, 2020
- **Health chief warns of drug overdose increase during pandemic.**
https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/ga_fl_news/health-chief-warns-of-drug-overdose-increase-during-pandemic/article_bf227014-b700-11ea-a153-035beb482c4e.html June 29, 2020
- **Addiction Recovery Leaders Say Opioid Crisis Didn't Stop When Pandemic Began.**
<https://www.gpbnews.org/post/addiction-recovery-leaders-say-opioid-crisis-didnt-stop-when-pandemic-began> April 20, 2020

11. Illinois

- **COVID-19's true toll in Illinois is likely higher than reported. A closer look at ‘excess deaths’ in 2020.** <https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-dataviz-coronavirus-covid-excess-deaths-illinois-20200828-1lxjzrnxnc5hjptuudce2t7ty-story.html> September 1, 2020
- **Pritzker Administration Announces Over \$2 million in Fines for Major Health Insurance Companies Violating Illinois Mental Health Parity Laws** CIGNA Healthcare of IL, UnitedHealthcare, CIGNA Health and Life, HCSC, and Celtic found to be in violation of Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act
https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/21819-IDOI_Press_Release.pdf July 15, 2020
- **Overdose Deaths Have Skyrocketed in Chicago, and the Coronavirus Pandemic May Be Making It Worse.** <https://www.propublica.org/article/overdose-deaths-have-skyrocketed-in-chicago-and-the-coronavirus-pandemic-may-be-making-it-worse> May 30, 2020.
- **COVID-19 pandemic causes needle exchange programs to cut back.**
<https://abc7chicago.com/needle-exchange-programs-chicago-syringe-coronavirus-program-covid-19/6206885/> May 23, 2020.
- **DuPage sees ‘unusual spike’ in overdose deaths during coronavirus pandemic: coroner.**
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2020/5/13/21257820/dupage-opioid-overdose-death-coronavirus-coroner-richard-jorgensen-covid-19> May 13, 2020.

12. Indiana

- **An epidemic of their own; relapse and overdose rates surge amidst coronavirus lockdowns.** <https://www.wane.com/community/health/coronavirus/an-epidemic-of-their-own-relapse-and-overdose-rates-surge-amidst-coronavirus-lockdowns/> August 12, 2020
- **‘There needs to be awareness’: Addiction recovery help still available during pandemic.**
<http://www.bcdemocrat.com/2020/06/16/there-needs-to-be-awareness-addiction-recovery-help-still-available-during-pandemic/> June 16, 2020
- **Naloxone Use, Opioid Overdoses Increase Amid Virus Pandemic.**
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/indiana/articles/2020-05-29/naloxone-use-opioid-overdoses-increase-amid-virus-pandemic> May 29, 2020
- **An Indiana Police Dept. No Longer Reversing Overdoses During Pandemic.**
<https://filtermag.org/cops-naloxone-coronavirus/> April 24, 2020

13. Kentucky

- **'Don't give up' After years of decline, Lexington's overdose deaths are rising fast.** <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/fayette-county/article245379110.html> August 31, 2020
- **The perfect storm: Drug overdoses spike across Kentucky as COVID-19 pandemic continues.** https://www.news-expressky.com/news/article_1b0f3e4c-d304-11ea-9b6b-4f593d08594a.html https://www.news-expressky.com/news/article_1b0f3e4c-d304-11ea-9b6b-4f593d08594a.html July 31, 2020.
- **Kentucky Drug Overdoses Spike During COVID-19 Shutdown.** <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/pubs/files/July%202020%20KyOD2A%20final.pdf> July 2020
- **Fatal overdoses, use of syringe exchange soar in Lexington. Some blame COVID-19.** <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article242926656.html> May 28, 2020
- **OPD, DCSO records increase in overdoses on altered pills.** <https://www.14news.com/2020/05/26/opd-seeing-increase-overdoses-altered-pills/> May 27, 2020

14. Louisiana

- **Dr. Nicholas Goeders: The hidden health crisis resulting from COVID-19.** <https://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/opinion/columnists/2020/07/20/dr-nicholas-goeders-hidden-health-crisis-results-covid-19/5471082002/> July 23, 2020
- **People who use drugs are more vulnerable to coronavirus. Here's what clinics are doing to help.** https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/coronavirus/article_f80cf77e-84fa-11ea-88d5-2b37dc9dd966.html May 3, 2020

15. Maine

- **Maine's other pandemic — drug overdose deaths — needs urgent attention.** <https://bangordailynews.com/2020/08/30/opinion/editorials/maines-other-pandemic-drug-overdose-deaths-needs-urgent-attention/> August 30, 2020
- **Maine drug deaths rose as the state shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** <https://bangordailynews.com/2020/07/17/news/maine-drug-deaths-rose-as-the-state-shut-down-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/> July 17, 2020
- **Report: Pandemic contributes to increase in drug overdoses.** <https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Report-Pandemic-contributes-to-increase-in-drug-15415498.php> July 17, 2020
- **Overdose risk during pandemic is tragic reality for some families.** <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/20/overdose-risk-during-pandemic-is-tragic-reality-for-some-families/#> April 20, 2020

16. Maryland

- **In the shadow of COVID-19, opioid crisis continues unabated attack.** https://www.fredericknewspost.com/opinion/columns/in-the-shadow-of-covid-19-opioid-crisis-continues-unabated-attack/article_e3e6347d-1ea2-5a6e-869e-02f6bda56297.html August 17, 2020
- **Drug overdose alert issued in Carroll County.** <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/carroll/news/cc-carroll-overdose-alert-july-31-20200731-23bd6mwt5zh5rpqrdrrpaqwajyi-story.html> July 31, 2020
- **Health officials say COVID-19 might be worsening opioid crisis.** https://www.times-news.com/news/local_news/health-officials-say-covid-19-might-be-worsening-opioid-crisis/article_57e05f07-8018-5b7a-b678-a3cceffdf8d.html July 7, 2020

- **Opioid-related deaths make a disappointing uptick in early 2020, possibly related to coronavirus.** <https://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-overdose-deaths-first-quarter-20200611-r5pvlyzqrffo3ndvwc2oh3y7cy-story.html> June 11, 2020
- **Pandemic cited as Md. opioid fatalities inch up.** <https://thedailyrecord.com/2020/06/10/pandemic-cited-as-md-opioid-fatalities-inch-up> June 10, 2020

17. Massachusetts

- **Sounding the alarm: Seeing warning signs of an epidemic within the COVID pandemic (Viewpoint).** <https://www.masslive.com/opinion/2020/08/sounding-the-alarm-seeing-warning-signs-of-an-epidemic-within-the-covid-pandemic-viewpoint.html> August 30, 2020
- **SouthCoast doctors say telemedicine has proven its worth, hope it will continue.*** <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20200528/southcoast-doctors-say-telemedicine-has-proven-its-worth-hope-it-will-continue> May 28, 2020
- **The Pandemic Has Changed Addiction Treatment, Some Hope For Good.*** <https://www.wbur.org/commonhealth/2020/05/21/coronavirus-addiction-treatment-changes> May 21, 2020

18. Michigan

- **Macomb County medical board: EMS opioids overdose treatment up during COVID-19.** https://www.macombdaily.com/news/local/macomb-county-medical-board-ems-opioids-overdose-treatment-up-during-covid-19/article_057f7500-e3fe-11ea-bb48-c7f2d0f6945a.html August 24, 2020
- **Naloxone kits could end up being lifesavers.** <https://www.miningjournal.net/opinion/editorial/2020/08/naloxone-kits-could-end-up-being-lifesavers/> August 13, 2020.
- **Michigan to give opioid antidote for free to community groups, residents.** <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/06/30/michigan-give-opioid-antidote-free-community-groups-residents/3284377001/> June 30, 2020
- **Push to telehealth means more medication to treat addiction in northern Michigan.*** <https://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/post/push-telehealth-means-more-medication-treat-addiction-northern-michigan> May 7, 2020
- **20% increase in patients seeking substance abuse treatment.** <https://www.fox17online.com/news/local-news/grand-rapids/20-increase-in-patients-seeking-substance-abuse-treatment> May 2, 2020

19. Minnesota

- **DEA: Significant increase in counterfeit pills in Minnesota.** <https://kstp.com/news/drug-enforcement-administration-says-significant-increase-in-counterfeit-pills-in-minnesota/5824400/?cat=1> August 12, 2020
- **In Duluth, ODs spike as pandemic decreases access to aid; The pandemic might be increasing the demand for dangerous drugs.** <https://www.startribune.com/in-duluth-ods-spike-as-pandemic-decreases-access-to-aid/570895192/> May 31, 2020
- **St. Paul Police Issue Alert After 28 Suspected Overdoses In 6 Days, 2 Deaths.** <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2020/03/05/st-paul-police-issue-alert-after-28-suspected-overdoses-in-6-days-2-deaths/> March 5, 2020

20. Missouri

- **Missouri's Fentanyl Problem: State recently topped nation in rate for overdose deaths.**
https://www.thesalemnewsonline.com/news/local_news/article_bc048678-ec71-11ea-aa59-bb8db363c4f0.html September 1, 2020
- **Opioid overdose deaths decline statewide in 2019, but rise for Black men.**
<https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2020/07/20/opioid-overdose-deaths-decline-overall-statewide-2019/5428380002/> July 20, 2020
- **New website provides help with drug addiction for St. Louis area residents.**
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