



Partnership for Success

News to use to address the opioid epidemic

IN THE NEWS...

Reigning in Opioids

Slate 7/7/16: This week, the Obama administration announced several proposed changes to address the opioid and heroin crisis in this country, some of which may favorably influence the broken culture of pain management in the United States today. Given the government's history of excelling in making the opioid problem worse not better, this is a very promising direction.

The administration's announcement contained one detail in particular that may sound minor but actually is a significant victory for pain experts who have been pushing back against bad policy for years. Currently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ties Medicare payments to patients' responses about pain management during their hospital stay on the required questionnaires administered by the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems. **Full Story** [Click Here](#)

States Rushing to Stop Spread of New Synthetic Drug U-47700

5NBC Chicago 6/7/16: A new synthetic drug that can be purchased online and is connected to at least 50 deaths nationwide has several states scrambling to stop its spread, with Kansas law enforcement agencies seeking an emergency ban. At least three other states — Ohio, Wyoming and Georgia — already have taken action to ban U-47700 after it was connected to overdoses. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said that the agency is studying the opioid but hasn't yet moved to control it.

Nearly eight times more potent than morphine, U-47700 comes in various forms and can be injected, snorted or taken orally.

Full story: [click here](#)

The real reason so many more Americans are using heroin.

Washington Post 7/20/16: Wilson Compton of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who led the analysis, discovered that the timing of the prescription opioid and heroin epidemics is not consistent with the simple narrative that increased controls on the former instigated use of the latter. Heroin use and heroin-related emergency-room visits and hospitalizations were rising for years before the 2009-2011 period in which controls of prescription opioids expanded.

Full story: [click here](#)

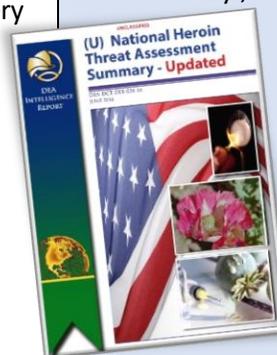
National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary Updated and Released

The June 28 release of the 2016 DEA National Heroin Threat Assessment addresses the emerging scope of the synthetic opioid threat—particularly from fentanyl, a drug that significantly

escalates the current devastating heroin and prescription opioid abuse outbreak. Fentanyl and its analogues, lethal synthetics are variously reported as 40 to

as much as 80 times more potent than heroin, are killing people at an alarming rate.

The DEA notes that overdose deaths from these synthetics increased 79 percent between 2013 and 2014 alone. These enormously profitable drugs, produced in clandestine labs, are used to spike heroin potency, and are increasingly found in the form of counterfeit prescription pills. **For the full report** [Click Here](#)



Upcoming Trainings...

Drug Endangered Children Conference

Aug. 3-4, Fond du Lac, WI

Registration deadline, July 26

Information at www.wisconsindec.org

OTP Clinical Staff Education: A Workshop About the Use of Approved Medications

July 27, Brookfield, WI or

July 29, Stoney Creek, WI

Information contact Sharon Dow at

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The 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

(S.524/H.R.953 – Passed Congress on July 13, 2016.)

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) establishes a comprehensive, coordinated, balanced strategy through enhanced grant programs that would expand prevention and education efforts while also promoting treatment and recovery.



Brief Summary of Provisions of CARA

- Expand prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of methamphetamines, opioids and heroin, and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Launch an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and intervention program to expand best practices throughout the country.
- Launch a medication assisted treatment and intervention demonstration program.
- Strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.

Provisions of CARA - Title I: Prevention and Education

Sec. 101 – Development of Best Practices for Prescribing of Prescription Opioids: This section requires the establishment of an inter-agency task force, composed of representatives from HHS, VA, DEA, CDC, and other federal agencies, as well as addiction treatment organizations and other stakeholder communities to develop best practices for pain management and pain medication prescribing. It also requires the Task Force to submit a report to Congress outlining a dissemination strategy and other recommendations.

Sec. 102 – Awareness Campaigns: This section requires HHS and the Attorney General to advance the education and awareness of the public of the risk of abuse of prescription opioid drugs if they are not taken properly. It also establishes a national drug awareness campaign led by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to bring attention to the association between prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, as well as focus on the dangers of fentanyl.

Sec. 103 – Community-Based Coalition Enhancement Grants to Address Local Drug Crises: This section authorizes HHS, in consultation with the Director of ONDCP, to make grants to entities suffering from drug crises (experiencing above average rates of prescription drug, heroin, or methamphetamines abuse for extended periods or sudden spikes) to implement community-wide prevention strategies.

For details on the other sections of the CARA Act [click here](#)

Resources for your use...

In an effort to help educate students and young adults about the dangers of opioid addiction, the FBI and DEA developed a documentary called ***Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict***. The 45-minute film features stark first-person accounts told by individuals who have abused opioids or whose children have abused opioids, with tragic consequences.

“This film may be difficult to watch,” explains FBI Director James Comey, “but we hope it educates our students and young adults about the tragic consequences that come with abusing these drugs and that it will cause people to think twice before becoming its next victim.”

To watch video and access the discussion guide [click here](#)

The ***Partnership for Drug-Free Kids*** has a whole section to address opioids and heroin. Available on their site are community presentations that coalitions can use including:

- Parent Education presentation
- Community Mobilization presentation
- Handout for audience members
- Survey for audience members
- A guide to implementing community education programs.

For access to the materials visit <http://www.drugfree.org/heroin> and click on community presentation.

