Deaths from Prescription Opioid Overdoses Rise Sharply Among Women

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The number of prescription opioid overdose deaths increased fivefold among women between 1999 and 2010, according to a Vital Signs report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


Finally, Secure Prescribing of Controlled Substances

While some providers question the security of prescribing controlled substances electronically, paper prescriptions are also prone to security pitfalls — from stealing prescription pads to calling in fake orders to copying and doctoring a prescription. Not to mention the fact that paper copies can be lost or damaged. See how e-prescribing can enhance the security and efficiency of your practice.

Help Influence Federal Guidelines for Opioid Treatment

SAMHSA

You can now comment on the Federal Guidelines for Opioid Treatment. This preliminary set of guidelines provides detailed information to opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and accreditation organizations about what they need to comply with new requirements under the Code of
ASAM NEWS

Take a Look at the New Features in ASAM's Career Center

ASAM

ASAM's Career Center has launched several new features designed to meet the needs of both job-seekers and employers. Job-seekers enjoy the ability to set up advanced searches to find your ideal position, create a searchable resume for employers, and have custom job alerts delivered to your inbox. Employers enjoy a quick registration and position posting process, resume agents that email you when new resumes match your criteria, and resources on job posting tips and how to maximize your exposure. Take advantage of the Career Center today and see how you can find the opportunity that is right for you!

American Medical Association Adopts American Society of Addiction Medicine Resolution Opposing Third-Party Payor Restrictions on Opioid Use Pharmacotherapies

ASAM

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) applauds the adoption of a new American Medical Association (AMA) policy on coverage of opioid use disorder pharmacotherapies by third-party payors. This important policy change is a direct result of a resolution submitted by ASAM that was reviewed and passed at the June AMA House of Delegates meeting.

RESEARCH

Social Stress Engages Opioid Regulation of Locus Coeruleus Norepinephrine Neurons and Induces a State of Cellular and Physical Opiate Dependence

Nature (free abstract)

Stress is implicated in diverse psychiatric disorders including substance abuse. The locus coeruleus–norepinephrine (LC–NE) system is a major stress response system that is also a point of intersection between stress neuromediators and endogenous opioids.

Investigating the Safety and Efficacy of Naltrexone for Anti-Psychotic Induced Weight Gain in Severe Mental Illness

BMC Psychiatry

Naltrexone may be a promising agent to reduce antipsychotic induced weight gain by...
decreasing food cravings. Researchers aim to investigate the safety and efficacy of two doses of naltrexone versus placebo for weight and health risk reduction in overweight and obese individuals with SMI, who gained weight while being treated with antipsychotics.

**FEATURED COMPANIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healing And Recovery Start Here</th>
<th>Recognized, Respected, Relied Upon.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finally, a hospital-based program in a calming beach resort-like setting. Treating adults for drug addiction, alcoholism and medication dependency. Call to learn more: (866) 633-6787.</td>
<td>Joint Commission behavioral health accreditation for addiction treatment. Reach for a higher standard. <a href="http://www.jointcommission.org/BHCS">www.jointcommission.org/BHCS</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Efficacy and the Strength of Evidence Of US Alcohol Control Policies**

*American Journal of Preventative Medicine*

The purpose of this study is to identify alcohol control policies and develop quantitative ratings of their efficacy and strength of evidence. Comparative policy ratings can help characterize the alcohol policy environment, inform policy discussions, and identify future research needs.

**Loss of Control of Alcohol Use and Severity of Alcohol Dependence in Non-Treatment-Seeking Heavy Drinkers Are Related to Lower Glutamate in Frontal White Matter**

*Wiley Online Library*

This study investigated magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS)–detectable glutamate (GLU) levels in frontal White matter (WM) of non–treatment–seeking heavy drinkers and its associations with alcohol use disorders (AUD) symptoms.

**IN THE MEDIA**

**Treating Addiction as a Chronic Disease — How Do We Get From Here to There?**

*Addiction Professional*

In the Treatment Research Institute's blog, Tom McLellan relates a shocking anecdote about a
father seeking treatment for his child to demonstrate unacceptable gaps in educating the public about evidence-based care.

The Half-Trillion-Dollar Depression

The New York Times
Mental illness has been an increasingly significant health concern over the past several decades, but it's now becoming an economic one too. The number of Americans who receive Social Security Disability Insurance for mental disorders has doubled during the past 15 years.

FDA shuts down over 1,600 online pharmacies

CBS News
Although no major television networks broadcast the story, the Food and Drug Administration's participation in a week-long dragnet to stifle the sale and distribution of unapproved prescription medicines on the Internet was covered by several big print and online news entities. All of the coverage lauded the agency for its role in the sting, with some sources providing details on violations that were found and others simply summarizing the FDA news release.

Scientists Grow A Simple, Human Liver In A Petri Dish

NRP
Japanese scientists have cracked open a freaky new chapter in the sci-fi-meets-stem-cells era. A group in Yokohama it has grown a primitive liver in a petri dish using a person's skin cells. This rudimentary liver is the first complex, functioning organ to be grown in the lab from human, skin-derived stem cells. When the scientists transplanted the organ into a mouse, it worked a lot like a regular human liver.

Methadone Program Should Be Expanded

The Guardian
The medical director of the methadone program says the program should be expanded due to high levels of success among patients struggling with opiate addictions.
SAMHSA Selects Psychiatrist as First Chief Medical Officer

Psychiatric News
ASAM member Elinore McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D., a psychiatrist with a subspecialty in addiction psychiatry, was appointed the first chief medical officer of the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in May.

FDA Approves New Treatment for Opioid Dependence

PRNewswire via MarketWatch
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Zubsolv (buprenorphine/naloxone, Orexo AB) for maintenance treatment of opioid dependence.

CHAPTER NEWS

Wisconsin ASAM Chapter Hosts Half-Day Meeting

ASAM
On Sunday, July 21, Wisconsin ASAM will host a half-day meeting with presentations on topics including: underage/college drinking, opioid addiction in pregnancy, what's new in alcohol detox, suboxone roundtable discussion, legalization of marijuana and what's new in the ASAM criteria. ASAM Past President's Drs. Andrea Barthwell and Michael Miller will present. Email Chapter President Dr. Dean Whiteway to register and for more information.

EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

Patient Privacy: A Guide for Providers

Medscape Today (free registration)
This video was developed as part of a Medscape education activity, Patient Privacy: A Guide for Providers, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Advances in HIV Testing

SAMHSA
HIV testing is the first critical step to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States, and testing and linkage to care continue to be the mainstay of our prevention efforts at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV testing is the only way to identify the nearly 1 in 5 Americans currently living with HIV who do not know they are infected and may be unknowingly transmitting the virus to others.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry 24th Annual Meeting and Symposium
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry's 24th Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held Dec. 5-8, at the Scottsdale Resort & Conference Center in Scottsdale, Ariz. This meeting will provide clinicians and researchers the latest developments in treating mental health and substance use disorders. Meeting highlights will include: Symposia, Workshops, Poster Sessions showcasing new research in the field, Breakfast for Trainees, Dessert with the Experts, Poster Luncheons, Medical Update, and a Case Conference. For information, please visit www.aaap.org or email annualmeeting@aaap.org.

TRENDING ARTICLES
Missed last week’s issue? See which articles your colleagues read most.

- **Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention Not Effective in Clinical Practice** (Boston University)
- **Gabapentin Tested To Treat Marijuana Dependence** (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- **State of the Art Course in Addiction Medicine Program Now Online** (ASAM)
- **Profiting From Pain** (The New York Times)
- **Oxycodone Vaccine Passes Early Tests** (National Institute on Drug Abuse)

ASAM EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Wisconsin ASAM Chapter Half-Day Meeting</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>Contact Dr. Dean Whiteway</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>3rd Addiction Medicine Conference</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>ER/LA Opiate ASAM REMS Course</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Tennessee Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>OkSAM Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>OkSAM</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>PSAM Conference</td>
<td>Wernersville, PA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsmith@pamedsoc.org">jsmith@pamedsoc.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 16-19</td>
<td>CSAM State of the Art in Addiction Medicine</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>CSAM</td>
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<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>ASAM Legislative Day</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 24-26</td>
<td>ASAM's State of the Art Course in Addiction Medicine — Emerging Problems and Advances in Addiction Treatment</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6-8</td>
<td>Comprehensive MRO (Medical Review Officer) Course</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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### CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Project ECHO: The Use of Buprenorphine to Treat Opioid Addiction in the Office-Based Setting</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>Project ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Play: Bill W. and Dr. Bob</td>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>billwanddrbob.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Webinar: Improving Quality and Access to Integrated Care for Racially Diverse and Limited English Proficiency Communities</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>SAMHSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Webinar: Substance Abuse Issues Among Older Adults and SBIRT Implementation for Older Adults in Varied Settings</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>IRETA</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Motivational Training for SBIRT Providers</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>Indiana SBIRT</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19-20</td>
<td>Correctional Health Care Leadership Institutes for Physicians and Health Administrators</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>NCCHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21-22</td>
<td>Correctional Mental Health Care Conference</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>NCCHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21-25</td>
<td>CADCA 2013 Mid-Year Training Institute</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>CADCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>SBIRT: Behavioral Health Screenings and Patient-Centered Care</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>PCPCI</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31-Aug. 4</td>
<td>IDAA Rocky Mountain Meeting</td>
<td>Keystone, CO</td>
<td>IDAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21-25</td>
<td>2013 National Conference on Addiction Disorders</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>The National Council</td>
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The views and positions of any content published in ASAM Weekly are not necessarily endorsed by ASAM nor a reflection of ASAM's beliefs and policies. The features are presented as a summary of the contemporary issues being represented and expressed in scientific, governmental, commercial, and media sources across the specialty field of addiction medicine. Contact ASAM Weekly with any comments or feedback.

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