

NEWS BITES

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LAPPA NEWS

PUBLICATIONS

Fact Sheets

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) recently published and posted to its website five new fact sheets:

[Drug Diversion in Health Care – UPDATE](#): This fact sheet provides updated information on the issue of drug diversion in healthcare settings. Drug diversion in health care is a serious issue that can result in patient harm, financial loss to the healthcare entity, and civil and criminal litigation based on the perpetrator's actions.

[Ibogaine](#): This fact sheet details the effects of the naturally occurring psychoactive compound, ibogaine, reviews its regulation on the state and federal levels, and highlights research being conducted relative to renewed interest in the substance.

[Spending Opioid Settlement Proceeds – Choices and Challenges for Governments](#): This fact sheet details how opioid settlement proceeds are being disbursed to state and local governments, how those governments are choosing to spend those funds, and the obstacles that can prevent these funds from helping those who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

[Medicaid Home Health Programs](#): This fact sheet provides an overview of Medicaid health homes, which are designed to assist beneficiaries in obtaining comprehensive care for chronic conditions, including substance use disorder.

[BTMPS – An Industrial Chemical Adulterant in the Illicit Drug Supply](#): This fact sheet provides an overview of the sudden increase in the presence of the chemical, BTMPS, in the illicit drug supply and its rapid proliferation across the country which has left drug policy experts and harm reduction specialists puzzled as to why it is in the supply and how it will affect the individuals consuming it.

50-state Summaries

The following recently updated 50-state Law Summaries are now available (along with 15 additional Summaries) at <https://legislativeanalysis.org/research/>:

Fentanyl-Specific Criminal Provisions: Summary of State Laws: This document examines state and federal statutes and regulations related to fentanyl-specific criminal provisions. LAPPa provides information regarding the following: (1) statutory or regulatory citations of fentanyl-specific criminal provisions, if any; (2) the effective date(s) of such provisions; (3) criminal provisions, including penalties where applicable, related to fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds; (4) whether the penalties for violations related to fentanyl are different than the penalties for other controlled substances; and (5) any recently proposed legislation or regulation.

Kratom: Summary of State Laws: Kratom is an herb derived from a leafy Southeast Asian tree and contains two psychoactive compounds that can bind to opioid receptors in the brain and produce a pharmacological response similar to effects produced by other opioid agonists, such as morphine. As of April 2025, 24 states and the District of Columbia regulate kratom. This document: (1) provides a singular resource for each jurisdiction's laws; (2) allows for a comparison of these laws between jurisdictions; and (3) identifies and highlights interesting provisions.

Syringe Services Programs: Summary of State Laws: Syringe services programs (SSP) are harm reduction programs that provide a wide range of services including, but not typically limited to, the provision of new, unused hypodermic needles and syringes and other injection drug use supplies, such as cookers, tourniquets, alcohol wipes, and sharps waste disposal containers, to people who inject drugs. In this summary, readers will find information on state SSPs including: (1) citations to applicable statutes and/or regulations; (2) whether the state allows SSPs by law; (3) whether there are any municipal or county ordinances or regulations in place; (4) program components; (5) miscellaneous provisions; and (6) information on any pending legislation.

Fentanyl Cleanup Programs: Summary of State Laws: This survey examines the legislative and regulatory response at the state level to the issue of fentanyl cleanup. As at the federal level, there is little policy in this area, and the only exceptions to that rule are very recent. Findings are presented jurisdiction by jurisdiction for easy comparison among the states and include pending state legislation.

NOTABLE STUDIES

Treating Patients for Opioid Use Disorder in the Hospital: A study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that offering medication for addiction treatment (MAT) to hospital patients who have opioid use disorder increases their chances of continuing with care when discharged from the hospital when coupled with the hospital connecting the patients with local treatment programs. The study found that patients who initiated MAT while in the hospital were twice as likely to continue with treatment after discharge. Click [here](#) to read the study and [here](#) for LAPPa's Model Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Emergency Settings Act to enact in your state.

Pharmacies Can Assist in Addressing Substance Use Disorder: A study published in *Public Health Reports* found that pharmacies can be effective in "identifying, educating, and supporting" linkages to treatment for individuals with, or at risk of developing, substance use disorder (SUD). In this study, pharmacists provided SBIRT to adults receiving a Schedule II or Schedule III opioid prescription. Pharmacists can be an integral part of any healthcare team in assisting in preventing or treating SUD. Click [here](#) to read the study and [here](#) for LAPPa's Model Pharmacist Collaboration for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Act to enact in your state.

FEDERAL NEWS BITS

Trump Administration Releases Statement of Drug Policy Priorities: The Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, released the Administration's Drug Policy Priorities listing six areas on which it will focus this year. They are: (1) Reduce the number of overdose fatalities, with a focus on fentanyl; (2)

Secure the global supply chain against drug trafficking; (3) Stop the flow of drugs across our borders and into our communities; (4) Prevent drug use before it starts; (5) Provide treatment that leads to long-term recovery; and (6) Innovate in research and data to support drug control strategies. In addition to securing the border, the Administration intends to “develop bold policy choices, employ innovative and sophisticated technology, and create a skilled, recovery ready workforce. . . .” Click [here](#) to read the Administration’s Statement of Drug Policy Priorities and [here](#) for LAPP’s Model Recovery Ready Workplaces Act to enact in your state.

Opioid and Stimulant Co-involved in Overdose Deaths: A preliminary study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that a little more than half of the almost 70,000 synthetic opioid overdose deaths in 2022 also involved psychostimulants or those with abuse potential. These deaths occurred in careers that are physically demanding (*e.g.*, construction). The highest percentage of opioid-related deaths that also involved cocaine occurred in careers that were not physically demanding (*e.g.*, business). The study concluded that the findings could assist in work-related substance use and overdose prevention strategies. Click [here](#) to read the study.

NATIONAL NEWS BITS

Potential Purdue Pharma Settlement Frustrates Some Victims: There are approximately 140,000 claimants suing Purdue Pharma for misleading prescribers and consumers about the addiction risks of their opioids (*e.g.*, OxyContin) to increase the company’s profits. These claimants are the relatives of those who died from opioid-related overdoses and those who struggle with opioid use disorder because of Purdue Pharma’s deception about the addictive nature of the drugs. While the settlement may reach \$7.4 billion, only 10 percent will likely go to these victims. The other 90 percent will go to creditors including states, hospitals, insurance companies, and pharmacies. Lawyers and mediators have already received approximately \$1 billion, much more than the litigant victims will receive from the settlement. Advocates say that many victims may not be able to meet the threshold set to obtain money from the settlement – proof of a Purdue opioid prescription. Also frustrating victims is the fact that members of the Sackler family withdrew approximately \$11 billion from the company and neither they nor Purdue Pharma employees have been charged with a felony.

Xylazine Soon to Impact California and the Western Part of the U.S.: Researchers have confirmed that the potent animal tranquilizer, xylazine, has been found at the U.S.-Mexico border. The novel psychoactive substance has been prevalent in the illicit drug supply on the East Coast, but with its presence at the border in the West, it will likely become prevalent in California and beyond. Click [here](#) to read LAPP’s fact sheet on xylazine.

STATE NEWS BITS

California: Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced that generic naloxone is now available to Californians for \$24 per dose, which is approximately half the market rate; the life-saving medication can also be purchased online. California is the first state to offer the opioid antagonist at a reduced rate to consumers, and orders placed through the online portal may only be shipped to addresses in the state of California. Newsom stated that the pricing and online sales option are part of a broader plan to force drug companies to lower the price of naloxone by offering cheaper, competing medications through the state’s CalRx label.

Florida: Both chambers of the state legislature unanimously passed legislation that would require hospitals to test for fentanyl in cases of suspected overdose or poisoning. “Gage’s Law” is named in memory of Gage Austin Taylor, an Orlando man who died after unknowingly consuming a substance tainted with fentanyl. Gage was given an opioid antagonist at the hospital and sent home without being testing for fentanyl, which can stay in the

body longer than the antagonist – he later died of a fentanyl overdose. Gage’s mother has become a fentanyl awareness activist working tirelessly in Florida, which currently has the second highest number of fentanyl-related deaths in the U.S.

West Virginia: Governor Patrick Morrisey signed a bill that greatly increases criminal penalties for dealing and transporting cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the state. Senate Bill 196, also known as “Lauren’s Law” in memory of a Morgantown woman who died of an accidental fentanyl overdose in 2020, introduces mandatory minimum sentences into state code for transporting the aforementioned substances into West Virginia and also removes sentencing alternatives such as probation and home confinement for those who are jailed on those charges. The law can require that someone delivering a drug containing any fentanyl be charged with conspiracy. It also includes a provision for the crime of delivering a drug that results in someone’s death, with enhanced penalties for failing to render aid to someone who is overdosing. Advocates for people who use drugs are concerned that the bill will do more harm than good and point to data showing that stronger penalties do not necessarily correlate to a drop in fatal or non-fatal overdoses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) is accepting presentation proposals focusing on advances in deflection and pre-arrest diversion in the last 10 years. Presenter Proposals are Due: Friday, June 13, 2025, at 3 p.m. EDT. Click [here](#), for more information and to submit a proposal. Proposal selections will be announced on or before August 11, 2025



ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to conduct legal and legislative research and analysis and draft legislation on effective law and policy in the areas of public safety and health, substance use disorders, and the criminal justice system. The

LAPPA produces model laws on critical issues as well as comparative analyses, publications, educational brochures, and other tools that can be used by national, state, and local public health and public safety practitioners who want the latest comprehensive information on law and policy. Examples of topics on which LAPPA has assisted stakeholders include naloxone access, treatment in emergency settings, Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration waivers, medication for addiction treatment in correctional settings, collateral consequences of conviction, syringe services programs, and the health information disclosure provisions of HIPAA and 42 C.F.R. Part 2.

For more information about LAPPA, please visit: <https://legislativeanalysis.org/>.

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