

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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Illinois

[Free kits help fight drug addiction](#)

State Journal-Register

The Drug Overdose Prevention Program grant covers 40 counties in Illinois, providing free opioid education, overdose awareness and prevention, as well as Naloxone (Narcan) training and distribution.

Kim Turner, Chief Probation Officer for Logan County Court Services, said the county was approached by a representative from the Illinois Department of Human Services who asked for their help.

“They were looking for a point of distribution and so I gave some to the Sheriff’s office and kept some for the courthouse,” said Turner.

Ohio

[Overdose numbers up during pandemic](#)

WSAZ

The opioid epidemic has gotten worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Preliminary data from nine states shows drug-related deaths are on track to reach record highs this year.

The state of Kentucky had almost as many overdose deaths by the end of August as it had in all of 2019.

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Ironton Municipal Court Judge Kevin Waldo says the shutdown earlier in the year heavily contributed to the increased cases.

“We just basically are kind of homebound, and it’s increased a lot of the problems that relate to drugs,” he said.

West Virginia**[Boone County Hosts Second Family Treatment Court Graduation](#)****Supreme Court of Appeals**

Eight adults in seven families graduated Tuesday from the Boone County Family Treatment Court in the program's second graduation ceremony, held in the picnic area of the Water Ways water park in Julian.

The families have a total of 14 children, who proudly stood by their parents as they received awards and then ran around the picnic area and playground. "If your heart doesn't melt when you see these kids come up here, you are not human. The fact we can reunite these children (with their parents) is incredible," said Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Judge William Thompson, who oversees the Family Treatment Court.

All the children spent some time in state custody due to their parents' drug use. Thanks to the Family Treatment Court, [all] have been reunited with their parents. Some spent as little as five months in state care, compared to the usual year or more that children in abuse and neglect cases normally spend in state care.