



Opioids and the Courts News: October 12, 2018

National

[NIJ's Role in the Strategy to Combat Heroin and Other Opioids](#)

National Institute of Justice

- NIJ's Drugs and Crime Research Portfolio: NIJ furthers DOJ's priorities to combat the Nation's opioid epidemic, and reduce violent and other drug-related crime, through research that promotes effective law enforcement, court, and corrections responses to illegal drug markets. For more information on this portfolio, visit NIJ's website at <https://www.nij.gov/topics/drugs/Pages/welcome.aspx>
- Drug Recognition and Impairment Research Meeting: Discussion topics were...protocols for prosecution and court case management. For more on this meeting, visit NIJ's webpage at <https://www.nij.gov/topics/drugs/Pages/drug-recognition-and-impairment-research-meeting.aspx>

Maine

[First-of-its-kind grant helps kids impacted by opioid crisis](#)

Associated Press

The Bangor Daily News reports that social services group Penquis will use the three-year grant to help children who may have lost parents to overdose or arrest. The \$632,037 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will also help kids who have experienced neglect from a loved one using opioids, including children who have had to find a new home.

Parental substance abuse is driving more Maine kids into state custody.

The group the funding could be used to provide counseling and support groups, training for treatment providers and mentoring and tutoring.

Michigan

[There Was A Record Number Of Opioid Deaths In Michigan Last Year](#)

WDET

Karen Bouffard is the health care reporter for the Detroit News. [She spoke with Macomb County 41B District Court Judge Linda Davis](#) about the epidemic:

"I think we are slowly starting to see change taking place, (but) I think going to continue to see a rise in the death rate over the next couple of years at least — I predict up to four to five years even," said Macomb County 41B District Court Judge Linda Davis, who founded of the Clinton Township drug recovery court and is president of Families Against Narcotics.



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“We have thousands of people who are addicted to these opiate pain medications and/or heroin ... and because of (the) lack of treatment and how insidious this disease (of addiction) is, there’s a large number of those people who are going to die unfortunately.”

Ohio

[Franklin encouraged by early results of new addict-assistance program](#)

Hamilton Journal News

While the HOPE team tries to reach people in the early stages of addiction, the court deals with people with addictions who commit crimes. [Franklin Municipal Judge Ron] Ruppert said as of December, the court’s intensive supervised probation program, commonly known as the drug court, has graduated nine people. He said of the program four most recent graduates, three of the graduates are gainfully employed.

Washington

[Opioids connected to half of child abuse and neglect cases in Washington](#)

KOMO News

Half of the cases of child abuse and child neglect the state Attorney General's office handles involve opioids, a new survey reveals.

"The amount of opioids prescribed in our state is massive, the number we have seen, there are enough opioids prescribed in our state for every man woman and child to have a 16 day supply, that's insane," said Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

