

Opioid-Related Conditions and the Courts

In the News: September 11, 2020



National

[The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Wall Street Journal

When Covid-19 struck, the U.S. was already in the grip of an expanding drug-overdose crisis. It has only gotten worse since then.

Counties in states spanning the country, from Washington to Arizona and Florida, are reporting rising drug fatalities this year, according to data collected by The Wall Street Journal. This follows a likely record number of [deadly overdoses in the U.S. last year](#), with more than 72,000 people killed, according to federal projections.

The pandemic has destabilized people trying to maintain sobriety or who are struggling with addiction during a time of increased social isolation and stress, according to treatment providers and public-health authorities. In a survey of U.S. adults released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13% of respondents in June said they had started or increased substance use to deal with stress or emotions related to Covid-19.

New York

[Mid Hudson overdoses spike during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Times Herald-Record

All across the region, the numbers are grim. Opioid-related overdoses have spiked this year under cover of the pandemic.

In Orange County, according to preliminary data, there have already been 95 opioid-involved overdose deaths as of Sept. 2. That's a 25 percent increase over the same period in 2019. The county saw a total of 97 opioid-related deaths in 2019, and the highest recorded total, 118, in 2018.

“COVID really put a crunch on everything,” said Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler: It's harder for people to get in-person treatment; police are not able to do drug investigations because of the pandemic.