

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

January 21, 2022



### Illinois

#### [New Jackson County drug court hopes to give people second chance at life](#)

The Southern Illinoisan

A drug treatment court has made its way to Jackson County to help those faced with addiction and criminal charges get their life back, Judge Steven Bost said.

“The beauty of this program is that it’s been researched and studied and studied, and it works,” Bost said. “For too long we have had people that have gotten sideways with the law. Instead of us going back to what we’re doing the last 100-plus years of just sending them off someplace else, we’re also owning this problem as a community. We all live here. These are our neighbors. I think that adds an extra layer of accountability for not only the participant but also for the team.”

### Indiana

#### [“We are still evolving;” panel talks \[about\] county changes through opioid epidemic](#)

Tribune-Star

“We are still evolving” was the topic of discussion at the Monday panel that kicked off Clark County CARES Drug Facts Week at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

True to the advertised topic, stakeholders in the community took turns discussing different ways that Clark County has evolved since the opioid epidemic. The conversation touched on areas such as health care, law enforcement and housing.

The panel, facilitated by Judge Brad Jacobs, included Clark County Health Officer Dr. Eric Yazel, Jeffersonville Police Chief Kenny Kavanaugh, Clark County CARES Chair Barb Anderson and two individuals who are in recovery.

### Massachusetts

#### [Researchers find jailhouse opioid treatment cuts recidivism](#)

Greenfield Recorder

After researching two local jails, Baystate Medical Center and University of Massachusetts Amherst researchers have published a new study that found a substantial reduction in recidivism when a jail offers those with opioid use disorder the option of medication-assisted recovery.

In an article published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, researchers found a 32% reduction in recidivism for those jailed by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office between Jan. 1, 2015 and April 30, 2019, compared to the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction. During that time period, Franklin County began offering inmates buprenorphine — a drug known by the brand name Suboxone that helps control opioid cravings — while Hampshire County didn't begin giving the medicine until May 2019.

“When jails offer buprenorphine and other evidence-based medications to treat opioid use disorder, it can improve public safety,” said the study's lead author Elizabeth Evans, a UMass Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences professor. “This is a critical outcome to be aware of as jails nationwide consider whether to offer this type of health care.”

## Michigan

### [Region to receive \\$2M to treat, prevent opioid misuse](#)

Alpena News

Alpena County officials could benefit from using that money to support the county's drug court, to bolster anti-drug efforts in schools, and to connect incarcerated people with support to break the addiction-to-crime cycle, [Bob Adrian, , board of commissioners chairman] suggested.

## Michigan

### [The newest strategies to curb overdose deaths: Prescription heroin, drug vending machines](#)

Detroit Free Press

How successful is medication-assisted treatment?

Here's an example: One study of 17,586 Massachusetts drug users who survived an overdose showed that subsequent treatment with methadone or buprenorphine greatly reduced their risk of dying from another overdose. Overdose deaths decreased 59% for those receiving methadone and 38% for those treated with buprenorphine, according to the study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Is there other medication used to treat drug addiction?

Yes. Naltrexone (brand name: Vivitrol) is also used. It's given as a monthly injection. Unlike buprenorphine and methadone, it is not an opioid. Those who favor the use of naltrexone point to its monthly injection as a convenience factor — Suboxone must be taken daily and in most cases, even with pandemic-related exceptions that allow some patients who are doing well in their treatment to take it home with them, methadone is usually administered daily at clinic sites. Fans of naltrexone as treatment also point to its lack of street value as another advantage over buprenorphine and methadone.