



# Opioids and the Courts News: August 17, 2018

## National

### [More in U.S. Say Drug Abuse Has Caused Family Trouble](#)

Gallup

Thirty percent of Americans say that drug abuse has caused trouble in their families. This is a significant increase from 22% in 2005, the last time Gallup asked the question, and a signal that the nation's opioid epidemic, which has worsened in recent years, is taking a toll.

While there are few differences in reports of drug-related family trouble by age, income, education and urbanicity, there are notable differences by region and gender.

- Americans residing in the West (38%) are much more likely than those in the Midwest (27%), the South (26%) or the East (28%) to say their family has been affected by drug abuse. A similar pattern has been seen in previous Gallup polling. CDC data on opioid overdoses find that the West region was second to the Midwest region in showing the greatest increase between 2016 and 2017.
- Women (33%) are more likely than men (26%) to say drug abuse has caused family trouble.

## National

### [Rate of pregnant women addicted to opioids skyrocketed in 15 years](#)

CBS News

As the [opioid epidemic](#) continues to wreak havoc across the country, a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sheds light on the devastating consequences opioid addiction can have on pregnant women. The analysis, published Thursday in [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), found that the number of women with opioid use disorder (OUD) at labor and delivery more than quadrupled from 1999 to 2014.

Opioid addiction can lead to a number of health problems that affect a person's physical well-being, mental health, and social relationships. According to the CDC, opioids, including [prescription opioids](#), [heroin](#), and [fentanyl](#), killed more than 42,000 people in 2016, more than any year on record.

## National

### [Nebraska becomes the first state to use fentanyl in an execution](#)

Washington Post

Authorities in Nebraska used the powerful opioid fentanyl in a lethal injection on Tuesday, an unprecedented move that came as the state — where just three years ago





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lawmakers [moved to abolish capital punishment](#) — completed a remarkable reversal and resumed executions for [the first time in nearly a generation](#).

Nebraska experienced a series of firsts on Tuesday morning: the state's first execution in 21 years, its first lethal injection and the country's first death sentence [carried out with fentanyl](#), a synthetic painkiller that has helped drive the opioid epidemic. The execution was even more unusual given the state's very recent history, which saw its legislature vote to [abandon the death penalty](#) in 2015 before voters reversed that decision [the following year](#).

### Indiana

[Lawmakers hear pleas to fight opioids](#)

The Journal Gazette

Allen Superior Court Judge Wendy Davis said an estimated 60,000 residents of Allen County abuse opioids.

“The scope of the opiate problem here in Allen County is astonishing by any measure,” Davis said.

### Indiana

[Opioids cost Indiana \\$43.3 billion over past 15 years](#)

Terre Haute Tribune Star

Drug arrests, court proceedings, incarceration expenses and property losses cost Indiana \$136 million a year, according to the study. In the health care world, non-lethal opioid overdoses, hospital stays, HIV contraction and neonatal care for dependent infants cost the state \$571 million in 2016, with another \$40 million a year going to rehabilitation.

### Massachusetts

Massachusetts courts receive \$2 million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court

On August 8, 2018, the Executive Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court received notification from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) of the award of a \$2-million-dollar, five-year grant to fund a wrap-around, evidence-based treatment model known as MISSION (Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach and Networking) to participants in the Barnstable Drug Court with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. This model integrates case management, co-occurring disorders treatment, peer support, vocational support, and trauma-informed care into a single, coordinated approach. The grant creates a partnership between the Massachusetts Trial Court, Barnstable Drug Court



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and the Wampanoag Tribe which has been hard hit by the opiate crisis. The EOTC will partner with the Gavin Foundation, Inc. and UMass Medical School Department of Psychiatry to deliver services and evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment model as well as fidelity to the model.

The grant helps to address the dire need for addiction and mental health treatment services on Cape Cod. This need has been compounded by the opiate crisis, which disproportionately affected Barnstable County, including the Wampanoag Tribe. 10 A 2017 report noted that deaths from heroin and prescription opioid abuse in Barnstable have more than doubled between 2012 – 2014, an approximate 300% increase in 2016 as compared to 2004-2014, and with men (72%), those employed in the trades and service industries (65%), and those with a high school education or less (69%) most affected. In June 2016, the Wampanoag Tribe declared a state of emergency related to the Opioid Abuse Crisis with 11 reported overdoses that year alone, and many more non-fatal overdoses. Data on 2017 Barnstable Drug Court participants shows that approximately 85% of participants had a co-occurring mental health disorder, 45.3% of whom had received prior mental health treatment, 84.9% prior drug treatment, and 71% had a history of homelessness. Heroin was the most common substance used (52%) followed by alcohol (29%). Furthermore, 60% of clients had experienced trauma, and 60% were either unemployed or minimally employed, which negatively impacts drug court success and well-being.

Over five years, the project will serve 200 clients who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders with a focus on increasing drug court enrollment of Native Americans from the Wampanoag Tribe. During the planning phase, this proposal received input from judges, state agencies, community treatment providers and community partners. Implementation of the grant will get underway in Barnstable in October under the leadership of District Court Judge John Julian and the drug court team.

This \$2 million SAMHSA grant to implement the MISSION Model (Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach and Networking), follows successful implementation of MISSION in other specialty courts, also funded by SAMHSA. In 2015, the EOTC was awarded \$975,000 to fund Mission Cape Cod I; in 2016, the EOTC was awarded \$975,000 from SAMHSA to implement MISSION services in the Quincy and Chelsea Drug Courts; in 2017, the EOTC was awarded \$2.1 million to provide a variation of the MISSION model designed to support individuals and families involved in family court proceedings. The EOTC also received a \$1.2 million grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to integrate services offered at community corrections centers with drug court case management plans in three Drug Courts in Brockton, Hingham and Taunton, Massachusetts.



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### Montana

[AG Fox lays out substance abuse prevention plan at Missoula forum](#)

KPVI News 6

At Monday's meeting, [Montana Attorney General Tim] Fox said the Montana Department of Justice is in the process of finalizing what phase one of Aid Montana will be, but gave the audience an advance look at some of the initiatives it will include.

DOJ will work to help support existing drug treatment courts, create new ones and help expand and stabilize funding.

Fox said he will also support helping people get access to medication-assisted treatments, including the use of a drug known to help treat opioid addiction that also has shown promise in treating meth and alcohol addiction.

### New York

[Suffolk County Launches New Court Initiative to Address Opioid Crisis](#)

New York State Unified Court System

As part of the Unified Court System's statewide efforts to address the opioid crisis, Administrative Judge C. Randall Hinrichs today joined Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy D. Sini, District Court Supervising Judge Karen Kerr and key stakeholders to announce the launch in District Court of a specialized part targeting nonviolent first-time offenders and nonviolent offenders with a minimal criminal history charged with drug or drug-related misdemeanors. The new initiative, dubbed C.A.R.E., an acronym for Comprehensive Addiction Recovery and Education program, differs from the traditional drug court model in that defendants who opt to take part in the program will not be required to enter a guilty plea to enroll.

### Ohio

[Court News: Supreme Court Hosts National Conference on Criminal ...](#)

[www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org)

The need for criminal justice reform involves many hot-button issues, including marijuana and opioid offenses, juvenile courts and sex-offender sentencing. Evaluation and reform must be ongoing in order to keep the system relevant, [Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in the keynote address to the National Association of Sentencing Commissions].



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### Tennessee

[The opioid crisis has hit Williamson County. Why aren't more people talking about it?](#)

The Tennessean

The 21st Recovery Court is one option for some nonviolent offenders charged with a felony in Williamson County. The two-year court-supervised recovery program offers alternative sentencing for people whose offenses are a result of illegal drug use.

Long said the Recovery Court is a valuable asset for Williamson County's court system but added that treating underlying mental health issues in defendants is equally important.

"We're trying to develop a program where both the mental health aspects and drug addiction [are] treated at the same time," Long said. "You can't treat one without the other."

Recovery Court Director Connie Martin said the program has roughly 30 participants at any given time and about 20 more who may be in long-term inpatient treatment.

