

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

July 8, 2022



### National

#### [A federal judge sides with 3 major drug distributors in a landmark opioid lawsuit](#)

NPR

A federal judge on Monday ruled in favor of three major U.S. drug distributors in a landmark lawsuit that accused them of causing a health crisis by distributing 81 million pills over eight years in one West Virginia county ravaged by opioid addiction.

The verdict came nearly a year after closing arguments in a bench trial in the lawsuit filed by Cabell County and the city of Huntington against AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp.

“The opioid crisis has taken a considerable toll on the citizens of Cabell County and the City of Huntington. And while there is a natural tendency to assign blame in such cases, they must be decided not based on sympathy, but on the facts and the law,” U.S. District Judge David Faber wrote in the 184-page ruling. “In view of the court’s findings and conclusions, the court finds that judgment should be entered in defendants’ favor.”

### North Carolina

#### [Tweaks in state opioid funding could mean big changes for people with addiction](#)

North Carolina Health News

North Carolina lawmakers passed their state budget compromise last week, and there was a noticeable change in the way they described funding to help people with substance use disorder.

Past budgets provided funds for “substance use disorder treatment” or “recovery services,” but failed to be specific about details. Either term could apply to many forms of treatment, such as provision of housing or job training or having people participate in abstinence-only addiction programs.

But when it comes to opioid use disorder, [some treatments](#) — such as methadone or buprenorphine — have [much higher success rates](#) than others. When using medications for opioid use disorder, people stay in treatment longer. In the [latest budget](#), state lawmakers defined treatment for opioid use disorder and included the medications that have been most helpful for people.