



Opioids and the Courts News: July 27, 2018

National

[Children and the Opioid Epidemic: How can dependency courts manage the crisis?](#)

National Association for Court Management 2018 Annual Conference

Foster care systems are becoming flooded with children of the opioid epidemic. How can courts respond to this crisis? Learn about the national Reimagining Dependency Courts initiative and hear from panelists that have implemented court strategies to reduce unnecessary court delay and improve outcomes for children and families.

National

[Court Responses to the Opioid Crisis](#)

National Association for Court Management 2018 Annual Conference

A panel of court experts will provide an overview of the opioid crisis along with court and court related programs, such as the work of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force and the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative. Information on resources, funding and tools for courts will also be discussed.

National

[Documentaries explore the despair of America's heroin and opioid epidemic.](#)

LA Times

“Heroin(e)” follows three women – a fire chief, judge and community activist – trying to stop the rising tide of overdoses in Huntington, West Virginia. The film was nominated this year for an Academy Award. She followed it with “Recovery Boys,” which debuted last month on Netflix, a story of the victories and transgressions of four addicts in a rehabilitation program in Aurora, West Virginia.

National

[With More Opioid Use, People Are More Likely to Get Caught Up In The Justice System](#)

NPR

People addicted to prescription opioids or heroin are far more likely to have run-ins with the law than those who don't use opioids, according to [a study](#) published Friday in *JAMA Network Open*.

The study provides the first nationwide estimate for the number of people using opioids who end up in the American criminal justice system. The results suggest a need to engage law enforcement officials and corrections systems to tackle the opioid epidemic.

The connection between the criminal justice system and substance abuse is well-known. About 65 percent of people who are incarcerated are known to have a substance use disorder, [according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse](#).



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National

[Yale Scholars Tackle Opioid Crisis in Groundbreaking Journal Issue](#)

Yale Law School

More than two dozen Yale professors, doctors, and students have published a series of groundbreaking articles on the opioid crisis in the [Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics](#).

The special issue is notable for tackling the opioid epidemic from a variety of angles — including health law, criminal law, addiction science, and social justice and race. It features prominent voices from across Yale University, including Yale Law School, the Yale School of Medicine, the Yale School of Public Health, and the Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

Indiana

[Here's what you missed at the Indiana Opioid Summit](#)

Evansville Courier & Press

The Opioid Summit brought law enforcement, members of the court system and health experts to Indianapolis from all 92 Indiana counties to consider Indiana's opioid epidemic and the justice system's role in combating it.

Indiana

[It's Not Just Opioids. It's Mental Health in General.](#)

93.1 WIBC Indianapolis

Today's opioid crisis is really a broader mental-health crisis, according to an IU psychiatry researcher.

Andrew Chambers is director of IU's addiction psychiatry training program. He told a statewide opioid summit of judges and court administrators that opioid addiction usually appears alongside other addictions or mental illnesses. He says addiction literally rewires brain cells, just as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's does. In the case of addiction, the drug reprograms your brain to crave the next hit, to the point it crowds out everything else.

Unlike other brain diseases, Chambers says your brain on drugs retains enough flexibility to repair itself with proper medication and psychotherapy. But, he says, that's the catch.



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Indiana

[Local Judges take knowledge from opioid summit to benefit Wabash Valley](#)

WTHITV.com

Wednesday's statewide opioid summit in Indianapolis drew in nearly a thousand attendees. From Vigo County, there were twelve people who attended the historic summit. Many of those serving in the county's judicial system.

One of was Judge Michael Lewis. He presides over superior court division six. He was one of four county judges who attended the event, all with the goal of helping the state opioid crisis.

"This opioid program is just another tool for us to use. To help people with their drug problems to keep them away from the criminal justice system," said Judge Lewis.

Judge Lewis says one of the biggest take away was from a lecture on the legal implications of addiction. The lecture went into detail about the use of medication-assisted treatments like methadone.

Indiana

[Opioid summit attendees hear chilling 911 call](#)

Associated Press

Hundreds of criminal justice professionals who attended a summit on Indiana's growing opioid crisis heard a chilling 911 recording that captured the anguish resulting from the epidemic.

Marion Superior Court Judge William Nelson played the recording during Wednesday's Opioid Summit in Indianapolis, where nearly 1,000 people listened to a woman wailing after telling a dispatcher she just found her 20-year-old son dead from an overdose, the Herald Times reported.

Indiana

[Opioid summit focuses on treatment, best judicial practices](#)

Indiana Lawyer

Overdose deaths in Indiana increased 21.6 percent in 2017 compared to 2016, according to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention.

"This is why we're here today," Chief Justice Loretta Rush said. "We are indeed in a crisis that is getting worse by the day."

[Rush chairs the National Judicial Opioid Task Force](#), which aims to work alongside state, local and federal agencies to tackle the opioid epidemic's ongoing impact on the justice



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system. She said the goal for the summit was to create a framework for future crises, to empower community leaders to address the epidemic, and to provide next-step tools for every region of the state.

A handout was provided for Indiana Court judges to use on the bench to educate and train themselves on evidence-based treatment, best practices, FDA-approved medications, overdose reversal medications and more. Rush said the bench card can better serve judges and justice professionals going forward.

Indiana

[Report coming on local opioid problem](#)

Journal Review

Police, health care providers and others at the center of the local opioid problem will soon receive a map for helping tackle drug abuse.

After months of gathering input, Montgomery United Fund For You's United Against Opioid Abuse Project is completing a report that seeks to gauge the extent of the issue in Montgomery County and coordinate a response from local agencies.

The county is taking the first steps to provide housing for some in the court system, including those who qualify for drug court but don't have a place to live substance-free. Chief probation officer Andria Geigle said the county has to rely on churches to find hotel rooms for clients or house them in the jail.

Indiana

[Statewide Opioid Summit – Agenda](#)

State of Indiana

A Medication -Assisted Treatment and Addictions Primer for Justice Professionals

Indiana

[Summit focuses on opioid epidemic in Indiana](#)

WLKY Louisville

Last August, the National Judicial Opioid Task Force was formed.

Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush is co-chair of the group.

"We're seeing people detoxing in jails and getting out and dying. So where can we do more handoffs to get to the best possible treatment," Rush said.



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In Clark County, the Family Drug Treatment Court does not use much medication-assistance and that's one reason the county sent a team of people to learn more about what it is and what it does.

"It's not one size fits all. So we have to look at everybody individually and look at what's going on in their lives and what's going on in the community and how do we address that locally," [Clark County Judge] Carmichael said.

Massachusetts

[Focusing on gaps in services for people with opioid addiction](#)

GazetteNET

Early in her time working to prevent opioid deaths, Marisa Hebble had a front-row seat to tragedy. As coordinator for a new opioid task force, she worked in the former Franklin County Courthouse. From that vantage point, she watched people with opioid misuse disorder face criminal charges in one courtroom, grandparents seeking custody of children whose parents were addicted to opioids in another. She witnessed anguished family members desperate to help loved ones they feared might die.

She saw that pain and confusion, all consequences of the opioid epidemic, and wondered: How could conditions change to better help people entwined with both addiction and the law? Was there a way to reach people before the disease of addiction landed them in a jail cell?

"I was watching the real conveyor belt of the district court and how the courts were really scrambling to keep up with the science and the opioid crisis," she said. "I hadn't recognized how much the justice system deals with mental illness and addiction until that moment."

Massachusetts

[Weekend holds authorized under Senate opioid bill](#)

The Salem News

The House flat out rejected Gov. Charlie Baker's proposal to involuntarily hold people addicted to opioids for up to 72 hours to introduce them to treatment, but the Senate on Thursday took a small step toward the governor by voting to allow addicts to be held overnight or over a weekend until a judge can review their case.

North Carolina

[New drug program for addiction at jail](#)

Winston-Salem Chronicle

A new partnership between pharmaceutical company Alkermes and the Forsyth County District Attorney's office will be offering drug-assisted treatment for addiction.



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Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O’Neil talked about the new program with Forsyth County commissioners at their briefing last week. It’s designed to help the large population with substance abuse issues that ends up in the Forsyth County Detention Center by offering them treatment instead of incarceration.

“As a society, we probably have evolved in terms of how we look at addiction and how we approach it in terms of combating it,” said O’Neill.

Clerk of Court Susan Frye, who helped conceive the program with O’Neill, said that other programs she’s seen in other states use the drug in prison. Offering a treatment pre-adjudication will make it a unique pilot program.

Pennsylvania

[In the opioid epidemic, breastfeeding emerges as a possible crime](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer

A chilling new factor has emerged in the opioid epidemic: A woman may be accused of murder by breast-feeding.

Earlier this month, a 30-year-old Bucks County woman was charged with criminal homicide in the April 2 death of her 11-week-old son. The Bucks County District Attorney’s Office said an autopsy found the infant died from “a lethal combination” of methadone, amphetamine, and methamphetamine, allegedly transferred through Samantha Whitney Jones’ breast milk.

While unusual, similar prosecutions of nursing mothers whose babies died have occurred in recent years in [South Carolina](#), [California](#), and [Washington](#).