SAMHSA Announces National Survey on Drug Use and Health
According to a newly released survey from the Department of Health and Human Services, substance use disorders and mental health issues went hand in hand during the pandemic. Read more here.

Medical Cannabis Use Leads to Decrease in Consumption of Painkillers
According to a new research letter in JAMA, medical cannabis use led to a decrease in consumption of both prescription and over-the-counter painkillers. It had a mixed impact on non-pharmaceutical interventions like physical therapy and meditation. Read more here.

FDA Advisors to Meet on OTC Naloxone
The FDA plans to convene a joint meeting of two advisory committees next month to discuss Emergent BioSolutions’ application for an over-the-counter version of its naloxone spray. Read more here.

Pediatric Hospitalizations for Unintentional Cannabis Poisonings Associated with Product Legalization
According to a new study published in JAMA Health Forum, accidental ingestions of cannabis edibles by children were associated with adult-use legalization and cannabis regulations that allowed for edible forms of marijuana. Read more here.

Overdose Deaths Involving Buprenorphine Did Not Proportionally Increase With COVID-19 Flexibilities
According to a study published on January 20 in JAMA Network Open, the proportion of opioid overdose deaths involving buprenorphine did not increase in the months after prescribing flexibilities were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study was a collaborative effort between researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read more here.

Study Finds that Telemedicine Doesn’t Boost Access to Opioid Use Treatment
A new study published in JAMA Network Open found that while telehealth visits saw a spike in use during the pandemic, they didn’t lead to a marked increase in access to opioid use disorder treatments such as buprenorphine, as measured by metrics such as visit volume, treatment initiation, or prescription refills. Read more here.

Teen Access to Buprenorphine Low
An article in the journal Pediatrics found teens’ access to buprenorphine is low despite the growing number of youth with opioid use disorder. Read more here.

FDA Issues New Guidance for Clinical Cannabis Research
On January 23, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued guidance for clinical researchers developing cannabis or cannabis-derived drugs. Read more here.

FDA Rejects CBD as Dietary Supplement
The FDA announced January 26 that it will not be regulating CBD as a dietary supplement despite calls from the hemp industry and legislation introduced by multiple members of Congress. Read more here.

Energy and Commerce Holds Roundtable on Fentanyl
On January 25, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans held a roundtable on “Big Tech and the Fentanyl Poisoning Crisis.” Read more here.