



February 9, 2024 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Knowledge Is Power in the Fight Against Synthetic Opioids

"The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Homeland Security Investigations recently announced in its Strategy for Combating Illicit Opioids that the agency has seized more than 54,000 pounds of fentanyl and interdicted over 2.2 million pounds of synthetic drug precursor chemicals over the last five years. Still, overdose deaths continue to rise, and the ways opioids reach users constantly evolve."

Syphilis cases rise to their highest levels since the 1950s, CDC says

"The number of syphilis cases in the U.S. are on the rise. According to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cases increased by nearly 80% to more than 207,000 between 2018 and 2022. Rates increased among all age groups, including newborns, and in all regions of the country. In 2022, 3,755 cases of babies born with syphilis in the U.S. were reported, which reflects an alarming 937% increase in the past decade, the CDC said."

Indiana Poison Center says Hoosier kids are getting sick on marijuana edibles

"More and more Hoosier children are receiving medical treatment after they ingest cannabis-laced edibles, according to the Indiana Poison Center. "We've definitely seen a sharp increase, especially over the last seven to eight years," said Dr. Blake Froberg, director of the Indiana Poison Center. "We're seeing more kids that, as they explore their environment, get into these and then end up needing medical care."

HHS Hosts First-Ever 'Food is Medicine' Summit, Launches Three Public-Private Partnerships

"On Tuesday, January 31, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted its first-ever Food is Medicine summit in Washington, D.C., an all-day summit for stakeholders at the intersection between food and health. Secretary Xavier Becerra (pronounced Ha-vee-air Beh-sehr-rah) opened the summit by announcing three new public-private partnerships with Instacart, Rockefeller Foundation, and Feeding America. All three partnerships will support HHS's nutrition goals."

Silicon Valley county becomes first in U.S. to declare loneliness a public health emergency

"Loneliness is officially a health emergency in California's San Mateo County, which is located in the San Francisco Bay Area and includes part of Silicon Valley. The county's Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on Tuesday that declared loneliness a public health crisis and pledged to explore measures that promote social connection in the community."

Food Insecurity and Premature Mortality and Life Expectancy in the US

"In this cohort study of 57 404 adults, lower levels of food security, even marginal food security, were significantly associated with a higher risk of all-cause premature mortality and a shorter life expectancy compared with full food security. Significant racial and ethnic and sex differences were observed in the association of food insecurity with all-cause premature mortality and life expectancy."

Vacation Days Taken, Work During Vacation, and Burnout Among US Physicians

"In this cross-sectional study of 3024 US physicians, 59.6% took 3 weeks of vacation or less per year, and 70.4% worked while on vacation on a typical vacation day; both findings were associated with higher rates of burnout. Full electronic health record inbox

coverage was associated with lower rates of working while on vacation and with lower burnout.”

Events

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