

Questions Asked During Live Webinar Broadcast on 12/18/2020



Collision of SUD and COVID-19: A NIDA Update

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What have your polls showed as to the questioned virility that is claimed by the government of COVID?

A: Qualitative interviews with people in active use and in recovery showed that some respondents questioned the virility of COVID-19. Sample responses include:

- *"No, not a big believer in the COVID apocalypse, never gotten flu shot, no interest."*
- *"I don't know. I think COVID is a real thing, and I had a friend die from it, but I don't think that the whole issue is as serious as this whole overreaction warranted. And I think I'll be fine; I've been fine so far. I've been exposed and I haven't come down with it. So, there's of course lack of trust in the government as well."*

How does a provider who is struggling locate impaired professionals 12 step meetings?

A: SAMHSA provides resources to help find 12-step programs based on specific needs (<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/virtual-recovery-resources.pdf>). There are also online resources for information and connection to care for medical professionals (e.g., <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/medical-professionals/>) and others in the workplace (e.g., <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/workplace/>).

With medical Marijuana-can you still get high?

A: Yes. Marijuana sold at dispensaries for medicinal use is generally no different from marijuana sold and used recreationally; it may contain just as much THC, the active ingredient that causes the high. However, there are also medicinal and commercially available products containing only CBD, another ingredient in the cannabis plant; if such products only contain CBD and not THC, they will not cause a high.

Why does nothing seem to be mentioned regarding alcohol misuse during COVID?

A: This update was provided by NIDA; the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is the NIH institute that supports research on alcohol. There is evidence of increased alcohol sales and consumption during the pandemic.

How could a health educator like me, currently working as a Peer Recovery Coach, contribute to NIDA's development of a Digital Therapy App for behavioral change for individuals with MH/SUD?

A: NIDA has already helped several tech startups develop apps to help people with SUD in treatment by delivering behavioral treatment modalities like CBT, as well as apps to help support people in recovery by anticipating and providing coaching or interventions during times of high relapse risk and by linking users to peers.

Is this Collision of SUD and Covid 19 A NIDA Update?

A: This NADAAC presentation provided a current update on the evolving intersection of SUD and COVID-19.

What does A CHESS stand for?

A: Addiction-Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System. A-CHESS is a mobile app designed to help people transition from treatment to stable recovery by providing access that enhancing coping skills, providing social support networks, and linking them to care using telehealth and digital behavioral interventions.

How does fentanyl have benefits?

A: Fentanyl is a powerful opioid that is sometimes prescribed to treat severe pain after surgery, usually administered as a skin patch. When used appropriately under the direction of a physician, it can be a beneficial pain treatment. The fentanyl that causes the bulk of overdose fatalities is illicitly manufactured and sold on the street or used to lace other illicit drugs.

How confident are the panel or the audience that clients would be open the new medication changes in terms of the extended release of the medications?

A: Extended-release formulations of medications for addiction are generally preferred by patients, because they require fewer doctor visits and fewer administrations of the medication. They make it easier to stick with a course of medication treatment.

Has NIDA examined the use of alternative behavioral therapies such as equine assisted therapy with people who are undergoing SUD treatment?

A: NIDA has not funded studies of equine assisted therapy for people undergoing SUD treatment.

I support an organization that treats people undergoing SUD treatment by providing equine assisted therapy. Does NIDA look at experiential alternative therapies like this in conjunction with traditional therapies?

A: NIDA is open to funding all meritorious research that could lead to improvements in addiction treatment. In addition, one of NIDA's sister institutes at NIH, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), leads research on complementary and integrative health approaches, including those focused on substance use disorders.