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# UPDATE

October 1, 2012

- I. [Science and Service News Updates](#)
- II. [Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources](#)
- III. [Calendar of Events](#)
- IV. [Calls for Public Input](#)
- V. [Funding Information](#)

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,  
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

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## SCIENCE AND SERVICE NEWS UPDATES

### NIH FUNDS WILL STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR COST-EFFECTIVE, LARGE-SCALE CLINICAL STUDIES

Funds, totaling approximately \$11.3 million, will support the first year of the Health Care Systems (HCS) Research Collaboratory, which will engage health care systems as research partners in conducting large-scale clinical studies. The funds are managed through the Common Fund at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Health care systems, which include health maintenance organizations and other large integrated care settings, see large populations of patients. By partnering with these entities, NIH will be able to conduct large-scale and more cost-effective clinical research within the settings where patients are already receiving their care. The eight awards funded as part of the Collaboratory include the HCS Research Collaboratory Coordinating Center, as well as the Pragmatic Trial of Population-based Programs to Prevent Suicide Attempt at Group Health Cooperative in Seattle.

**Press Release:** <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2012/nccam-25.htm>

### NATIONAL SURVEY SHOWS REDUCTION IN NON-MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS; REPORT ALSO SHOWS REDUCTIONS IN BINGE AND HEAVY DRINKING AMONG UNDERAGE YOUTH

The number of people aged 18 to 25 who used prescription drugs for non-medical purposes in the past month declined 14 percent -- from 2 million in 2010 to 1.7 million in 2011 -- the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced during the 23rd annual national observance of National Recovery Month. Non-medical use of prescription drugs among children aged 12 to 17 and adults aged 26 or older remained unchanged. In addition, the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), a survey conducted annually by SAMHSA, showed that the rates of past month drinking, binge drinking, and heavy drinking among underage people continued a decline from 2002.

**Full report:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHresults2011.pdf>

**Press Release:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1209244622.aspx>

### SAMHSA AWARDS UP TO \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR TEEN COURT PROGRAM

Ten Teen Court Program grants totaling up to \$6 million over the next three years will provide substance abuse treatment services and related recovery support services to youth with substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment needs involved in a teen court program. The services are designed to support partnerships between teen court programs and community-based treatment and recovery services. It is part of SAMHSA's efforts to divert youth with substance abuse treatment needs from further criminal behavior.

**Press release:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1209250612.aspx>

## **VA AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES COUNCIL LAUNCH RESOURCE ON VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH; PUBLICATION TO SUPPORT THE CREATIVE PROCESS IN FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY**

A new tool is available to the entertainment industry with the release of *Picture This: Veteran Mental Health Challenges and Solutions*, a comprehensive guide to assist members of the creative arts community in accurately portraying mental health issues Veterans may experience. The Entertainment Industries Council, Inc., in collaboration with and sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), developed this guide with input from mental health experts, Veterans, advocates, policymakers, the entertainment industry, and many others who are committed to honoring the service of Veterans and helping them overcome challenges. *Picture This* was written to help writers, actors, producers, and others create authentic depictions of Veterans facing and overcoming mental health challenges.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2392>

## **VA APPROVES \$28 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

The VA has approved \$28.4 million in grants to fund 38 projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia that will provide transitional housing to homeless Veterans. Among these 38 projects, 31 will provide temporary housing to homeless Veterans with the goal that they will retain the residence as their own. Thirty-one of the grants were awarded through VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program's "Transition in Place" model. The program allows Veterans the opportunity to take over payment of a lease instead of moving out after using VA services.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2385>

## **VA AND DOD TO FUND \$100 MILLION PTSD AND TBI STUDY**

The VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) are investing more than \$100 million in research to improve diagnosis and treatment of mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The two groups, The Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (CAP) and the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) will be jointly managed by VA, and by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, on behalf of the DOD. CAP will study potential indicators of trauma, as well as prevention strategies, possible interventions, and improved treatments. Biomarker-based research will be a key factor for CAP studies. A primary goal of CENC is to establish an understanding of the aftereffects of an mTBI. Potential comorbidities also will be studied; that is, conditions associated with and which worsen because of a neurotrauma.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2386>

## **HEALTH CARE LAW INCREASES NUMBER OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS; AFFORDABLE CARE ACT GRANTS ALSO HELP MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS, AND FAMILIES**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new program, made possible by the Affordable Care Act, which will boost the number of social workers and psychologists who work with Americans in rural areas, military personnel, Veterans, and their families. Through the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training grant program, \$9.8 million is being awarded to 24 graduate social work and psychology schools and programs for three-year grants. The grants will help eligible institutions of higher education – including accredited schools of social work and psychology and accredited psychology internship programs – to recruit students and provide support for clinical training in mental and behavioral health.

**Press Release:** <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120925a.html>

## **WHITE HOUSE DRUG POLICY OFFICE AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE UNVEIL NEW TRAINING MATERIALS TO COMBAT NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC**

The Office of National Drug Control Policy and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) launched a new online learning tool which will provide training for healthcare providers on proper prescribing and patient management practices for patients on opioid analgesics (painkillers). The new training materials, which include video vignettes modeling doctor patient conversations on the safe and effective use of opioid pain medications, are part of NIDA's NIDAMED initiative, created to help physicians, medical interns and residents, and other clinicians understand and address the complex problem of prescription drug abuse. In addition to providing more accessible and self-guided information for healthcare providers, the training modules will also provide an opportunity for healthcare professionals to earn continuing medical education (CME) credits.

**Press Release:** <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2012/10/white-house-drug-policy-office-national-institute-drug-abuse-unveil-new-training-materials->

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO HELP CLASSROOM TEACHERS COMBAT BULLYING**

The U.S. Department of Education has released a free, two-part training toolkit designed to reduce incidents of bullying, for use by classroom teachers and educators. The toolkit was developed by the Safe and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, in collaboration with the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

**Press Release:** <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-provides-guidance-help-classroom-teachers-combat-bullyin>

## RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

### NEW ON NIMH WEBSITE

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#### DIRECTOR'S BLOG: JUNK NO MORE

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Director Dr. Thomas Insel discusses new research findings that shed new light about what was previously considered “junk” DNA. A massive ENCODE project has revealed that nearly 80 percent of the human genome is read out, or transcribed – much of it devoted to regulating the turning on and off of genes. Yet, there are also vast stretches of non-coding RNAs, some unique to humans, especially regions that appear active for specifying brain development. Differences associated with autism and mental disorders are in these areas previously considered “junk.” The new map pinpoints sites where proteins called transcription factors alter the timing and amounts of gene expression – mechanisms that are likely at the heart of mental disorders, whether they are mainly due to environmental stressors or genetic factors. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2012/junk-no-more.shtml>

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#### NEUROBIOBANK MEETING SUMMARY

On May 14-15, 2012, NIMH, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke convened a meeting of brain banking experts from across the United States and with experts from the European Union’s Brain Banking network, BrainNet Europe. The goal of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the efforts by the three Institutes to take a more integrated and coordinated approach to brain banking in the United States.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/scientific-meetings/2012/neurobiobank-meeting-summary.shtml>

### NIAAA SPECTRUM: FOCUS ON COLLEGE DRINKING

This issue of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism’s online magazine focuses on drinking and alcohol abuse among college students. <http://www.spectrum.niaaa.nih.gov/>

### ONLINE BULLYING PREVENTION TRAINING MODULES AVAILABLE

Free, online bullying prevention training modules are now available on StopBullying.gov. The training modules offer a PowerPoint presentation for community events, speaker notes with suggested talking points, a Community Action Toolkit, and a video for use in bullying prevention efforts in communities.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/in-the-community/community-action-planning/index.html>

## NEW FROM SAMHSA

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### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, 2004

This report presents findings from a survey of all U.S. specialty mental health organizations to identify information on the number and types of services, capacity, volume of services, staffing, expenditures, and sources of revenue within these organizations. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA12-4685>

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### STORIES OF HOPE AND RECOVERY: A VIDEO GUIDE FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPT SURVIVORS

These videos feature stories from three people who survived an attempted suicide. Told through their voices and those of their families, the stories recount their journeys from the suicide attempt to a life of hope and recovery. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA12-4711DVD>

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### PODCAST: DEPLOYMENT SUPPORTS FOR DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONDERS

The goal of this 30-minute podcast is to prepare disaster behavioral health responders and their family members for deployment by reviewing pre- and post-deployment guidelines and ways to prepare for the stress of deployment and reintegration into their regular work and family lives.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/podcasts/deployment/lib/playback.asp>

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### SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH BULLETIN: CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

SAMHSA's Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC) is pleased to introduce its first *DTAC Supplemental Research Bulletin*, which will be published biannually. This first research bulletin examines the emotional impact that natural and human-caused disasters have on children and youth, one of the populations most at risk for negative mental health outcomes after a disaster.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/bulletin/SAMHSA\\_DTAC\\_Supplemental\\_Research\\_Bulletin.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/bulletin/SAMHSA_DTAC_Supplemental_Research_Bulletin.htm)

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### DATA SPOTLIGHT: 8.6 MILLION ADULTS HAD SUICIDAL THOUGHTS IN PAST YEAR

According to combined data from the 2009 and 2010 NSDUH, an annual average of 8.6 million adults aged 18 or older had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. Although there is some variation among states in suicide ideation, NSDUH data show that no state is immune from this problem. The percentage of adults with suicide ideation ranged from 3.1 percent in Georgia and Texas to 5 percent in Utah.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/spotlight/Spotl098SuicideByState2012.pdf>

## SAMHSA RESOURCES—TRANSLATED TO PUNJABI

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### TIPS FOR SURVIVORS OF A TRAUMATIC EVENT: MANAGING YOUR STRESS

This fact sheet gives stress prevention and management tips for dealing with the effects of trauma, mass violence, or terrorism. It lists tips to relieve stress, describes how to know when to seek professional help, and provides accompanying resources. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Survivors-of-a-Traumatic-Event-Managing-Your-Stress/All-New-Products/NMH05-0209PUNJABI>

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### HOW TO DEAL WITH GRIEF

This fact sheet explains how to deal with grief as a normal response to loss or death. It describes how grief feels, how long it lasts, the four-step grieving process, and how grief differs from depression. It lists resources for more information. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/How-to-Deal-with-Grief/KEN01-0104PUNJABI>

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### TIPS FOR TALKING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFTER TRAUMATIC EVENTS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

This fact sheet helps parents and teachers recognize and address problems in children and teens affected by trauma after an act of violence. It describes signs of stress reactions that are common in young trauma survivors at different ages, and offers tips on how to help. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/KEN01-0093PUNJABI>

## CDC ARTICLE: FINDINGS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE'S NEW REPORT ON LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

In this essay in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Preventing Chronic Disease* journal, the authors highlight findings from the recent Institute of Medicine report on chronic illness, including the consequences of chronic illness, the need for enhanced surveillance, the state of interventions and policies to decrease the effects of chronic illness, and the need for coordinated action in both health care and community-based settings.

[http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/12\\_0126.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/12_0126.htm)

## AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM: EXPANDS LIBRARY OF TREATMENT COMPARISONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

New publications from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Effective Health Care Program are now available to help healthcare professionals work with their patients to compare treatment options for mental disorders.

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### ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS: OFF-LABEL USE

Summary materials for patients and clinicians outline key findings and clinical implications for various off-label uses of antipsychotics for disorders such as dementia, generalized anxiety disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Resources include: a [clinician research summary](#) that outlines the clinical bottom line; a [summary of treatments for adults and caregivers](#); a [CME/continuing education \(CE\) activity for clinicians](#) to receive free CE credits; a [slide set for clinicians](#) to share the evidence with colleagues and students, and the full [research review](#). <http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productid=778&PC=EHCIT7>

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### DEPRESSION: SECOND-GENERATION ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATIONS

New resources summarize the effectiveness and adverse effects of 13 second-generation antidepressants used to treat adults with depression. The materials are based on a review which found that overall there are no substantial differences in effectiveness among these drugs, but that there are some differences in onset of action and adverse effects, which may affect treatment choices. Resources include: a [clinician research summary](#) that outlines the clinical bottom line, a [patient treatment comparison](#), a [CME/CE activity for clinicians](#) to receive free CE credits, and the [full research review](#). <http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productid=863&PC=EHCIT7>

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### ALCOHOL MISUSE: SCREENING, COUNSELING, REFERRAL

A new research review concludes that behavioral counseling interventions improve certain outcomes for adults with risky/hazardous drinking habits. This report compares clinical studies assessing the effectiveness of screening and behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse in adolescents and adults in primary care settings. The best evidence of effectiveness is for 10-15 minute sessions on behavior improvement focusing on how patients use or misuse alcohol. <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?productid=1134&pageaction=displayproduct&PC=EHCIT7>

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### DEPRESSION: COLLABORATIVE CARE FOR DEPRESSION AND OTHER CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Collaborative care interventions involving close coordination between mental health and primary care providers may improve outcomes for depression symptoms, remission, depression-free days, and quality of life in primary care patients experiencing both depression and other chronic medical conditions, according to this new research review. <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?productid=1220&pageaction=displayproduct&PC=EHCIT7>



## ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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### MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES: A GUIDE ON PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau developed this guide for youth in foster care that looks at ways to handle powerful feelings and behaviors and make healthy choices.

<http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu/learning-center/med-guide>

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### ACHIEVING SAFETY FOR RUNAWAY YOUTH

The latest issue of the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth newsletter examines ways to increase safety for homeless and runaway youth, providing examples of what some organizations are currently doing to achieve safety for their community's youth. The article highlights practices designed to promote runaway prevention and reaching youth before they become homeless by teaching communication skills and coping mechanisms to at-risk youth. <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/tools/exchange>

## HUD HOUSING FOR NEWLY INDEPENDENT YOUTH

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research published a literature review on housing needs and outcomes common among youth who age out of foster care. These youth face unique housing challenges; they often quickly transition from being dependents of the state to being independent young adults. Because of these fast transitions, many have difficulties finding and maintaining suitable housing, and they often have little to no support from family members or the state. The review gives a detailed summary of the issue and focuses on programmatic initiatives geared toward tackling the problem.

[http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/HousingFosterCare\\_LiteratureReview\\_0412\\_v2.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/HousingFosterCare_LiteratureReview_0412_v2.pdf)

## REAL WARRIORS: UNDERSTANDING DEPLOYMENT HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

To maximize the health readiness of the U.S. military, the DOD implemented a multi-step health assessment process for personnel deploying around the world. This three-step process enables service members to take control of their physical and psychological health by identifying any health challenges that may arise throughout the deployment cycle. This Real Warriors article provides an overview of and answers questions about these assessments. <http://www.realwarriors.net/active/deployment/healthassessments.php>

## PTSD QUARTERLY: COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

The latest issue of PTSD Quarterly from the National Center on PTSD reviews research on complementary and alternative treatments for PTSD. <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/newsletters/research-quarterly/v23n2.pdf>

## DEFENCE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE RESOURCES

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### FRONTLINE PSYCH WITH DOC BENDER: PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE MAY DEPEND ON MENTAL FITNESS

Dr. James Bender, a former Army psychologist who deployed to Iraq as the brigade psychologist for the 1st Cavalry Division 4th Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Hood, Texas, writes this first in a series of blogs about the mental aspects of human performance.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=408>

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### CHAPLAIN WORKING GROUP TACKLES TOUGH WARFIGHTER ISSUES

This blog summarizes a recent teleconference of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) Chaplain Working Group about combat and killing in relation to PTSD and spiritual distress. Invited presenter, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, retired Army Ranger and former professor of psychology and military tactics at the United States Military Academy, West Point, shared his views on the psychology of posttraumatic stress, and support for the idea of posttraumatic growth, which suggests that bad things in life can make you stronger. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=412>

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### MILITARY MEDICINE' SUPPLEMENT FOCUSES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH, TBI

In this special edition of *Military Medicine*, DCoE subject matter experts and others share updated research to better understand current psychological health and TBI conditions affecting the health, occupational, and personal functioning of service members and Veterans. Published by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, the journal identifies effective screening tools, diagnostic technologies, and treatments for major areas of concern like PTSD, depression, substance use disorder, and TBI.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=410>

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### DCOE RELEASES TOOL KIT SUPPORTING PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

DCoE developed joint professional military education training in support of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff annual special areas of emphasis. This training is designed to educate leaders on the prevalence of psychological health conditions within the joint force and provide ways they can enhance Total Force Fitness. The training is made up of a training manual, slide presentation, and 50-minute web-based training course. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/NewsArticle.aspx?id=3732>

## NEW FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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### SAFE START CENTER RELEASES TOOLKIT ON CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Safe Start Center has released a toolkit to increase awareness about the prevalence of children's exposure to violence. The online resource includes an infographic and links to tip sheets, guides, and other publications on children's exposure to violence.

[http://ojjdp.gov/enews/12juvjust/120910\\_2.html](http://ojjdp.gov/enews/12juvjust/120910_2.html)

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**DRUG COURT PROGRAMS FACT SHEET**

This new fact sheet describes drug courts, in which court-directed programs aim to reduce drug use relapse. The fact sheet highlights an array of multidisciplinary services, including risk and needs assessment, judicial monitoring and supervision, and treatment and rehabilitation services. Drug courts are tailored to address the specific needs of different populations. For example, family drug courts apply the drug court model to child welfare cases in which substance abuse is identified as a contributing factor to child abuse or neglect. These programs emphasize treatment to aid in the reunification and stabilization of families.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/238527.pdf>

## EVENTS

### BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 1, 2012

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October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. It's a time when communities can unite nationwide to raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, activities, outreach, and education.

**SAMHSA Blog:** <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/10/01/october-is-bullying-prevention-awareness-month/>  
**National Child Traumatic Stress Network Resources:** <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/bullying-prevention-awareness-month>

### WEBINAR: THE REVISED NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

OCTOBER 3, 2012, 3:00-4:30PM ET

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This SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Resource Center webinar will discuss the newly released revised *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* that will guide suicide prevention activities for years to come. The revised strategy emphasizes the role every American can play in protecting their friends, family members, and colleagues from suicide. It also provides guidance for schools, businesses, health systems, clinicians, and many other sectors that takes into account nearly a decade of research and other advancements in the field since the last strategy was published. <http://www.sprc.org/training-institute/r2p-webinars/revise-national-strategy-suicide-prevention>

## **WEBINAR: DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE WITH CROSSOVER YOUTH**

OCTOBER 9, 2012, 12:00 PM ET

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This National Center for Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) webinar in the Crossover Youth and Trauma-Informed Practice Speaker Series will discuss how child serving systems can improve their response to the needs of youth that cross over from child welfare to juvenile justice. Drawing from the framework provided in the Crossover Youth Practice Model, presenters will look at various decision points in the case of a young person, identify how the system can improve its functioning, and describe trauma-informed interventions best suited for these youth.

[http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal\\_d=9&cal\\_m=10&cal\\_y=2012](http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=9&cal_m=10&cal_y=2012)

## **WEBINAR: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF WOMEN VETERANS' UNIQUE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS: CURRENT EVIDENCE, RESEARCH GAPS, AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

OCTOBER 10, 2012, 12:00 PM ET

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This VA Health Services Research and Development Service webinar will explore women veterans' mental health needs. The webinar will provide an overview of recent trends in women veterans' use of VA mental health services and clinical presentations, findings from a recent evidence review of women veterans' mental health, and current research gaps related to gender differences and the unique mental health needs of women veterans. <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/970246478>

## **WEBINAR: SCHOOL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES FOR U.S. ARMY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

OCTOBER 16, 2012, 1:00 PM ET

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This NCTSN webinar in the Military Families Learning Community Series will feature an update on U.S. Army Behavioral Health Services, including (1) types of services and initiatives available to soldiers and their families, (2) challenges facing military children and families, (3) coordinated assets (military and civilian) with a focus on prevention and resilience, (4) and the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program. The presenter will describe Army School Behavioral Health Programs, Child and Family Assistance Centers, and trainings and/or services available through the Army's Child, Adolescent and Family Behavioral Health Proponency.

[http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal\\_d=16&cal\\_m=10&cal\\_y=2012](http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=16&cal_m=10&cal_y=2012)

## **WEBINAR: WELCOME BACK VETERANS PROGRAMS: SUPPORTING AND TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

OCTOBER 23, 2012, 1:00 PM ET

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This NCTSN webinar will describe the work of the McCormick, RAND Corporation, and Duke University's Veteran Culture and Clinical Competence Program providing innovative community-based behavioral health programs to their communities.

[http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal\\_d=23&cal\\_m=10&cal\\_y=2012](http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=23&cal_m=10&cal_y=2012)

## **WEBINAR: UNDERSTANDING PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY POLYPHARMACY IN SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS**

OCTOBER 25, 2012, 1:00-2:30PM

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Save the date for the DCoE's next webinar about polypharmacy in service members and Veterans.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Training/MonthlyWebinars.aspx>

## **2012 SCIENCE OF ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT**

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3, 2012, NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

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HHS, under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), the NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) invite registration for the 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit. The program will facilitate thought-provoking dialogue among presenters from diverse disciplines that are taking unique, complementary, and sometimes distinctively different approaches to health disparities. The overall objective is to forge new alliances and provide a launching pad for creativity, collaboration, and innovation that will accelerate improved health for all Americans and a healthier global society. [http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit\\_site/registration.html](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/registration.html)

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON USING DATA TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY AND ADDRESS DISPARITIES**

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012, SILVER SPRING, MD

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The Knowledge 4Equity National Conference, funded by HHS' OASH and OMH, is designed to help community-based organizations better understand how to access, analyze, and use existing national, state, and local data. <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1136232>

## SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL DRUG FACTS WEEK

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3, 2013

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**National Drug Facts Week** (NDFW) is a health observance week for teens that aims to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse. Through community-based events and activities on the Web, on TV, and through contests, **NIDA** is working to encourage teens to get factual answers from scientific experts about drugs and drug abuse. <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov>

## CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

### COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORTS

The AHRQ Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus its research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

INTERVENTIONS FOR ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (COMMENTS DUE OCTOBER 11, 2012)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-draft-reports/?pageaction=displayDraftCommentForm&topicid=406&productID=1263&ECem=120913>

KEY QUESTIONS: PHARMACOTHERAPY FOR ADULTS WITH ALCOHOL-USE DISORDERS IN OUTPATIENT SETTINGS (COMMENTS DUE OCTOBER 18, 2012)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageAction=displayQuestions&topicID=477&questionSet=212&ECem=120920>

### STOP BULLYING VIDEO CHALLENGE

The Health Resources and Services Administration and the Federal Partners are launching a video challenge to help prevent and end bullying in schools and communities across the nation. This challenge invites youth ages 13 to 18 years old to create a 30- to 60-second video that will inform and motivate youth to prevent bullying, and that promotes an environment where kindness and respect for others matters. The focus should be on how youth can be more than a bystander, rather than a video that solely explains why bullying is wrong. Submissions will be accepted through October 14, 2012 at 11:00 PM ET.

<http://stopbullying.challenge.gov/>

## CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION NEWS

**NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT: BIPOLAR DISORDER PEDIATRIC RESEARCH STUDY****CLINICAL TRIAL OF CITALOPRAM AND METHYLPHENIDATE IN SEVERE MOOD DYSREGULATION**

This study is testing the effectiveness of methylphenidate plus citalopram vs. methylphenidate plus placebo for decreasing irritability in children with severe mood dysregulation (SMD). Children with SMD display chronic anger, sadness, or irritability, as well as hyperarousal (such as insomnia, distractibility, hyperactivity) and extreme responses to frustration (such as frequent, severe temper tantrums).

Children ages seven to 17 with SMD may be eligible to participate in this 12- to 15-week inpatient or outpatient study. This study has four phases. During Phase I participants are gradually withdrawn from all current psychotropic medications. Phase II is a one-week psychotropic medication-free period. During Phase III, which lasts two weeks, participants are treated with methylphenidate alone. Phase IV lasts for eight weeks. During this time, participants continue methylphenidate treatment and are randomly assigned to also receive either citalopram or placebo.

At the end of the study, those who received methylphenidate plus placebo will have the opportunity to receive methylphenidate plus active citalopram if clinically appropriate.

All procedures and medications associated with the research are provided at no cost to participants, and transportation expenses are reimbursed by NIMH. Schooling will be provided while on the inpatient unit or in day treatment.

To find out more information, please call (301) 496-8381 or email [irritablekids@mail.nih.gov](mailto:irritablekids@mail.nih.gov).

National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information on research conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, MD click here <http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov>.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING MAKES IT EASIER TO FIND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CLINICAL TRIALS**

All kinds of volunteers are needed for research to detect, treat, delay, and prevent Alzheimer's—people with the disease, caregivers, and healthy people with and without a family history of memory problems. Now it's easier to find clinical trials about Alzheimer's and related conditions by going to the website of the National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center or calling the Center. The Center's web-based tool allows users to search by treatment or other intervention, location, and age—or to simply click on the U.S. map to find active trials nearby. <http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/clinical-trials>

## FUNDING INFORMATION

BASIC SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH ON CULTURE, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-LM-12-002.html>



**NIMH**  
National Institute  
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.