UPDATE

February 15, 2013

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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
LONG-TERM COURSE OF ADHD DIAGNOSED IN PRESCHOOL YEARS CAN BE CHRONIC AND SEVERE

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that is first diagnosed in the preschool years tends to be chronic and severe, but each child’s course of illness is different, according to long-term follow-up data from the Preschool ADHD Treatment Study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The study was published online February 11, 2013, in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.


THREAT BIAS INTERACTS WITH COMBAT, GENE TO BOOST PTSD RISK; ISRAELI SOLDIERS TRACKED THROUGH DEPLOYMENT TO ID PREDICTORS

Soldiers preoccupied with threat at the time of enlistment or with avoiding it just before deployment were more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), in a study of Israeli infantrymen. Such pre-deployment threat vigilance and avoidance, interacting with combat experience and an emotion-related gene, accounted for more than a third of PTSD symptoms that emerged later, say National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists, who conducted the study in collaboration with American and Israeli colleagues.


PRECURSOR SYMPTOMS TO AUTISM DETECTED IN 6-MONTH-OLD INFANTS

Early signs of autism can be detected in 6-month-old infants, suggested an NIMH–supported study published online this January in *Biological Psychiatry*.


NIMH DIRECTOR THOMAS R. INSEL RECEIVED AMA’S TOP GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARD

On February 12, 2013, the American Medical Association (AMA) honored Thomas R. Insel, M.D., director of the NIMH, with the Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service, the AMA’s highest award for government service in health care.

IMAGING BIOMARKER PREDICTS RESPONSE TO RAPID ANTIDEPRESSANT; SIGNALS DYSFUNCTION IN BRAIN SYSTEM TARGETED BY SCOPOLAMINE

A telltale boost of activity at the back of the brain while processing emotional information predicted whether depressed patients would respond to an experimental rapid-acting antidepressant, an NIH study has found. NIMH researchers reported on their functional magnetic resonance imaging study of a pre-treatment biomarker for the antidepressant response to scopolamine, January 30, 2013, online in *JAMA Psychiatry*.


HHS SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS ON THE STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has written an opinion piece on the state of mental healthcare in the United States. It appeared in the February 4th online edition of *USA Today* and coincides with the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s address to Congress on this topic.


SMOKING AMONG U.S. ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS 70 PERCENT HIGHER THAN FOR ADULTS WITH NO MENTAL ILLNESS; STUDIES SHOW NEED FOR ENHANCED PREVENTION AND QUITTING EFFORTS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Adults with some form of mental illness have a smoking rate 70 percent higher than adults with no mental illness, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The report finds that 36 percent of adults with a mental illness are cigarette smokers, compared with only 21 percent of adults who do not have a mental illness.

Press Release: http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0205_smoking_mentally_ill.html
Report: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6205a2.htm
NIH STUDY FINDS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERAGE ALCOHOL SCREENING

Physicians often fail to ask high school-aged patients about alcohol use and to advise young people to reduce or stop drinking, according to a study led by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). In a random survey of more than 2,500 10th grade students with an average age of 16 years, researchers from NIAAA and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that 34 percent reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Twenty-six percent said they had binged, defined as five or more drinks per occasion for males, and four or more for females. While more than 80 percent of 10th graders said they had seen a doctor in the past year, just 54 percent of them were asked about drinking, and 40 percent were advised about alcohol harms. In addition, among students who had been seen by a doctor in the past year and who reported drinking in the past month, only 23 percent said they were advised to reduce or stop drinking.


PREVENTION EFFORTS FOCUSED ON YOUTH REDUCE PRESCRIPTION ABUSE INTO ADULTHOOD

NIH-funded research shows effectiveness of community-based, substance abuse prevention interventions begun during middle school years. Middle school students from small towns and rural communities who received any of three community-based prevention programs were less likely to abuse prescription medications in late adolescence and young adulthood. The research was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), NIAAA, and NIMH.


REPORTS SHOW FEWER ADOLESCENTS GETTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MESSAGING; ADOLESCENTS’ VIEWS AND USE PATTERNS HAVE CHANGED REGARDING ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA

New reports by SAMHSA find that overall, from 2002 to 2011, the percentage of adolescents receiving substance abuse (SA) prevention messages in the past year from media fell significantly from 83.2 percent in 2002 to 75.1 percent in 2011. School-based prevention messaging also dropped from 78.8 percent in 2002 to 74.5 percent in 2011. The report also finds that roughly 40 percent of adolescents did not talk with their parents in the past year about the dangers of substance use.

SAMHSA Recognizes Team of Behavioral Health Advocates as Champions of Resilience and Recovery

SAMHSA has launched the Voice Awards Fellowship Program -- a pilot project designed to give consumer/peer leaders in the behavioral health community the skills they need to shape public perceptions of mental health and substance use recovery through storytelling. SAMHSA officials and consumer/peer organizations recognize the Voice Awards Fellowship Program’s potential to promote social inclusion in the workplace, in schools, and in communities nationwide.


VA Hires More Mental Health Professionals to Expand Access for Veterans; Part of Comprehensive Effort to Boost Mental Health Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has made significant progress in providing increased access to mental healthcare services for our Nation’s Veterans by hiring new mental health professionals. The mental health professionals hired include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, licensed professional mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and addictions therapists.

Press Release: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2428

VA Issues New Report on Suicide Data

The VA released a comprehensive report on Veterans who die by suicide. In the past, data on Veterans who died by suicide was only available for those who had sought VA healthcare services. This new report also includes state data for Veterans who had not received healthcare services from VA, which will help VA strengthen its aggressive suicide prevention activities. The report indicates that the percentage of Veterans who die by suicide has decreased slightly since 1999, while the estimated total number of Veterans who have died by suicide has increased.


HUD and HHS Partner to Provide Permanent Housing and Services to Low-Income People with Disabilities; $98 Million in Rental Assistance Will Prevent Homelessness and Unnecessary Institutionalization

To prevent thousands of people with disabilities from experiencing homelessness or unnecessary institutionalization, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and HHS announced nearly $98 million in funding for 13 state housing agencies for rental assistance to extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom are transitioning out of institutional settings or are at high risk of homelessness.

NEW ON THE NIMH WEBSITE

DIRECTOR’S BLOG: NETWORK SOLUTIONS

NIMH Director Thomas Insel talks about how the NIMH Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) study is exploring an integrated, multi-component approach to healthcare for schizophrenia. http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2013/network-solutions.shtml

WINTER INSIDE NIMH 2013


SCIENCE/AAAS WEBINAR ON TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH FEATURING NIMH’S CARLOS ZARATE, M.D.

NIMH and Science/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) partnered to conduct an informative webinar on translating neurobiological research into treatments. The archived webinar, which goes into how the Intramural Research Program of the NIH conducts its translational research, is now available for viewing. http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2013/science-aaas-webinar-on-translational-neuroscience-research-featuring-nimhs-carlos-a-zarate-m-d.shtml

NEW ON NIDA WEBSITE

FAMILY CENTERED PROGRAM REDUCES AFRICAN AMERICAN TEENS’ SUBSTANCE USE, CONDUCT PROBLEMS

NIDA-supported researchers have developed a family-centered prevention program for adolescents and successfully tested it in a rural African American population. Youths who participated in the intervention at age 16 reported fewer conduct problems and depressive symptoms and less substance abuse at age 17-18, compared to peers exposed to a control intervention. http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2013/02/saaf-t-reduces-african-american-teens-substance-use-conduct-problems

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: OVERDOSE DEATHS AMONG HOMELESS PERSONS

NCCAM RESEARCH BLOG—TAKING CARE OF THE CAREGIVERS

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) Director Dr. Josephine Briggs discusses NCCAM support for several studies of interventions that aim to help caregivers.

https://nccam.nih.gov/research/blog/caregivers

AHRQ RESEARCH REPORTS

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA: COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING TRAUMA OTHER THAN MALTREATMENT OR FAMILY VIOLENCE

The objectives of this Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) research review was to assess the effectiveness of interventions that target traumatic stress symptoms and syndromes among children exposed to trauma other than maltreatment or family violence, or children exposed to trauma other than maltreatment or family violence who already have symptoms; to identify subgroup characteristics that moderate the effect of an intervention on outcomes; and to assess harms associated with interventions.

http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productID=1383

PRESCRIPTION OF ANTIDEPRESSANTS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS BY OFFICE-BASED PHYSICIANS IS TYPICALLY DONE OFF-LABEL

Pediatricians and other healthcare providers often prescribe antidepressant drugs off-label to children and adolescents, concludes a new study. The researchers analyzed data from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey from 2000 to 2006 to examine off-label prescribing patterns of antidepressants for children and adolescents. They found that among physicians' visits made by the pediatric study population, 3.7 percent involved prescribing, providing, or continuing any of the 12 drugs approved for an indication in pediatric patients ("antidepressant visits"). When the researchers looked only at the antidepressant visits, only 9.2 percent involved FDA-approved pediatric indications with age specification. ADHD was the most frequently associated off-label indication (35.5 percent), followed by depression (35.2 percent), and other diagnoses (including bipolar disorder, anxiety, oppositional defiant disorder, and affective psychosis).

http://www.ahrq.gov/research/feb13/0213RA3.htm

CO-OCCURRING MENTAL DISORDERS SUCH AS PTSD AND PANIC DISORDER PROMPT THE DEPRESSED TO SEEK EARLIER TREATMENT

The lag time between the onset of major depressive disorder (MDD) and beginning treatment is a median of eight years. People with MDD seek treatment for their depression more quickly if they also suffer from panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, PTSD, or other mental disorders, reveals a new study. These individuals were more likely to seek treatment and to seek it earlier than were people with MDD and no co-existing mental disorders.

http://www.ahrq.gov/research/feb13/0213RA25.htm
STATE-BASED AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN PARENT-REPORTED MEDICATION RATES FOR ADHD, 2007–2008

This CDC article reports findings from an analysis of the 2007-2008 National Survey of Children’s Health calculating weighted estimates of parent-reported ADHD and medication treatment among U.S. children aged 4 to 17 years, by state and sex-stratified age. State-based rates of ADHD medication treatment ranged from 33 percent in Nevada to 79 percent in Mississippi; rates of medicated ADHD were higher among boys than girls at every age. State-based investigations of ADHD medication treatment factors are needed, and the findings may inform these public health efforts. http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/12_0073.htm

SAMHSA REPORTS

12TH GRADE DROPOUTS HAVE HIGHER RATES OF CIGARETTE, ALCOHOL, AND ILLICIT DRUG USE

Youth in the 12th grade age range (ages 16 to 18) who have dropped out of school prior to graduating are more likely than their counterparts to be current users of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit drugs, according to this SAMHS report. http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k13/NSDUH036/SR036SubstanceUseDropouts.htm

DATA ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES 2011

This report presents results from the 2011 annual survey of public and private facilities throughout the 50 states providing SA treatment. It reports data on location, facility and client characteristics, and use of alcohol and drug abuse treatment facilities and services. http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA12-4730

LATEST ISSUE OF DIALOGUE


CHILD MALTREATMENT 2011

HHS has released Child Maltreatment 2011, the 22nd in a series of reports designed to provide state-level data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. The annual reports include information on screened-in referrals of abuse and neglect made to child protective services (CPS) agencies, the children involved, types of maltreatment, CPS responses, child and caregiver risk factors, services, and perpetrators. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2011
ACYF REPORTS ON WELL-BEING IN CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

ACYF WELL-BEING PROJECT SUMMARY

In fiscal year 2012, the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) awarded $46.6 million in cooperative agreements and demonstration projects for state and tribal programs to better integrate the promotion of social and emotional well-being for children and families in child welfare programs. This summary describes ACYF’s enhanced focus on well-being, citing the growing number of evidence-based interventions that can restore developmentally appropriate functioning for children and youth who have experienced maltreatment. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/news/acyf-fy2012-projects](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/news/acyf-fy2012-projects)

CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WHO REMAIN IN-HOME AFTER A MALTREATMENT INVESTIGATION NEED SERVICES

This research brief focuses on the need for services for caregivers of children who remain in the home following a child maltreatment investigation. According to the second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), roughly 86 percent of children who are the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect remain in the home following an investigation. According to NSCAW data, caregivers of these children face a number of challenges that may affect their ability to care for their children, shedding light on their need for services. More than 29 percent of NSCAW in-home caregivers ages 18–25 suffered from SA, in contrast to 20 percent of adults in the national comparison group. More than 24 percent of NSCAW in-home caregivers were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, while less than 2 percent of adults in the comparison group were victims in the same timeframe. Nearly 23 percent of NSCAW in-home caregivers suffered from major depression in the past 12 months, in contrast to less than 7 percent of adults in the comparison group. [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/caregivers_spotlight_v5.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/caregivers_spotlight_v5.pdf)

ADOLESCENTS WITH A HISTORY OF MALTREATMENT HAVE UNIQUE SERVICE NEEDS THAT MAY AFFECT THEIR TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

This research brief is centered on the effects of maltreatment on adolescents' ability to transition to adulthood. It highlights NSCAW data suggesting that more than half of youth who were the subject of a maltreatment report are at risk for emotional or behavioral problems. Because children's services and the adult human services system differ in their support for people with maltreatment histories, the authors suggest that a range of services and interventions is needed to help youth in care prepare for successful transitions to adulthood. [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/youth_spotlight_v7.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/youth_spotlight_v7.pdf)
RESOURCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WORKING WITH POLYVICTIMIZED CHILDREN

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Safe Start Center released a new tip sheet, *Tips for Staff and Advocates Working With Children Polyvictimization*. This tip sheet aims to create a greater emphasis on community-based partnerships as a way to offer early intervention services and prevent children's exposure to multiple episodes of victimization. In addition to providing tips for those who work with victimized children, the resource presents common warning signs of exposure to violence in children and teenagers in three age categories—children age 5 and younger, elementary school-age children, and teenagers. [http://www.safestartcenter.org/pdf/Tipsheet_Polyvictimization.pdf](http://www.safestartcenter.org/pdf/Tipsheet_Polyvictimization.pdf)

OJJDP UPDATES STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

The *OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book* offers direct access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics. Its data analysis tools allow users to create custom analyses of juvenile populations, arrests, court cases, and residential placement. [http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/13juvjust/130211.html](http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/13juvjust/130211.html)

ARTICLE ADDRESSES MENTAL HEALTH IN CORRECTIONS

This National Institute of Corrections article discusses how corrections leadership can promote a mission-focused discussion of the jail’s role in community mental health. The article also includes practical actions leaders can take to optimize the delivery of mental healthcare in their facilities. [http://community.nicic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2013/01/18/on-language-and-limits-missions-and-mental-health.aspx](http://community.nicic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2013/01/18/on-language-and-limits-missions-and-mental-health.aspx)

INTERVIEW FOCUSES ON NEUROBIOLOGY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

This National Institute of Justice online interview, *The Neurobiology of Sexual Assault: Implications for First Responders in Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and Victim Advocacy*, addresses research on the neurobiology of trauma and the criminal justice response to sexual assault. Real-world, practical implications are examined for first responders such as law enforcement, nurses, prosecutors, and advocates. [http://nij.gov/events/research-real-world.htm#presenter-campbell](http://nij.gov/events/research-real-world.htm#presenter-campbell)

REAL WARRIORS PODCAST: STAYING CONNECTED CAN BUILD RESILIENCE

This Real Warriors podcast discusses how maintaining close ties with friends, family, and unit members can enhance resilience before, during, and after deployment. [http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode031](http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode031)
DCOE BLOG POSTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND TBI

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) blog post summarizes a recent DCoE webinar about the management of SA and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The webinar discussed key messages for health professionals to consider when working with patients with both SA and TBI. Providers need to be aware that failure to treat SA problems following TBI may be counterproductive to a successful recovery, and lead to added medical, psychiatric, or behavioral problems, unemployment, and family troubles for patients. http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/13-02-05/What_You_Need_to_Know_About_Substance_Abuse_and_TBI.aspx

TWO MOBILE APPS HELP PATIENT-PROVIDER COLLABORATION

This DCoE Blog post provides an overview about two mobile applications (apps) developed by the National Center for Telehealth and Technologys (T2) to improve patient-provider communication. The T2 Mood Tracker mobile app was designed to help patients have an easy and anonymous way to monitor, track, and reference their moods and behaviors as well as other related health information over time. T2 recently released the BioZen mobile app, one of the first apps allowing users to link to multiple physiological sensors simultaneously. With BioZen, clinicians and patients can use biofeedback via Bluetooth without the heavy equipment and cumbersome wires. http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/13-02-12/2_Mobile_Apps_Help_Patient-Provider_Collaboration.aspx

EVENTS

DCOE WEBINAR: CHRONIC PAIN: THE BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH

FEBRUARY 28, 2013, 1:00-2:30PM ET

Save the date for the next DCoE webinar which will address chronic pain. http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Training/Monthly_Webinars.aspx
WEBINAR: PROMOTING CONNECTEDNESS TO PREVENT SUICIDE

FEBRUARY 28, 2013, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM ET

During this Suicide Prevention Resource Center Research to Practice webinar, participants will learn why and how the CDC made connectedness promotion a central focus of its suicide prevention efforts. In addition, presenters will describe programs that have promoted connectedness within specific populations, including older adults, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and African American youth.  


CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORTS

The AHRQ's 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:

MULTIDISCIPLINARY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR MODERATE TO SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN ADULTS: FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS (COMMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH FEBRUARY 21, 2013)

http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayProduct&productId=1388&ECem=130124

FUNDING INFORMATION

EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN LIVING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ni/pdfiles1/nij/sl001032.pdf

FY 2013 FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAMS

http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=287

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM

https://www.bja.gov/Funding/13JMHCPSol.pdf

FY 2013 GRANTS TO ENHANCE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING PROGRAM

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.