The latest science, practice and public information updates from Idaho, NIMH, SAMHSA, and more.

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Mental Health ENews
A service of Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health

In the News

Millions of American Adults are Misusing Prescription Stimulants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has completed a comprehensive analysis of the prevalence of prescription stimulant use in the U.S. adult population. Results based on data analysis from the 2015 and 2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, reveal that 2.1% of the U.S. adult population (5 million individuals) that used prescription stimulants misused the drugs at least once and 0.2% (0.4 million) were considered to have prescription stimulant use disorders.

[Link to Drug Abuse Website]

Autism Prevalence Estimated to be Slightly Higher in CDC’s ADDM Network

According to new data gathered in the CDC’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, estimates reveal that 1 in 59 eight-year-old children has characteristics of an autism spectrum disorder. This new estimate indicates prevalence of 1.7 percent as compared to previous data which indicated 1.5 percent. Scientists believe that this increase is due to the increased efforts of scientists and health professionals to identify children with symptoms of autism spectrum disorders, as well as increased outreach to minority populations who may not have previously received resources necessary for diagnosis.

[Link to CDC Website]

Education and Events
Webinar: The Power of Perceptions and Understanding: Changing How We Deliver Treatment and Recovery Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) will host a four part webcast to educate healthcare professionals about the importance of using approaches which are free of discriminatory attitudes and behaviors when treating individuals with substance abuse disorders. One webinar in this series will be held on May 22, 2018 at 12:00 pm MST. To register and for more information follow the link below.

https://www.samhsa.gov/power-perceptions-understanding

May 2018 National Foster Care Month

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognizes May as National Foster Care Month. For more information about how you can help to enhance the lives of children and youth in foster care, follow the link below.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/

Clinical Trials

The Effects of Cholinesterase Inhibitor Discontinuation (CID)

The VA Office of Research and Development is conducting a study to determine if stopping certain medications that are used to treat dementia will cause worsening from the patient and family perspective. Eligible individuals include those over the age of 60, taking stable doses of donepezil 10 mg or greater per day or galantamine 8 mg or greater per day for at least 1 year, individuals with a primary caregiver who can assume responsibility for medication compliance or a nursing home staff member who can provide information, and more. To find out if you or someone you know is eligible follow the link below.

https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02248636?term=Behaviors+and+Mental+Disorders%5BCONDITION-BROWSE-BRANCH%5D&recrs=abc&map_cnty=US&map_state=US%3AID&fund=01&rank=1

Science Update

Review Article Describes the Role of
Research in Drug Prevention Strategies

A review article written by lead author, Dr. Nora Volkow director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, describes advancements in the understanding of brain development processes in relation to addiction. In this article, authors discuss how decades of research related to both genetics and neuroscience have helped scientists reach new discoveries related to prevention strategies and treatment for opioid, alcohol, and tobacco use disorders.


FDA Warns of Serious Immune System Reaction to Medication Lamictal

The FDA has released a warning about the medication lamotrigine (Lamictal) which can be used for treatment of seizures or bipolar disorder due to the rare occurrence of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) in patients. HLH is an over-activation of the body’s infection-fighting immune system which can eventually lead to hospitalization and death. The FDA advises that if any symptoms of HLH appear, that the affected individual contact their healthcare professionals immediately.

https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm605470.htm

Useful Links

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Clinical Trial Participation

Information regarding clinical trials, how to participate in a study, and study records can be found using the link provided below.

https://clinicaltrials.gov/