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Subject: APA Headlines: Advocates Worried ACA Repeal Will Harm Those With Mental Health, Addiction Problems
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

January 9, 2017

Leading The News

Advocates Worried ACA Repeal Will Harm Those With Mental Health, Addiction Problems.

[USA Today](#) (1/8, O'Donnell, DeMio) reports that as Republicans work to repeal the Affordable Care Act, "people with addiction and mental health disorders, their families and" some healthcare professionals "wonder how patients would maintain their sobriety – and psyches – without insurance coverage." The article says those who have benefited the most from the ACA "are the ones most likely to suffer from poor mental health and addiction." Almost "30% of those who got coverage through Medicaid expansion have a mental disorder, such as anxiety or schizophrenia, or an addiction to substances, such as opioids or alcohol, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration." By comparison, about "20% of the overall population – 68 million people...experienced a mental health or substance abuse disorder in the past year, the American Psychiatric Association says."

Psychiatric News Alert



[Parental Obesity May Increase Children's Risk of Developmental Delays](#)

[Study Suggests Incidence of First-Onset Psychosis May Exceed Prior Estimates](#)

Nominations open for the 2017 Mrazek Award

Recognize a colleague's work in pharmacogenomics – nominate him/her for the 2017 Mrazek Memorial Award. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 15. [Learn more here.](#)



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Exercise May Help Alleviate Depression In Young Children, Study Suggests.

[TIME](#) (1/9, Park) reports researchers found that "children who exercised more, at a moderate to vigorous intensity, showed fewer depressive symptoms years later." The study of 800 children also found that "the amount of time the children spent being sedentary did not predict depression," suggesting that a child's "amount of active time might matter more," even if the child spends a majority of the day sitting. The researchers advise doctors to tell "children with depression and their parents to be more active." The [findings](#) were published in *Pediatrics*.

Government and Psychiatry

McConnell Says GOP Will Develop ACA Replacement Plan Soon After Repeal.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Talley, Subscription Publication) reports that on Sunday, amid questions about Republicans' possible

repeal and delay strategy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said Congress will create a new healthcare system soon after repealing the Affordable Care Act. He stated, "We will be replacing it rapidly after repealing it," although he provided no details, adding, "There ought not to be a great gap between the first step and the second."

The [AP](#) (1/8) reports that questions about what a GOP replacement plan for the ACA would look like "have unnerved key parts of the health care industry, including hospitals and insurers that have warned Congress against uncertainty."

Psychiatry and Public Health

Fort Lauderdale Shooting Reignites Debate On Veterans' Mental Healthcare.

[USA Today](#) (1/7, Swartz, Shesgreen) reported that Esteban Santiago, accused of killing five people in the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport shooting on Friday, allegedly told FBI agents in November that he believed ISIL was controlling his mind and instructing him to commit violent acts on the group's behalf. Whether Santiago's mental health issues resulted from his military service in Iraq remains unclear, however. But, "according to a 2008 study by the RAND Corp., nearly 20% of American service members returning from Afghanistan and Iraq suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder." Still, "only about half of those who need treatment for PTSD seek it." Some advocates for veterans "say there are a number of barriers to treatment, including stigma and shame surrounding mental health problems and long wait times to receive care."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/7, Iaconangelo) reported "studies show that the mentally ill account for just 1 percent of gun violence against strangers, although almost two-thirds of the American public sees such incidents as a reflection of failures in the mental health system, the Pew Research Center" has found. Now, "as details emerge, the Fort Lauderdale shooting may ignite fresh debates over whether law-enforcement and mental-health authorities could have done more, or if they should be able to more freely disclose patient information for the good of public safety."

Advertisement



Survey Explores Reasons Why US Physicians With Mental Health Disorders May Not Seek Treatment.

In "Health & Science," the [Washington Post](#) (1/7, Morris) reported, "A [survey](#) of 2,000 US physicians" published in the November-December issue of *General Hospital Psychiatry* "found that roughly half believed they had met criteria for a mental health disorder in the past but had not sought treatment." The physicians, who "listed a number of reasons they had shunned care, including worries that they'd be stigmatized and an inability to find the time," also "voiced a troubling reason for avoiding treatment: medical licensing applications."

Cocaine Use Increased Among US Young Adults, SAMHSA Report Finds.

[Healio](#) (1/6, Oldt) reported, "Cocaine use increased among young adults on a national level and at state-level in 16 US states," data from "a recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration" reveal. Arthur Hughes, MS, of SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, and colleagues, wrote, "Recent findings suggest that cocaine use may be reemerging as a public health concern in the" US.

Psychiatric Medication Update

Antipsychotics May Be Associated With Acute Respiratory Failure In Patients With COPD, Study Suggests.

[MedPage Today](#) (1/8, Fiore) reports that research suggests antipsychotics may be associated with "acute respiratory failure in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)." Investigators found, "in a population-based, case-crossover study" that included data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database that "more COPD patients had filled a prescription for antipsychotics 2 weeks before having acute respiratory failure compared with a control period several months prior." The [findings](#) were published online Jan. 4 in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Patients With Depression And Comorbid Panic Disorder Appear To Experience Significantly More Side Effects From Antidepressants, Study Reveals.

[Medical Daily](#) (1/6, Dovey) reported that patients with depression who "also suffer from panic disorder" appear to "experience significantly more...side effects" from antidepressants than patients without panic disorder, researchers found. The [findings](#) of the 808-patient study were published online Jan. 3 in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*.

Other News

Opioid Overdose Deaths Continue To Climb, Federal Data Indicate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/6, Kamp, Subscription Publication) reported that new Federal data indicate opioid overdose fatalities rose 16

percent in 2015 from the previous year, totaling 33,091. Many local jurisdictions are still compiling data from last year, but many expect there was another increase in 2016.

The [New York Times](#) (1/6, Subscription Publication) reported that opioid overdose deaths “were nearly equal to the number of deaths from car crashes” in 2015, while “for the first time, deaths from heroin alone surpassed gun homicides.”

Magic Mushroom Treatments May Result In Bad Trips For Some Patients, Study Finds.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (1/6, McDaniels) “Picture of Health” blog reported investigators “using magic mushrooms to treat mental illness and help people quit smoking found that some who take the drug often have such bad trips they put themselves or other in dangerous situations.” After surveying some “2,000 people who had a bad experience when taking magic mushrooms,” researchers found that 10 percent of respondents “said they put themselves or others in harm’s way and most said it was one of the top 10 biggest challenges of their lives.” The survey’s [findings](#) were published in the December issue of the Journal of Psychopharmacology. [Medscape](#) (1/6, Brooks) also covered the story.

One In Five US Children Has Or Has Had A Debilitating Mental Health Disorder, NIMH Statistics Indicate.

In the [Washington Post](#) (1/6) “On Parenting” blog, author Katie Hurley, LCSW, a child and adolescent psychotherapist, wrote, “According to recent statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health,” one in five US children “has or has had a debilitating mental health disorder.” In other words, “in a classroom of 20 students...four of those children could be struggling at any given time with anxiety, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or another issue.” Hurley went on to provide a list of “some things school faculty members can do to improve students’ daily mental health, even if there is no full-time therapist on staff.”

Friday's Lead Stories

- [Ryan Vows GOP Will Pass Measures To Repeal And Replace ACA This Year.](#)
- [Texas House Committee Warns Of Perilous Consequences If State Does Not Take Bolder Steps To Fix Its Mental Health System.](#)
- [Minnesota One Of Eight States To Pilot Innovative Mental Healthcare And Substance Abuse Program.](#)
- [Adults with Diabetes May Often Remain Undiagnosed For Cognitive Disorders, Researchers Say.](#)

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