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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Report From US Surgeon General Highlights Scope Of Addiction Crisis  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:42:52 AM

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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

November 17, 2016

### Leading The News

#### Report From US Surgeon General Highlights Scope Of Addiction Crisis.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Bernstein) says that on Thursday, US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy unveiled a landmark report which “places drug and alcohol addiction alongside smoking, AIDS and other public health crises of the past half-century, calling the current epidemic ‘a moral test for America.’”

[USA Today](#) (11/17, Hafner) says the report, called “Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General’s Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health,” found that “one in seven Americans,” or nearly 21 million people, will face substance addiction, but only about “10% of those now addicted receive treatment.” Data also show one person “dies every 19 minutes from opioid or heroin overdose alone.”

On its website, [ABC News](#) (11/17, Mohny) says that at present, “the number of people with a substance use disorder exceeds the number of people diagnosed with cancer – any kind of cancer, according to the report.” In addition, while data show “32,744 people died from car accidents in 2014, the report found that approximately 50,000 people died from either an opioid, alcohol or other drug overdose that year.”

[Reuters](#) (11/17, Clarke) says this was “the first-ever Surgeon General’s report on substance abuse,” and Murthy “said he hopes it will galvanize work on the issue the way a similar report 50 years ago sparked decades of effort to combat smoking.”

#### Psychiatric News Alert



[Adjunctive Taurine May Reduce Psychotic Symptoms in Patients With FEP](#)

[Smartphone App Found to Help Users Cope With Emotional Difficulties](#)

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- [Adult or Adolescent Psychiatrists](#) with Dignity Medical Group in central Calif.
- [Multiple telepsychiatry opportunities](#) with JSA Telepsychiatry.



### Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

#### A Reduced Sense Of Smell May Help Predict A Person’s Risk For Alzheimer’s, Small Study Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (11/16, Preidt) reported that a reduced sense of smell may help predict a person’s risk for Alzheimer’s, researchers found in a study including 183 people who underwent smell, “genetic, imaging, and memory tests.” The findings were published online Nov. 14 in

the Annals of Neurology.

## **Exercise May Be Effective Treatment For Depression And May Even Help Prevent It, Studies Indicate.**

The [New York Times](#) (11/16, Reynolds, Subscription Publication) reports, "Exercise may be an effective treatment for depression and might even help prevent us from becoming depressed in the first place," the findings of three studies suggest. The three "studies pool outcomes from past research involving more than a million men and women and, taken together, strongly suggest that regular exercise alters our bodies and brains in ways that make us resistant to despair." The studies can be seen [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

## **Review Finds Evidence Cannabis May Likely Benefit People Dealing With Depression, Social Anxiety, And PTSD.**

[TIME](#) (11/16, Sifferlin) reports that in a literature review, researchers have "found evidence that cannabis can likely benefit people dealing with depression, social anxiety and" post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The findings were published in the Clinical Psychology Review.

## **Atopic Dermatitis May Be Associated With Increased Risk For ADD, AD/HD In Both Children And Adults, Research Suggests.**

[HCP Live](#) (11/16, Bender) reports, "Atopic dermatitis (AD) was associated with increased risk for" attention-deficit disorder (ADD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) "in both children and adults, and risk was further heightened for those with more severe AD symptoms and frequent sleep interruption," researchers found after evaluating "cross-sectional data from 19 population-based surveys, including the National Health Interview Survey 1997-2013 and the National Survey of Children's Health 2003/4 and 2007/8." The [findings](#) were published in the November issue of the British Journal of Dermatology.

## **Scan Study Identifies Significant Structural And Functional Connectivity Features Associated With AD/HD.**

[Healio](#) (11/16, Oldt) reports researchers with the National Human Genome Research Institute have "identified significant inheritable structural and functional connectivity features associated with" attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) "and indicated that shared genetic factors may contribute to phenotypic associations between functional and structural connections." Investigators arrived at their conclusions after evaluating "24 extended multigenerational families with" AD/HD by using "diffusion tensor imaging" and "resting-state functional MRI," then confirming the findings "in 52 nuclear families." The [findings](#) were published online Nov. 16 in JAMA Psychiatry.

### **Government and Psychiatry**

## **Future Of Mental Health Benefits In Texas Unclear Under Trump Presidency.**

The [Texas Tribune](#) (11/17, Evans) reports that it is "unclear how" mental health benefits in Texas "will fare under a Donald Trump presidency, and states may have to take up their own legislation" to protect health benefits. The Tribune says there are "still notable gaps in mental health care coverage" under the Affordable Care Act, according to a report from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

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### **Psychiatry and Public Health**

## **Gun Control Laws Mandating A Background Check Before Temporary Transfer Of A Gun May Interfere With Suicide Prevention Efforts, Researchers Say.**

[Reuters](#) (11/16, Seaman) reports, "Gun control laws that mandate a background check before a gun can be temporarily transferred to a friend or family member may interfere with suicide prevention efforts," researchers concluded after examining "what happens when people want to temporarily remove firearms from their home because they fear someone in the house might be considering a suicide attempt." The [findings](#) were published online Nov. 14 in JAMA Internal Medicine.

### **Other News**

## **Brodmann's Area 40 May Be Responsible For Cognitive Reserve In Patients With MS Who Have Cognitive Dysfunction, Small Scan Study Indicates.**

[MedPage Today](#) (11/16, Fiore) reports that "a specific region of the brain" called Brodmann's area 40 "may be responsible for cognitive reserve in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) who have cognitive dysfunction," researchers found in a functional magnetic resonance study. The 32-patient study revealed that "Brodmann's area 40 remained active in MS patients after a cognitive training program,

suggesting that it may play a role in compensating for brain damage." The findings were presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting.

### Wednesday's Lead Stories

- **AD/HD Diagnosis Rate, Stimulant Medication Use Have Levelled Off Since Implementation Of New Treatment Guidelines, Researchers Say.**
- **Lithium May Be Associated With Reduced Cancer Risk, Study Suggests.**
- **SAMHSA May Publish Final Rule On Mental-Health Data Sharing In Defiance Of Congress.**
- **Incidence Of FEP May Be Higher Among Certain Populations, Study Indicates.**

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