

THE FINAL FIX

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ADDICTION

- **Alcohol brands witnessed a 327% spike in social media engagement in March.**
- **Significant surge in cannabis use and its cultivation as heroin is less available and methadone prescription can be difficult to access due to services closing or limiting access during COVID 19.**
- **Homeless addicts are being moved off the streets.**
- **Before the first COVID-19 case in the United States, a different epidemic—the opioid crisis—was taking the lives of 130 Americans per day.**
- **COVID 19 will disproportionately affect socially marginalized persons with medical and psychiatric comorbid conditions.**
- **Besides the threat of infection to persons with OUD (Opioid Use Disorder), there is serious risk that system-level gains in expanding access to medication for OUD, conducting critical research, and exacting legal reparations against opioid manufacturers will all reverse.**
- **According to the United States Treatment Episode Data Set, in 2014, more than half of those receiving methadone/buprenorphine either left treatment by choice (41 percent) or were discharged by their clinic (11 percent) for non-compliance. The stats on this are expected to be much higher for 2019-2020 because of COVID 19.**
- **Some US methadone clinics still require patients to attend in person for dosing, placing the patient and pharmacist at risk of COVID 19.**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-the-coronavirus-is-hurting-drug-and-alcohol-recovery/>

- **Quote from Nora Volkow (Director of NIDA) ...**

“The Recovery facility shutdowns present yet another risk factor – social isolation.

Social isolation does not just contribute to the epidemic of addiction, but it also increases the likelihood that people take drugs.” It’s part of the reason opioid use ballooned amid the 2008 recession. “The opioid epidemic in our country basically grew out of hopelessness and isolation ... and to the extent that the pandemic is going to exacerbate the economic and social situation of certain people, this could increase the risk of people turning to drugs.”

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/10/trump-officials-health-experts-worry-coronavirus-will-set-back-opioid-fight-179257>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20200403110>

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