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Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health
FAMILY, COMMUNITY BONDS HELP DECREASE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OF FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS

Acceptance and support from communities and families appear to lessen the toll of mental health conditions experienced by former child soldiers transitioning to early adulthood, according to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study. When civil war broke out in Sierra Leone in 1991, several warring factions abducted children and forced their involvement in armed groups. Former child soldiers may face rejection from family and their communities, along with physical injuries and psychological trauma. The authors concluded that efforts to increase social and family acceptance while reducing stigma remain important components of interventions to help former child soldiers adapt to post-conflict life.


An article about the study appears in the latest issue of the NIH Research Matters newsletter.

https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/social-acceptance-helps-mental-health-after-war-trauma

STUDY OF MULTIETHNIC GENOMES IDENTIFIES 27 GENETIC VARIANTS ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE

In an NIH-funded study published in the journal Nature, researchers identified 27 new genomic variants associated with conditions such as blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, cigarette use, and chronic kidney disease in diverse populations. The study aimed to better understand how genomic variants influence the risk of forming certain diseases in people of different ethnic groups. The findings show that the frequency of genomic variants associated with certain diseases can differ from one group to another. The study is part of the Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) consortium, which was formed in 2008. Through PAGE and subsequent studies, researchers will be able to identify genomic variants that are associated with diseases from those that are not, but also to understand how such associations differ across race and ethnicity. This improved understanding can be used to target and tailor new treatments to maximize benefit across multiple populations.

OUR BRAINS APPEAR UNIQUELY TUNED FOR MUSICAL PITCH

The results of a study partly funded by NIH suggest that speech and music may have shaped the human brain’s hearing circuits. To test this, the researchers played a series of harmonic sounds, or tones, to healthy volunteers and monkeys. Meanwhile, functional magnetic resonance imaging was used to monitor brain activity in response to the sounds. The researchers found evidence suggesting the human brain was highly sensitive to tones. The human auditory cortex was much more responsive than the monkey cortex when they looked at the relative activity between tones and equivalent noisy sounds. The study highlights the promise of Sound Health, a joint project between the NIH and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in association with the National Endowment for the Arts, that aims to understand the role of music in health. [https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/our-brains-appear-uniquely-tuned-musical-pitch](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/our-brains-appear-uniquely-tuned-musical-pitch)

NIH FUNDS CLINICAL TRIALS USING GENOMICS TO TREAT CHRONIC DISEASES

The NIH will fund clinical trials to assess the benefits, applicability, and efficacy of applying genomic medicine interventions to improve management of diseases such as high blood pressure, depression, and chronic pain. The trials are part of the second phase of the Implementing Genomics in Practice (IGNITE) Network and will begin in 2020. The second of two initial trials will focus on pain and depression – two conditions where finding safe and effective drug treatments have been difficult. Because there are few clinically useful predictors for whether a depression treatment will be successful, patients often struggle to find effective therapies. To combat these issues, the study seeks to test whether patients with acute postsurgical pain, chronic pain, and depression have better clinical outcomes if pharmacogenomics guide opioid and antidepressant prescriptions. With the beginning of these clinical trials, the IGNITE network aims to develop and facilitate the application of genomics to diverse clinical care settings. [https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funds-clinical-trials-using-genomics-treat-chronic-diseases](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funds-clinical-trials-using-genomics-treat-chronic-diseases)

VA AND WHITE HOUSE LAUNCH VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

As part of the United States (U.S.) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and White House initiative to curb Veteran suicide, a cabinet-level task force has been launched to develop a national roadmap. The President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) task force will include a community integration and collaboration proposal, a national research strategy, and an implementation strategy. Efforts supporting the development of the roadmap are under way and are on target for the March 2020 delivery to the White House. [https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5272](https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5272)
PSYCHOACTIVE MEDICATION USE AMONG OLDER COMMUNITY-DWELLING AMERICANS

A recently published Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) article found that in 2013 more than half of all older Americans used at least one psychoactive medication known to increase the risk of falls. The most frequently used medication classes were opioids, benzodiazepines, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, and anticonvulsants. Medication use is considerably higher than previous reports from 1996 using the same data source. Among most psychoactive medication classes observed, women had higher usage than men did. Medication management can optimize health and reduce older adult falls.


RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

NEW FROM NIMH

NIMH DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE: PLANTING THE SEED: TODAY’S RESEARCH SHAPES TOMORROW’S BREAKTHROUGHS

NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon discusses how gains made by researchers in the past shape and influence the work of future researchers to bring about new discoveries in health.


WEBINAR FOR NURSES: HOW TO USE THE ASQ TO DETECT PATIENTS AT RISK FOR SUICIDE

A video and transcript of this webinar about the Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (known as ASQ) tool developed by NIMH scientist, Dr. Lisa Horowitz, is now available.


BRAIN EXPERTS PODCAST: HOW CAN COMPUTER MODELS HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BRAIN?

This podcast with NIMH’s Dr. Niko Kriegeskorte, a computational neuroscientist who studies how our brains enable us to see and understand the world around us, is now available along with a transcript.

NEW FROM NIH

NIH RESEARCH MATTERS: LANGUAGE PATTERNS MAY PREDICT PSYCHOSIS

The current issue of this newsletter highlights a proof-of-concept study in which spoken language patterns predicted which people at risk for psychosis would progress to full psychosis within two years with 93% accuracy. https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/language-patterns-may-predict-psychosis

NIH NEWS IN HEALTH: PARENTING TEENS - GUIDING KIDS THROUGH TURBULENT YEARS

The June issue of this newsletter includes an article about the brain changes that occur during adolescence, the potential for risky behaviors and mental health issues during this time period, and what parents can do to support their teens through these turbulent years. https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2019/06/parenting-teens

MEDLINEPLUS: THE ABCs OF CBD: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

The Spring 2019 issue of this magazine features an interview with a National Institute on Drug Abuse scientist who answers questions about the science behind CBD (or cannabidiol) and its potential use as a treatment for various health conditions, including mental illnesses and substance use disorders. https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/the-abcs-of-cbd-separating-fact-from-fiction

MEDLINEPLUS: POSTPARTUM HEALTH AND DEPRESSION

This MedlinePlus issue provides information about the importance of postpartum health and the signs and symptoms of postpartum depression. https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNLMMP/bulletins/24bd8db

NIAAA SPECTRUM: IMPROVING TREATMENT BY MEASURING NEUROSCIENCE DOMAINS

The Spring 2019 issue of this newsletter describes research that led to the identification of factors corresponding to three functional processes considered relevant to addiction: (1) incentive salience: giving increased motivational value to an object or event paired with alcohol, (2) negative emotionality: increased anxiety, negative mood, irritability, or other unpleasant feelings, and (3) executive functioning: how individuals organize behavior toward future goals and make choices. The findings ultimately could lead to more effective individualized treatments for alcohol use disorders. https://www.spectrum.niaaa.nih.gov/news-from-the-field/news-from-the-field-03.html
NEW FROM HHS

NEW ONLINE PROGRAM: IMPROVING CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of Minority Health is offering this free, accredited e-learning program to help to develop behavioral health providers' knowledge and skills related to culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/behavioral-health

STOPBULLYING.GOV UPDATE

This issue of the Stopbullying.gov e-newsletter recognizes the Pride observance in June and focuses on the importance of schools’ providing an inclusive and supportive school environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth.

MENTAL ILLNESS 101: EATING DISORDERS WEBINAR ARCHIVE

A video archive of this HHS Partnership Center webinar is now available.
https://zoom.us/recording/play/TpNWNBd9yOlN74Wul3s3SqwZp7P0QXrplWizxguFryysp7Rom9yPakQL_910MP_?continueMode=true

NEW FROM AHRQ

PSNET PRIMER ON PROVIDER BURNOUT ADDRESSES ORGANIZATIONAL INFLUENCES

A new Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) primer looks at the impact of health care provider burnout on the delivery of safe and high-quality care and ways the issue is being addressed from a systems perspective. Access the new primer from AHRQ’s Patient Safety Network.
https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/49/Burnout?utm_source

NEW FROM CDC

DEATHS: LEADING CAUSES FOR 2017

This National Vital Statistics Report from the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) presents final 2017 data on the 10 leading causes of death in the U.S., including suicide, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_06-508.pdf
SUICIDE RATES FOR FEMALES AND MALES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY: UNITED STATES, 1999 AND 2017

This NCHS Health E-Stat provides supplemental information on suicide rates by sex, age, and race and ethnicity. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/suicide/rates_1999_2017.htm

COORDINATED CARE PLAN TO PREVENT OLDER ADULT FALLS

Health care providers, including pharmacists, play a vital role in managing older adults’ exposure to psychoactive medications. This CDC publication offers health care providers and systems a framework for implementing an elderly fall prevention program. https://www.cdc.gov/steadi/pdf/Steadi-Coordinated-Care-Final-4_24_19.pdf

NEW FROM DOD

DOD OFFICIALS URGE TROOPS TO SEEK MENTAL HEALTH HELP WITHOUT FEAR

This Department of Defense (DOD) article highlights the DOD’s remarks to lawmakers during a joint hearing of the House Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on military personnel and the House Veterans Affairs Committee’s health subcommittee that solving suicide is a shared challenge in both the military and civilian societies. https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1858948/dod-officials-urge-troops-to-seek-mental-health-help-without-fear/

NEW FROM SAMHSA

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BAROMETER, VOLUME 5

This report is one of a series of national, regional, and state reports that provide a snapshot of behavioral health in the U.S. The reports present a set of substance use and mental health indicators as measured through the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services. The report is available for download. https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Behavioral-Health-Barometer-Volume-5/sma19-Baro-17-US

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY 2019 ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View a two-part webcast of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) recent event in observance of National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day to learn about prevention, treatment, and recovery supports for older adults. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xshOjy5m3aU; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQp5Rmwn_Dg
TOOLS FOR FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH

It is estimated that 30% of first responders develop behavioral health conditions such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The latest issue of the SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center Bulletin describes resources available from SAMHSA to help disaster behavioral health professionals and first responders understand risk factors for PTSD, its signs and symptoms, and when to seek additional help.

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/24c79df

FINDING HELP EARLY: COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES FOR CLINICAL HIGH RISK AND EARLY PSYCHOSIS

The SAMHSA National TA Network for Children’s Behavioral Health (TA Network) Telegram newsletter includes a link to view this recent SAMHSA-sponsored webinar.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vDb0FiV9A8&feature=youtu.be

FORENSIC ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (FACT): A SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS INVOLVED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This brief provides an overview of Forensic Assertive Community Treatment — an intensive service delivery model intended for people with serious mental illnesses who are involved in the criminal justice system.


MAT INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: ADDRESSING MEDICATION DIVERSION

This action brief provides criminal justice stakeholders, correctional facility leadership, and correctional staff with helpful strategies and techniques to reduce diversion of Medication-Assisted Treatment medications. The information for this brief was developed by a panel of correctional leaders and experts throughout the U.S.


SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

This report provides evidence-based practices for screening and assessment of adults in the justice system with mental illness, substance use disorders, or both. It discusses the importance of instrument selection for screening and assessment and provides detailed descriptions of recommended instruments.

TAILORING CRISIS RESPONSE AND PRE-ARREST DIVERSION MODELS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

This action brief provides rural communities recommended strategies for adapting promising or proven interventions to better support crisis response and pre-arrest diversion in their communities. It is the first of three briefs developed from the SAMHSA Pre-Arrest Diversion Expert Panel. https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tailoring-Crisis-Response-and-Pre-Arrest-Diversion-Models-for-Rural-Communities/PEP19-CRISIS-RURAL

NEW FROM VA

FROM SCIENCE TO PRACTICE: TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS AGES 18 TO 34

The VA has added two new literature reviews to its "From Science to Practice" series, which helps clinicians put suicide prevention research into practice. They cover support for Veterans transitioning out of service and clinical assessment for Veterans ages 18 to 34. https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/resources.asp?utm_

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAMHSA TA NETWORK JULY WEBINARS

The SAMHSA TA Network is sponsoring several webinars during the month of July in the areas of rural mental health, system of care leadership, and young adult services and supports. https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/our-work/national/network/learning-communities/

NIH ALL OF US JOURNEY EXHIBIT

The All of Us Journey Exhibit and the All of Us Mobile Education and Enrollment Center visit communities nationwide to raise awareness about the All of Us Research Program. Both exhibits feature hands-on activities for visitors to learn about research, precision medicine, and the opportunity to enroll in All of Us. The exhibit will appear at events in July in Illinois, Montana, Oregon, and Wisconsin. https://allofus.nih.gov/news-events-media/all-us-journey#upcoming-events-4
INTERDEPARTMENTAL SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 2, 2019, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM ET, ROCKVILLE, MD

A full committee meeting of the HHS Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee will be held at SAMHSA headquarters and available via WebEx.

EVIDENCE-BASED SUICIDE ASSESSMENT: GUIDANCE FOR CLINICIANS AND POLICY MAKERS

JULY 8, 2019, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

The VA’s Health Services Research and Development Service is hosting this webinar on evidence-based suicide assessment for Veterans.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

JULY 9, 2019, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This SAMHSA Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy training webinar is designed to assist community organizations in building long-term capacity to meet the needs of the people they support before, during, and after a disaster. Presenters will emphasize the role of organizations at each stage of disaster preparedness. The presentation also will cover steps that organizational leadership can take to improve resilience and ensure the continuity of their work for the communities they serve.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disaster-preparedness-training-for-community-organizations-webinar-tickets-56037367274
NIH ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM: TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND LISTENING SESSIONS

JULY 16, 2019, 2:30-5:00 PM ET, WASHINGTON, DC; AUGUST 21, 2019, 2:30-5:00 PM ET, DENVER, CO

NIH will take part in several upcoming 2019 HHS Regional Consultations to discuss the All of Us Research Program in-person with Tribal leaders. The goal is to engage with Tribal Nations to facilitate the inclusion of American Indian and Alaska Native populations in this program. Opportunities to participate in listening sessions throughout the summer will be posted on the All of Us Tribal Engagement website as details become available. https://allofus.nih.gov/about/tribal-engagement/all-us-tribal-leader-and-urban-indian-organization-letter

WEBINAR: WHO’S LEADING THE LEADING HEALTH INDICATORS? MENTAL HEALTH

JULY 18, 2019, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Join this webinar to learn about progress made toward achieving the Healthy People 2020 Mental Health Leading Health Indicators. This webinar will highlight the Zero Suicide initiative and its impact in state and federal sectors. Participants also will learn how the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI pioneered the precursor to the Zero Suicide initiative — Perfect Depression Care — to prevent suicide among their patients. https://health.gov/news/events/2019/06/webinar-whos-leading-the-leading-health-indicators-mental-health-2/?source=

NCCIH AT 20: A CATALYST FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019, BETHESDA, MD

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health will host a one-day research symposium to celebrate the Center’s 20th anniversary. This event will celebrate progress in complementary and integrative health research and look to the future of the field. The day will feature a Stephen E. Straus Distinguished Lecture in the Science of Complementary Therapies by Dr. Lorimer Moseley of the University of South Australia titled, “Why We Need a Pain Revolution: From Science to Practice,” lightning round presentations with early-stage investigators, and two panel discussions on pain research in military and Veteran populations as well as the future of natural products research. Register to attend in person or via videocast. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nccih-at-20-a-catalyst-for-integrative-health-research-tickets-58142747523
OPEN FOR COMMENT: TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

AHRQ’s Effective Healthcare Program is accepting comments on a draft report about the findings of a systematic review to examine the efficacy and comparative effectiveness of both benefits and harms of commonly used types of nonpharmacological and pharmacological treatments of child and adolescent depressive disorders. Comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. ET on July 5, 2019. https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/webform/topics/childhood-depression/comments-report

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE

Abstracts are now being accepted for the 12th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. More than 1,200 attendees are expected at the December 4–6, 2019 conference, co-hosted by the NIH and AcademyHealth, in Arlington, VA. The event aims to advance the use of evidence to inform decisions that will improve individual and community health. Submitted abstracts will be scored according to several criteria, with preference given to those that focus on the conference theme and tracks; utilize rigorous and relevant research methods; present high-quality data to support findings; and adequately demonstrate how the study will advance the field. Abstracts are due by 5 p.m. ET on July 16, 2019. https://www.academyhealth.org/page/2019-di-call-abstracts

PARTICIPATE IN NIH OBSSR’S BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH HEALTH/PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS CROWDSOURCE

The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is seeking comment and input from the research and health/public health communities to help inform a list of impactful public health and healthcare accomplishments/contributions resulting from behavioral and social sciences research (BSSR). Follow this link to view how NIH defines BSSR. Note: This BSSR accomplishments list will be broad and will not be limited to NIH-funded research. OBSSR is accepting feedback through its IdeaScale website until midnight ET on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. Contact OBSSRnews@mail.nih.gov for inquiries or more information. https://obssr.ideascale.com/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
TELEMENTAL HEALTH FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SETTINGS


CLINICAL TRIALS PARTICIPATION NEWS

NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT

DEPRESSION AND BRAIN FUNCTION

This inpatient and/or outpatient depression research study tests the effects of the combination of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and psychotherapy on brain function. Participation lasts eight weeks, followed by three once-a-month follow up visits or phone calls and includes research evaluations, brain scans, and active TMS and psychotherapy, or inactive TMS and psychotherapy. The study team is recruiting adults ages 18-65 with major depressive disorder, who are free of other serious medical conditions. Individuals who are currently taking antidepressants may still be eligible. For more information, call 1-877-MIND-NIH, (1-877-646-3644), TTY: 1-877-411-1010, or send an email to moodresearch@mail.nih.gov, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, Protocol #17-M-0147.


FUNDING INFORMATION

MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PRACTITIONER DATA

MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS PREVALENCE STUDY

BRAIN INITIATIVE: MARMOSET COORDINATION CENTER (U24 CLINICAL TRIALS NOT ALLOWED)
BRAIN INITIATIVE: MARMOSET COLONIES FOR NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH (U24 CLINICAL TRIALS NOT ALLOWED)

BRAIN INITIATIVE: RESEARCH TO DEVELOP AND VALIDATE ADVANCED HUMAN CELL-BASED ASSAYS TO MODEL BRAIN STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION (R01 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)

LIMITED COMPETITION: CONTINUATION OF THE CENTER FOR GENOMIC STUDIES ON MENTAL DISORDERS (U24 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)

CLINICAL STUDIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS (COLLABORATIVE R01 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PUBLISH A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NIH BLUEPRINT FOR NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH EDUCATION PROGRAM ON TRANSLATIONAL DEVICES (R25)

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 increase the public’s access to science-based mental health information. For more information about the program, please visit http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml. To subscribe to receive the Update, go to http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.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.