The News Brief is provided to you by the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at Brandeis University. The News Brief consolidates information on various topics related to prescription drugs which may be of interest to PDMPs and other state agencies, federal partners, and other stakeholders. The TTAC team will strive to include relevant articles, news stories, and general information specific to PDMPs as well as general prescription drug facts. The TTAC welcomes comments and suggestions about the information included in the News Brief. Please send your comments to: info@pdmpassist.org.

**Items of Interest**

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

2013 Prevention Status Reports by State  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause  
Drug Enforcement Administration

Drug Abuse Costs Employers $81 Billion Per Year  
EHS Today

CVS Probed in Alleged Loss of Painkillers  
Los Angeles Times

Heroin Research Report  
National Institute of Drug Abuse

Why Aren’t Doctors Drug Tested?  
New York Times

Hand-Held Treatment for Overdoses Is Approved  
New York Times

Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse: Lessons Learned from an NGA Policy Academy  
National Governors Association

Drug Smugglers Have a New Cargo: Cheap Prescriptions Meds from Mexico  
PBS Newshour

Massachusetts Bans Sale of FDA-approved Zogenix Painkiller  
Reuters

HHS Releases Security Risk Assessment Tool on with HIPAA Compliance  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

VA Initiative Shows Early Promise in Reducing Use of Opioids for Chronic Pain  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Zohydro Maker Touts Drug Safety Board  
US News and World Report

New Herbal Stimulant Creates Buzz, Worry about Addiction  
USA Today

Marijuana Industry’s Full-Time Lobbyist  
Washington Post
Google Faces New Pressure from States to Crack Down on Illegal Online Drug Sales

**Prescription Drug Studies and Research**

**Opioid Analgesic Prescribing for Headaches Rises in U.S. Emergency Departments**

American College of Medical Toxicology

**Prescriptions for Opioids Stabilizing After Fivefold Increase in 10-Year Span**

HealthCanal

**ERs Dispensing More Narcotic Painkillers: Study**

HealthDay

**Many US Seniors Get Prescription Painkillers from Multiple Doctors**

HealthDay

**Prescription Drug Monitoring and Dispensing Prescription Opioids**

National Institutes of Health

**5 Things to Know about Opioid Overdoses**

Office of National Drug Control Policy

**What America's Users Spend on Illegal Drugs: 2000-2010**

Office of National Drug Control Policy

**America's New Drug Policy Landscape**

PewResearch Center for the People & the Press

**Using the Theory of Planned Behavior to Examine Pharmacists’ Intention to Utilize a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Database**

Science Direct

**Upcoming Training Opportunities and Conferences**

*(add city)*

**May**

4-7  National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Annual Technology & Business Conference - Scottsdale, AZ

7-9  20th National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) Conference on Drugs, Crime & Reentry - Birmingham, AL

15-16 National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators – Multi-State Training Conference - Rising Sun, IN

16-20 2014 National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers: The Future of Addiction Treatment – Charlotte, NC

**June**

8-10  2014 International Conference on Opioids - Boston, MA

23-27 Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine - Cambridge, MA

28-29 DEA Pharmacy Diversion Awareness Conference - Phoenix, AZ

**July**
PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Contact – You can reach the TTAC team by telephone 781-609-7741 or e-mail info@pdmpassist.org.

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