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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Survey Of Transgender Americans Reveals Pervasive Discrimination, Harassment.  
**Date:** Friday, December 9, 2016 8:16:51 AM

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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

December 9, 2016

### Leading The News

## Survey Of Transgender Americans Reveals Pervasive Discrimination, Harassment.

The [AP](#) (12/8, Cray) reports that the biggest [survey](#) to date "of transgender Americans paints a grim picture of pervasive discrimination and harassment, to the point that many of them attempt suicide at some point." On Dec. 8, the National Center for Transgender Equality released results from its US Transgender Survey that assessed "input received in 2015 from 27,715 respondents from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three US territories."

[Reuters](#) (12/8, Trotta) reports the survey revealed that "29 percent of transgender people were living in poverty compared to 14 percent for the US population at large, and that 39 percent experienced serious psychological distress within the previous month, nearly eight times the rate for the general population." Also covering the survey are the [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/8, McGaughy), the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (12/8, Fuoco), and the [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/8, Segal) "The Rundown" blog.

### Psychiatric News Alert



#### [Depression Found to Be More Prevalent in Medical Students](#)

#### [Major Health Legislation Passes Final Hurdle](#)

#### Membership Benefits: APA Members-Only Malpractice Insurance Program

The APA members-only Malpractice Insurance Program, administered by [American Professional Agency, Inc.](#) ("APA, Inc."), is a medical malpractice program designed to meet the needs of mental health professionals, specifically psychiatrists. APA, Inc. offers members risk management consultation services and the [Risk Management Curriculum](#), free to all APA members. For information visit [APA, Inc.](#)



### Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

## Severity Of Mental Health Symptoms May Predict Severity Of Inflammatory Arthritis Disease, Small Study Suggests.

[Healio](#) (12/8, Offit) reports, "Severity of mental health symptoms predicted the severity of inflammatory arthritis disease," researchers found. The findings of the 148-patient study were presented at the American College of Rheumatology's annual meeting.

## Certain Depression Treatments Demonstrate Comparable Medium-Term Efficacy, Cost Among Adolescents, Research Suggests.

[Healio](#) (12/8, Oldt) reports study findings demonstrated "comparable medium-term efficacy and cost among cognitive behavioral therapy, short-term psychoanalytical therapy and a brief psychosocial intervention for depression in adolescents." Researchers arrived at this conclusion after assessing and reassessing teens with depression at 15 UK clinics who were randomized to "receive cognitive behavioral therapy (n = 155), short-term psychoanalytical therapy (n = 157) or a reference brief psychological intervention (n = 158)."

The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 1 in The Lancet Psychiatry.

## Government and Psychiatry

### MedPAC Discusses Draft Recommendations On Advantage Plan Payments And Increases For Hospitals and Physicians.

[Congressional Quarterly](#) (12/8, Young, Subscription Publication) reports the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission urged Medicare to adopt a draft recommendation that would change how Medicare Advantage plans are paid for “people who partially opt out.” The federal panel urged Medicare to “address a payment distortion for insurer-run Advantage plans that stems from the rising number of senior citizens opting against full participation” in the program. Mark E. Miller, the executive director of MedPAC, said, “One reason that you might want to take this on is that this phenomenon is going to grow.” MedPAC member Paul Ginsburg added that he sees the recommendation as a correction to an illogical payment system for Advantage plans.

[Congressional Quarterly](#) (12/8, Young, Subscription Publication) reports MedPAC also signaled support for recommendations that “tell lawmakers to proceed with slated increases” for hospitals and physicians. MedPAC will formally vote on the recommendations in January.

### HHS Approves Most Changes Proposed For Arkansas Works.

In continuing coverage, the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (12/8, Davis) reports that the Department of Health and Human Services had approved most of the changes proposed for Arkansas Works, the state’s expanded Medicaid program. Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said, “We wanted to go ahead to do this because we’ve got 300,000 Arkansans that’s got a cliff Jan. 1, and we wanted to make sure they had a comfort level that their health care is going to continue with these reforms in place” after meeting with the Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell.

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### Louisiana Department Of Corrections Will Begin Automatically Enrolling Former Inmates In Medicaid When They Are Released.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/8, Lipinski) reports that on January 1, the Louisiana Department of Corrections “will activate a database to automatically enroll prisoners in Medicaid on the day they are released from” most of the state’s prisons. The Louisiana Department of Health “said the automatic enrollment program will also identify high-need individuals and assign them case managers to ensure they receive appropriate medical or behavioral health care.” The change is part of the state’s Medicaid expansion program.

### Iowa Eliminating Nonemergency Medical Transportation For Medicaid Beneficiaries.

The [Cedar Rapids \(IA\) Gazette](#) (12/8, Keenan) reports the Iowa Department of Human Services is eliminating nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) for Medicaid beneficiaries, which will take effect on January 1. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved a request from the state to eliminate the service in November.

## Psychiatry and Public Health

### Long-Term Use Of Opioid Analgesics Common Among Patients With Alzheimer’s And May Be A Cause For Concern, Study Indicates.

[HealthDay](#) (12/8, Preidt) reports, “Long-term use of” opioid analgesics “may be common among Alzheimer’s disease patients and could be a cause for concern,” researchers found after analyzing “data from more than 67,000 Alzheimer’s disease patients in Finland.” The study revealed that seven percent “had used opioids for more than six months for non-cancer pain relief.” The findings were published online in the journal Pain.

## Psychiatric Medication Update

### Antipsychotic Medications Should Not Be Added To Manage Delirium In Patients Receiving Palliative Care, Study Suggests.

[MedPage Today](#) (12/8, Kneisel) reports on a [study](#) published online Dec. 5 in JAMA Internal Medicine suggesting that antipsychotic medications “should not be added to manage specific symptoms of delirium known to be associated with distress in patients receiving palliative care who have mild to moderately severe delirium.” The study, which included 247 people, found that delirium scores “at the end of the 3-day study period were significantly higher in patients receiving oral risperidone or haloperidol.”

## Other News

## Young Adults With TBI May Have An Increased Risk Of Being Imprisoned, Study Indicates.

[Reuters](#) (12/8, Cohen) reports that young “men and women who suffered traumatic brain injuries [TBI] had more than twice the risk of winding up in a federal prison in Canada as their uninjured peers,” researchers found after following “more than 1.4 million people who were eligible for health care in Ontario, Canada and were between the ages of 18 and 28 in 1997.” The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 8 in CMAJ Open. [HealthDay](#) (12/8, Preidt) and [Medical Daily](#) (12/8, Glowatz) also cover the story.

## Cases Of Mumps Hit 10-Year High, CDC Says.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/8, story 10, 2:00, Hall) reported that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “cases of mumps have hit a 10-year high...and it’s spreading on college campuses.” Now, new concerns are arising that it may “spread even more when the students come home for the holidays.” Correspondent Anne Thompson adds, “This mumps outbreak covers almost every state – 3,832 cases and counting, nearly triple the number last year.”

## Opioid-Related Deaths At All-Time High, CDC Data Shows.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Ingraham) reports data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday revealed that “opioid deaths continued to surge in 2015, surpassing 30,000 for the first time in recent history.” The data shows “an increase of nearly 5,000 deaths from 2014.” CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a statement, “The epidemic of deaths involving opioids continues to worsen.” He added, “Prescription opioid misuse and use of heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl are intertwined and deeply troubling problems.”

The [AP](#) (12/8, Stobbe) reports that according to the data, overdose deaths rose “11 percent last year, to 52,404.” The AP specifies that “heroin deaths rose 23 percent in one year,” deaths “from synthetic opioids, including illicit fentanyl, rose 73 percent,” and abuse “of drugs like OxyContin and Vicodin” increased 4 percent. Robert Anderson, “who oversees death statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” said, “I don’t think we’ve ever seen anything like this. Certainly not in modern times.” The amount of deaths from overdose was greater than that of car crashes and gun violence.

[CNN](#) (12/8, Almsy) also covers the story.

## Zika Zone In South Beach Lifted.

The [Miami Herald](#) (12/8, Hanks) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) “will lift the Zika warning over South Beach on Friday, ending the county’s last local transmission zone for the mosquito-borne disease that has rattled the region’s tourism industry and upended the lives of pregnant women and their partners.” According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocol, a Zika zone is lifted by health officials “after 45 days pass without someone in the area being confirmed as having contracted the virus from a mosquito within the boundaries.”

### Thursday's Lead Stories

- [Senate Passes 21st Century Cures Act.](#)
- [Hyperhidrosis Associated May Be Associated With Higher Rates Of Anxiety And Depression.](#)
- [New Mental Health Pilot Program For “Traumatized” Foster Kids In Texas Underway.](#)
- [Patients With Acute Coronary Syndrome Or Unstable Angina May Be At A 15% Higher Risk For Suicide Than Healthy Adults, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Gamma Oscillations Activate Microglia In Mice Whose Brains Are Under Attack By Alzheimer’s Dementia.](#)

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