



## September 6, 2024 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

### Awareness Topics

#### **Insurers can restrict mental health care. What laws protect patients in your state?**

“Accessing mental health care can be a harrowing ordeal. Even if a patient finds a therapist in their network, their insurance company can overrule that therapist and decide the prescribed treatment isn’t medically necessary. This kind of interference is driving mental health professionals to flee networks, which makes treatment hard to find and puts patients in harm’s way.”

#### **#StopRansomware: RansomHub Ransomware**

“The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (hereafter referred to as the authoring organizations) are releasing this joint advisory to disseminate known RansomHub ransomware IOCs and TTPs.”

#### **State and Federal Efforts to Bolster the Behavioral Health Workforce**

“Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. behavioral health workforce has faced increasing and significant challenges. There has been an increase in the percentage of U.S. adults receiving mental health treatment between 2019 and 2021, and more than 50 million people in the United States over the age of 12 required treatment for alcohol or drug use in 2022—including three million adolescents between ages 12 and 17.”

### **National Resilience Guidance**

“National resilience is a complex topic and building it requires whole community effort. This Guidance will help everyone understand and fulfill their critical roles related to increasing national resilience. With the goal of increasing community and national resilience.”

### **New Chemical Preparedness Handbook for Local Health Departments**

“NACCHO, in partnership with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), has published a new chemical preparedness handbook designed to assist local health departments (LHDs) in developing effective public health emergency preparedness and response plans for low-probability, high-risk chemical incidents.”

### **Increasing Mortality Rates in the US, but Not From COVID-19**

“The worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. Age-adjusted COVID-19 mortality rates peaked in 2021 at 104.12 per 100 000 population (per 100 000 hereafter) and fell to 44.45 per 100 000 in 2022.<sup>1,2</sup> Provisional data suggest that COVID-19 mortality rates in 2023 were below 15.00 per 100 000.<sup>2</sup> This progress is welcome but deceptive. The US mortality picture is hardly ideal. Like the sand revealed as the tide goes out, the receding COVID-19 pandemic draws attention to rising mortality rates from non-COVID causes, a trend that predates the pandemic.”

### **From cavities to sleep apnea: Dentists can assume new role in saving lives**

“In a research review published in the Journal of the American Dental Association, Rutgers Health researchers identified dentists as an unexpected player in the battle against life-threatening sleep disorders.”

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## **Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings**

**September 25 (\$40) - [Unlocking Potential with OSKAR: A Solution - Focused Framework](#)**

(Virtual. Registration Required.)

**September 26, 2024 (free) - [Naloxone Administration Training and Certification](#)**

(In-person. Registration Required. Email with your name and preferred time.)

**October 8, 2024 (free) - MESH Grand Rounds Series | [Alcoholics Anonymous: How AA in Indianapolis Adapted and Evolved During the COVID Crisis to Successfully Continue Meeting the Needs of Alcoholics](#)**

(Virtual. Registration Required.)

**October 15, 2024 (\$40) - [When Words Aren't Enough: Mastering the Art of Compassionate Companionship](#)**

(Virtual. Registration Required.)

## Events

**[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)**

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