



## Top Stories

### Opioid Mortality Rates, County-By-County

A **new tool** from the Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis gives a county-by-county look at the impact of opioid deaths across the country. The data visualizer shows the rate of drug overdose deaths for three-quarters of all counties in the United States, and users are able to print out a fact sheet for their own county to compare local data to state and national figures. **The Daily Yonder spoke with Michael Meit, co-director of the Walsh Center, about the project.** (Source: Daily Yonder / NORC)

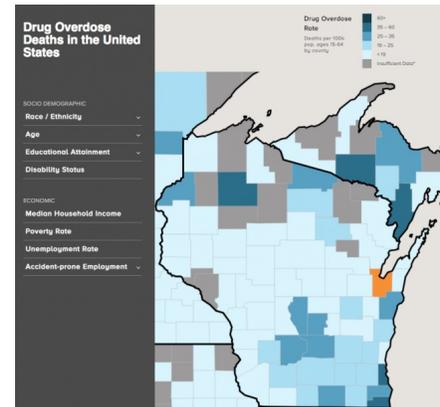


Image: NORC at the University of Chicago

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### Congress Bans Industry "Gag Order" on Pharmacists

Two pieces of legislation that aim to inform consumers about drug prices were **presented to** President Trump on Wednesday to be signed into law. The measures, the Know the Lowest Price Act and the Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act, lift the industry's "gag order" on pharmacists that prevent them from discussing cheaper price options with consumers. The laws would enable better consumer transparency about prescription drug prices, but do not lower drug costs in any way. (Source: Kaiser Health News)



Image: nosheep on Pixabay

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### Elder Abuse Task Force Proposes Legislation

A Wisconsin Department of Justice task force on Wednesday released draft legislation designed to protect senior citizens and vulnerable adults from exploitation and elder abuse, including bills that would define new crimes, create penalty enhancers and

speed up court proceedings for elderly victims and witnesses. (Source: Todd Richmond / AP)



Christian Newman on Unsplash

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## More News

- A Democratic effort led by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) to overturn the Trump administration's expansion of short-term health plans **narrowly failed to pass on the Senate floor** this week. (Source: Wisconsin Public Radio)
- A **policy brief** from the Rural Health Research Center looks at the issue of social isolation and loneliness, which is a key, but hard-to-study, issue in rural areas.
- A new Marquette Law School poll **finds** that of forty-nine percent of Wisconsin registered voters favor, and forty-one percent oppose, Medicare for All - a system in which all Americans get their insurance from a single government plan.
- **New materials** clarify how clinicians can use telemedicine as a tool to treat more patients suffering from opioid use disorder with buprenorphine. (Source: Health and Human Services)
- Our office has new materials on **Medicare billing** and **cost reporting** designed specifically for rural health clinics, now available for your viewing pleasure in our Virtual Library.

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## Funding & Opportunities

- The National Institutes of Health is soliciting applications for **information resource grants** that will bring useful information to health disparity populations and their health care providers. Institutions in rural and socially disadvantaged areas are encouraged to apply. (Deadline: October 22nd)
- The federal **Assistance to Firefighters Grant** provides direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments and nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Service agencies. Funds may be used for vehicles, training, and equipment. (Deadline: October 26th)
- The NIH will also fund **projects** to address opioid use disorder in tribal communities by identifying the most effective prevention and/or treatment approaches for opioid use disorder. (Deadline: October 29th)
- Some counties in Wisconsin are eligible for **funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service** for programs for volunteers aged 55+ to serve their communities in a variety of ways. SeniorCorps volunteers tutor children, renovate homes, teach English, and more. (Deadline: November 7th)

- The Wisconsin Institute for Aging will provide **mini-grants to community programs for healthy living**, focusing on such programs like falls prevention, chronic conditions, diabetes, and chronic pain (Deadline: November 30th)

## Events

- **October 16th:** A **webinar** will highlight the experiences of several rural communities that have implemented palliative care services.
- **October 16th:** A **conference** from the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality will explore key issues related to improving the quality and affordability of healthcare in Wisconsin. An option to **attend via webinar** is available.
- **November 2nd:** A **conference** from the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce will focus on the challenges healthcare leaders face in designing a clinical workforce, and will present policies/initiatives that target health care provider shortages in both rural and urban settings.
- **November 7th:** We want to hear your concerns and solutions about EMS at another stop on our **EMS Listening Tour** in Boscobel.



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