**C3RN News Summary – May 27, 2019**

Research

1. An analysis of data from the National Veterans Health Administration (VHA) found that “Of the 234,181 (94% male) patients diagnosed with drug use disorders, 8.6% were diagnosed with co-occurring OUD (Opioid Use Disorder) and CUD (Cannabis Use Disorder); 33.3% with OUD only; 26.5% with CUD only; and 31.6% with other drug use disorders. Compared to the OUD only group, the group with co-occurring OUD and CUD was associated with a lower number of opioid prescription but higher likelihood of inpatient psychiatric admission and homelessness, and no significant difference in ED (emergency department) visits.” (May 21, 2019) (Yale University School of Medicine, CT)

[More...](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31112429)

2. A study investigating the potential of CBD to reduce cue-induced craving and anxiety (noted by the researchers to be “critical features of addiction that often contribute to relapse and continued drug use, in drug abstinent individuals with heroin use disorder”) found that “Acute CBD administration, in contrast to placebo, significantly reduced both craving and anxiety induced by the presentation of salient drug cues compared with neutral cues. CBD also showed significant protracted effects on these measures 7 days after the final short-term (3-day) CBD exposure. In addition, CBD reduced the drug cue-induced physiological measures of heart rate and salivary cortisol levels. There were no significant effects on cognition, and there were no serious adverse effects.” (May 21, 2019) (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY)

[More...](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31109198)

3. An observational study done evaluating the disposition of oral THC in children receiving cannabis extracts for epilepsy found “Large variation and no correlation was noted between dose of THC by weight and peak concentrations, suggesting variation of bioavailability amongst pediatric population or inaccurate reporting of THC contents.”

(May 21, 2019) (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, CO)

[More...](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31111749)

Industry News

1. In a an article about veteran’s access to cannabis Jeremy Butler, chief executive officer of Iraw and Afghanistan Veterans of America is quoted as saying “There's been an overreliance and over-prescription of opioids, where medical marijuana seems to be one of those areas in which we could make a lot better use of pain management treatments … and get people off opioids."

(May 27, 2019)

[More...](https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2019-05-27/veterans-face-hurdles-to-accessing-medical-marijuana)

2. CBD as a treatment for opioid addiction is examined in an article by CNN. Psychologist Dr. Judie Holland, a former assistant professor of psychiatry at the NY University that ran the study, is quoted as saying “CBD not only manages the anxiety and cue/craving cycle, it also diminishes the original pain and inflammation that leads to opiate use in the first place.”

(May 21, 2019)

[More...](https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/21/health/heroin-opioid-addiction-cbd-study/index.html)