

# Virus creates storm for those with substance-use disorder

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 day supply of methadone, and those "less than stable" to have a 14-day supply. Beforehand, methadone could only be administered in an opioid treatment program. Advocates say compliance with the new guidelines has been inconsistent, reports Stat, the medicine-and-science publication of The Boston Globe.

## Virus creates perfect storm for relapse

Since mid-March, all non-life-sustaining, in-person businesses in Kentucky have been closed, public schools have ceased all in-person classes, and Kentuckians have been asked to practice social distancing and be "healthy at home" to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Such measures, while saving lives, have wreaked havoc on the economy and thrown people with addictions into a tailspin as in-person recovery supports have shuttered.

"Research shows that job loss is associated with increased depression, anxiety, distress, and low self-esteem and may lead to higher rates of substance use disorder and suicide," according to a recent poll for the Kaiser Family Foundation, which notes, "A broad body of research links social isolation and loneliness to both poor mental and physical health."

The poll found that 45 percent of U.S. adults said their mental health has been hurt by worry and stress over the virus.

A U.S. Department of Labor report shows that Kentucky (except tourism-dependent Hawaii) leads the nation in percentage of workforce that has claimed unemployment benefits. The Louisville Courier Journal reports that about 590,000 Kentuckians, or about 29% of the state's workforce, have submitted new jobless claims in the past six weeks.

"Quarantine and stuff, it causes anxiety, and anxiety is a trigger for a lot of people," Rebekah Bowman, women's group leader at Celebrate Re-

covery, a faith-driven, 12-step recovery program, said on the KET show. "And sometimes the alienation, that's a trigger for some people. And the hopelessness of it, some people just get to feeling like it's never going to end."

Alex Acquisto of the Lexington Herald-Leader has reported in detail on this topic, telling the stories of Kentuckians who are working to stay sober while being asked to isolate. One is Jaden Korse, 23, who told her that he normally attends at least three recovery meetings a week.

"For a lot of people, me included, prior to relapse, isolation is sort of a trait you'll see," Korse said. "It's weird to forcibly be put into that, [since] it was something many of us would do in active addiction."

## Drug use continues

Rob Sanders, commonwealth's attorney in Kenton County, told columnist Salena Zito that even though arrests are down dramatically in his

county, he didn't think drug use was.

"I would estimate that we normally would get 20 to 30 felony drug-possession arrests per week in this county," he said. "Right now we're averaging five or six, maybe. Short of crashing into a police car, you are very hard-pressed to get yourself arrested for drug possession... I don't think the drug users have stopped using just because of the coronavirus. I suspect there's a lot of rampant drug use right now and there's just a lot less police intervention. I'm not faulting the police, because I wouldn't want them to have any more interaction with strangers than they absolutely had to, but their proactive policing is way down."

Sanders isn't likely far off in his assumption, since illicit drugs continue to flood into the state, news reports in the past month indicate.

In the past month: WKYT reported May 2 about nine straight days of methamphetamine

seizures in Whitley County; WYMT reported April 9 about a meth bust in Johnson County; The Daily Independent of Ashland reported April 7 about a seizure of more than a pound of heroin in Boyd County, an amount the sheriff said was almost unheard of locally.

Meanwhile, drugs continued to reach users. The Richmond Register reported April 24 that the Madison County EMS saw 75% more overdose calls April 1-23 than during the same period 2019.

Paul Brethen, co-founder of SoberBuddy and a certified addiction specialist for more than 20 years, told Dawne Gee of Louisville's WAVE-TV that he believes the supply and distribution of most drugs was being altered because borders closed because of the pandemic: "Drug dealers are cutting the heroin and cocaine with fentanyl," which could lead to more overdoses.

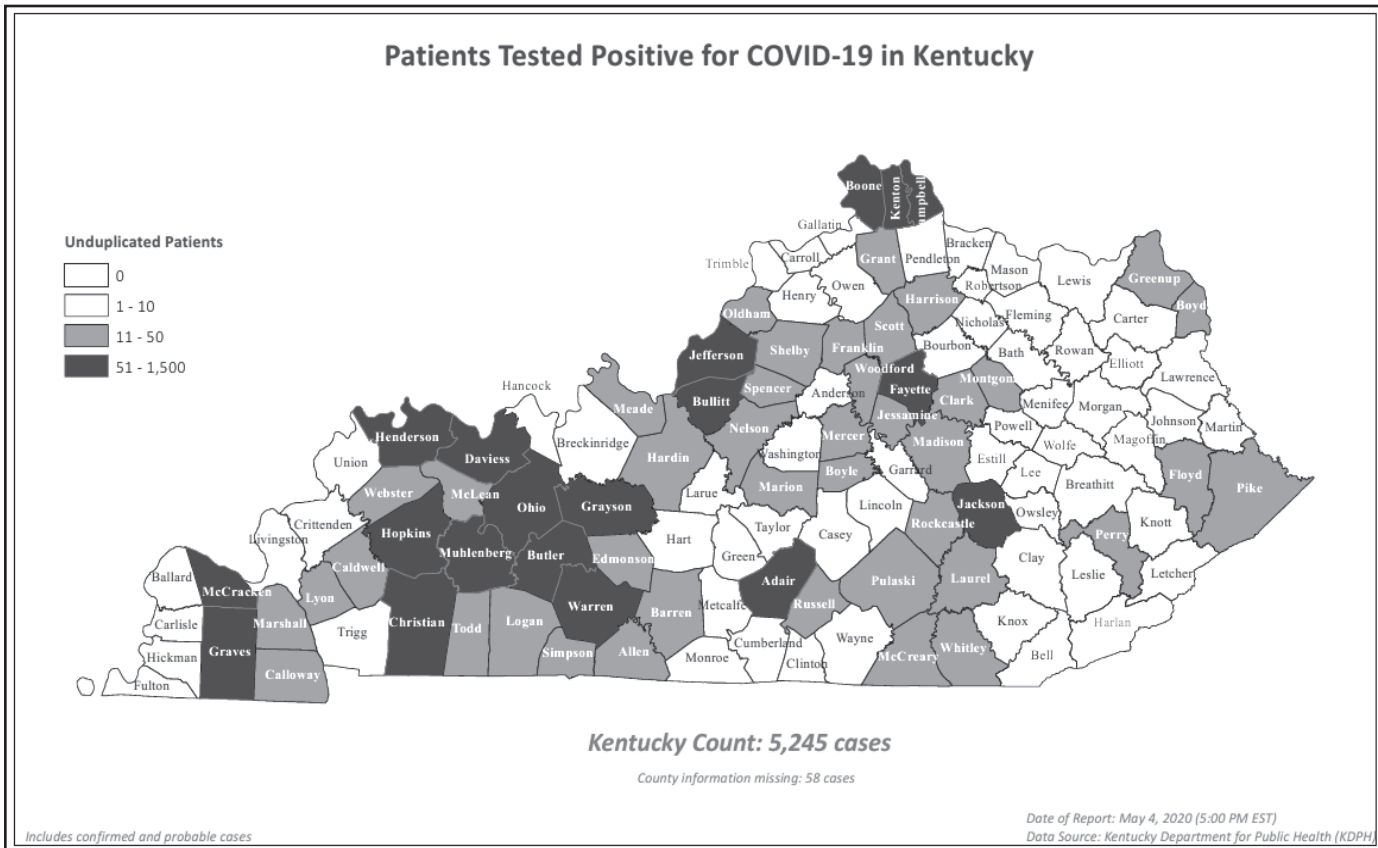
Drug shortages can also lead to overdoses,

because users will substitute drugs they're less familiar with, or change their habits, making dosing less reliable and potentially causing a spike in overdoses.

Daniel Ciccarone, a medical professor at the University of California-San Francisco, told Lois Parshley of National Geographic. Ciccarone fears that the pandemic may usher in a fifth wave of the opioid crisis.

Help is still available.

"A big part of recovery is telling on yourself; you are going to always have thoughts about picking up a drink or a drug," Bell, of Beyond Birth, said on KET. "If you say it out loud, and talk to someone else about it, it's going to take a lot of that power away. The more you kind of try to sit in isolation and stuff it and stop thinking about it, or think that you're wrong or guilty for thinking about it, it's going to be a lot tougher to kind of make it through that craving."



## 98 tested, 91 negative; 7 pending lab results

As of presstime on Tuesday, May 5, there were no cases of Corona Virus reported in Estill County.

The information comes from Candie McMaine, environmentalist at the Estill County Health Department.

McMaine said as of Tuesday morning, there have been 98 Estill Countians who were tested. She said 91 of those have come back as negative.

The seven remaining cases are pending test

results. McMaine said it sometimes takes as long as seven days to get results back from the lab.

As of Tuesday, Estill was one of only eight counties in Kentucky which have not reported a case of the Corona Virus.

During his address last week, Gov. Andy Beshear announced there was one case.

McMaine immediately sent an email to this newspaper and said it was a recording error. There were no cases.

## Police Activity Report

### Assault Charge

An Estill County man was arrested Saturday night for second degree assault and third degree criminal trespassing.

Deputy Chris Coffey said he went to Marcum & Wallace Hospital early Saturday morning to investigate the assault.

The victim, Steven Rison, told Coffey that Kyle Oaks, 28, of Rice Station Road had committed the assault.

Coffey talked with Oaks and said he admitted to shoving the victim twice onto the porch. This reportedly caused a laceration to Rison's inner eye orbital socket.

The deputy stated that Rison was supposed to have gotten stitches. He refused stitches, but the cut on his eye was glued together along with steri-strips.

Coffey interviewed witnesses who said that Oaks went onto Rison's property to get back a jack which was allegedly stolen.

The deputy said the situation escalated to the point that there were five individuals on the victim's property.

The victim allegedly pulled a knife or tried to when Oaks shoved him down twice. This caused the cut and knot on the side of the victim's head.

### Drug Related Charges

An Irvine man arrested Sunday morning on Edgewater Drive faces drug related charges.

Officer James Marshall said that he received a complaint from a concerned citizen that James Rodney Adams was slumped over in his vehicle while the car was running.

He said when he arrived, Adams was sleeping. The vehicle was running with the transmission in drive.

Officer Marshall said he knocked on the window. He observed drool coming from Adams' mouth.

He called Estill EMS and attempted to break out the passenger window. He added that Adams woke up and was checked by EMS. He refused treatment or transport.

The officer administered field sobriety tests. He then charged Adams, 52, of Hudson Avenue, Irvine with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, first offense.

Adams was searched after his arrest for DUI. Officer Marshall reported that he found a .38 caliber pistol, an unlabeled pill bottle, and \$571 in cash on Adams.

According to Marsahl, he recovered Tylenol/oxycodone and oxycodo-

ne.

The officer said he found a set of scales and a box of plastic baggies in the vehicle.

Adams was then charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and second offense, and drug paraphernalia - buy/posses.

Deputy Josh King assisted Marshall at the scene.

### Possession of meth

Hobert Hall, 42, of Autumn Court, Irvine was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense on April 29 by Officer Jason Conrad.

The officer stated that he saw Hall fall off the sidewalk at 208 Broadway. When he made contact with Hall, he said Hall's face had burst open.

He asked Hall if he had anything on him, and he replied, "I don't know."

Conrad said he searched Hall's pockets and found a black container with a crystal like substance inside. It was suspected to be methamphetamine.

He added that he also found a small baggie in the same pocket which contained the same crystal substance.

### Resisting Arrest

Daniel Brezeale, 41, of Stevens Avenue, Irvine was charged Friday with resisting arrest and drug paraphernalia - buy/posses.

Officer Stewart Morris said he went to Brezeale's residence to serve a parole warrant on Brezeale. He found Brezeale hiding inside a crawl space. He added that Brezeale was given multiple commands to come out and sow his hands.

The officer said a taser was deployed on Brezeale, who then became compliant.

He reported that Brezeale had scales, syringe needles, and pipes with residue.

Brezeale was charged with resisting arrest and drug paraphernalia - buy/posses.

Chief John Sturniolo assisted at the arrest scene.

### Tampering with evidence

Charles L. Farrow, 61, of Locomotive Street, was charged April 25 with two counts of tampering with physical evidence by Officer Stewart Morris.

On April 18, Morris investigated an assault on Locomotive Street, at Farrow's residence.

The citation states that Charles Farrow assisted Shawn Farrow getting rid of a shall casing and to

impair its verity and availability.

The officer said that on April 24, Charles Farrow produced a shell casing that could not produce verity of pertaining to the case.

An indictment warrant was served on William J. Abner, 46 of Peyton Avenue, Irvine on May 1. Abner was indicted in Estill Circuit Court for failure to comply with sex offender registration.

### Resisting Arrest

Adam McIntosh, 33, of Main Street, Irvine was charged April 27 by Chief Sturniolo with menacing, alcohol intoxication in a

public place, second degree disorderly conduct, and resisting arresting.

The chief said he was dispatched to McIntosh's residence on a complaint that he was intoxicated and used foul language in front of the homeowner's children.

He said that McIntosh refused to put down a guitar he was holding. He became belligerent and used profane language.

Chief Sturniolo said that McIntosh refused to leave the property and attempted to strike him. He said taser was deployed. McIntosh refused medical treatment.

## Mom charged with rape

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The juvenile reportedly admitted to the investigating officer that he had smoked marijuana with Jones.

The officer said he also determined that Jones was having a sexual relationship with the juvenile.

The citation states that Jones admitted to having sexual intercourse with the juvenile twice in the two days preceding her arrest. She also stated that she performed oral sex with the juvenile on both of those days.

Conrad says that Jones' four year old daughter was present in the same room during both sexual encounters.

Jones was charged with third degree rape, third degree sodomy, second degree unlawful transaction with a minor, and endangering the welfare of a minor.

Conrad was assisted at the scene by Chief John Sturniolo and Officer James Marshall.