Over the past 20 years the opioid crisis in the United States has resulted in 770,000 deaths, almost equal to the AIDS epidemic. A considerable number of these resulted from over-prescription of opioids, while many others were caused by prescription users moving to less expensive and more easily available heroin and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. This has contributed to a decline in US overall life expectancy for 3 consecutive years.

Using a combination of secondary data analysis, literature and document reviews, international case studies, and interviews with experts in the field, this major report offers a systematic assessment of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids found in illicit drug markets in the United States.

(Continued on page 5)
Digs/SALIS Collection Update
Andrea Mitchell
SALIS Executive Director

Much for which to be grateful
As the year draws to a close, there is so much to be grateful for regarding The SALIS Collection. The Digs team added nearly 400 new items in 2019, including 244 items uploaded directly by team members. Special recognition to Barbara Weiner, former head librarian at Hazelden, who uploaded three quarters of the 244. Marc Wauters, Isabelle Michot, “Swimmer,” also known as Christine Goodair, and Sheila Lacroix were responsible for the rest.

Remember this was the year we decided to make a big stretch on our goal, setting it at 1,000 items, 300 more than we added in 2018. We made that decision in part because the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute Library (ADAI) was giving the Digs Project their entire print collection minus what we already had. ADAO had nearly 2,000 books/documents that were unique to SALIS holdings. Another factor was that Brewster Kahle, chief of the Internet Archive, had offered to fund the digitization if a complete library collection was donated. Two reasons to be very grateful, but also jumping ahead of ourselves.

Best laid plans
As it happened, these were best laid plans when it came to the 1,000 items in 2019 goal. The books and documents from ADAO were sent to the IA in the Spring and we all patiently waited to see them appear in The SALIS Collection. By October not one of those ADAO books had been digitized. When attending the Internet Archive in late October for the Annual Leaders’ Forum, Brewster asked how things were going. I mentioned that we were still waiting for the ADAO books to be digitized and that it was a bit surprising that it was taking so long. The next day the Director of the Open Library told me that the ADAO books would be digitized by the end of the year!

This was announced to the Digs Team via the SALIS-Advocacy Committee listserv. However, an e-mail received in early December, in response to my query as to how digitization was proceeding, relayed this news: “The ADAO books were sent to Cebu, [Philippines], and will be digitized in the first quarter of 2020.”

OK, so we wait a few more months. When the ADAO materials have been added there will be over 5,000 items in The SALIS Collection, a huge accomplishment and much for which to be grateful!

Five years ago, December 2014, the five Advocacy committee members who then comprised the Digs team were thrilled when the first 23 books showed up under the banner of “The SALIS Collection.” And look how far we’ve come! There are now ten administrators, and several others who have given much of their time to this project. Now keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned to The SALIS Collection. Let us all be grateful for this legacy that SALIS is building.

Crowdfunding campaign
A final accomplishment for the Dig’s Project is the Giving Tuesday crowd funding campaign officially begun on Dec. 3. We are now just $200 shy of making our $5,000 goal. This includes the $1,000 matching grant which the SALIS Board agreed upon, 1 offline and 13 online donations. With a late start and not as many active players this time round, the amount is still be a big boost for next years’ work. Yet another reason to be grateful!

Still time to donate!
If there are any of you who would like to donate to help us reach our goal and beyond, here is the place to do so. We have hundreds of books waiting to be digitized and each book costs approximately $30 to digitize.

Acknowledgements
A big thank you to those of you who have donated to the Campaign, and again much appreciation for the Digs team*. Thanks especially to Nancy Sutherland and her team for working so hard to get the ADAO Library to the Internet Archive. And a huge thank you to Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive for funding this.

* Digs Project Team
- Barbara Weiner, Hazelden Librarian, Retired
- Marc Wauters, Vereniging voor Alcohol en andere Drugproblemen (VAD), Librarian
- Nancy Sutherland, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) Associate Director, Librarian
- Jane Shelling, Australian Institute of Criminology, Librarian
- Julie Murphy, Prevention Research Center, (PIRE), Librarian
- Andrea Mitchell, SALIS Exec. Director, Librarian
- Isabelle Michot, Observatoire Français des Drogues et des Toxicomanies (OFDT), Librarian
- David Man, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) Librarian
- Sheila Lacroix, Center on Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Librarian, Retired
- Christine Goodair, St George’s, University of London, Population Health Research Institute, Programmes & Research Manager Substance Misuse
- Chad Dubea, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), Information Specialist
- Meg Brunner, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI), Librarian

Support the SALIS Collection!
We’re only $200 away from our goal for this year’s fundraiser. Can you help get us there?

$30 adds one book. How many books can you add today?

Donate online here: www.mightycause.com/story/Saliscollection2019

SALIS News, Vol. 39, No. 2 Winter 2019
Reflections from Boston 2019
Christine Goodair
St. George’s, University of London

This year's SALIS/AMHL conference was my fourth visit to Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Some months later, I found myself in Boston, Lincolnshire, UK for only the second time and I began to wonder what the links were between the two locations. So what are the links?

St Boltolph's Parish Church, Boston Lincolnshire, England and Pilgrims

1. The city of Boston, MA, was named after Boston a town and small port in Lincolnshire on the east coast of England. Boston is famous for "The Stump" which is St Botolph's Church, visible for miles around the flat fenlands of Lincolnshire, and is reputed to be the largest parish church in England.

2. A plaque in the Church commemorates the founders of Boston MA. John Cotton, a Puritan and a vicar in Boston in the 17th-century wanted to change the Anglican Church by simplifying its liturgy and style of worship. He preached his Puritan views to the inhabitants of Boston and beyond, becoming very popular but in trouble with the Church authorities. He advised his congregation to settle in New England, USA, and in 1633 moved to Massachusetts to become the leader of settlers who had already emigrated and subsequently was a key player in the founding and naming of Boston MA. The "Cotton Chapel" in the St Botolph's Church Boston, UK was named for him. Links between the two Bostons continue over the centuries. Financial support for restoration work came from the citizens of Boston, USA for the nave roof and strengthening of the tower.

3. On the pathway leading to the church is a trail recalling the pilgrims who left Boston for a new life and freedom to worship in a simpler way. On the night that they were due to leave from the port at Boston, Lincolnshire, they were betrayed, captured, stripped of their possessions, and paraded in front of the town. Today a memorial stands in Scotia Creek, Fishtoft, where the failed escape took place. After their capture, they were imprisoned in Boston Guildhall but later released following which they succeeded in escaping to Massachusetts.

(Continued on page 24)
1. Fydell House was built around 1702/03 during the reign of Queen Anne (1665 – 1714) and was one of the grandest family houses in Boston for a couple of hundred years and now is the home of the Boston Preservation Trust, and has a room called the American Room. Why?

2. In July 1938 the then US Ambassador to Great Britain visited Boston. He was Joseph P. Kennedy Senior, and the father of future President John F. Kennedy. After a tour of the Boston Stump to view the restoration work, the Ambassador and his entourage visited Fydell House dedicating the American Room (Picture of Boston USA Map 1793) in recognition of American donations and friendships. The Ambassador gave a speech in the garden, and is said to be his first speech on national radio since taking office.

Boston MA has long since outgrown its older namesake; the city itself has a population of some 685,094 10 times that of Boston, England with a population of 68,000. □
It is the advent of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl which has had a particular impact on death rates, as a result of their potency and the tendency of suppliers to market them in the form of counterfeit prescription drugs. There is also the question of adulteration, with an increasing number of cocaine- and methamphetamine-related deaths also recording the presence of fentanyl. Indeed, it is an argument of this report that exposure to these substances is driven by suppliers, not by user demand, and that users would prefer to avoid synthetic opioids.

Analysis of the current situation in the U.S. indicates fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are more common in certain regions, but where they are dominant they are replacing existing drugs, and once established in a particular market they cannot be dislodged. While fentanyl is not unknown in illicit drug markets, production complexities have limited its availability. RAND’s researchers found that a combination of existing Mexican trafficking expertise and lack of industry regulation in China has allowed the production and distribution of synthetic opioids on a previously unheard-of scale. Allied with this has been the outflanking of existing criminal organisations through the use of the internet both to facilitate drug trafficking and to share expertise on production techniques.

The report argues that, in order to counter these innovations, policymakers and law enforcement officials must become equally adept at developing new strategies.

While it avoids making specific recommendations, the report says this could involve the increasing adoption of policies which seek to reduce the harms caused by drug use, such as supervised consumption sites, testing facilities to check the chemical composition of drugs in order to avoid potentially fatal overdose, the provision of overdose-reversing medication, and novel treatment methods, including the provision of heroin of guaranteed purity and potency to drug users.

For the U.S., where a punitive approach to drugs and users is deeply ingrained, a public health-based approach such as this would require a significant change of attitude, particularly if such services were to be funded by the taxpayer. Even if these measures were adopted the researchers believe the impact of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids will get worse before it gets better. Areas in which these substances are not yet prevalent should be aware of the threat and alert to their arrival in local drug markets.

While disruption of supply through law enforcement agencies and the judicial system can form one element of a strategy, the researchers believe there is also a need to develop the means to disrupt internet-based drug marketing.

Looking beyond the U.S. the report examines the experience of other countries such as Estonia (where fentanyl has been present for 20 years) and Canada where, despite differences in drug policy and social service provision, some regions have suffered as deeply as areas of the U.S.

Particularly noteworthy is the example of Portugal which, faced with a severe drug-related public health emergency in the 1990’s, adopted a radical decriminalisation policy in which drugs are still illegal but the official response is to provide access to treatment rather than a prison sentence. In the context of the report this stands as an example of the radical thinking which may be needed to deal with the public health calamity posed by synthetic opioids.

The report concludes with the strong message that the synthetic opioid crisis is different from any other situation we have faced in the past. It requires new thinking and new approaches for its resolution, possibly the adoption of new approaches and technologies which do not currently exist. A half-hearted approach, or one which seeks to merely adapt existing measures to the new situation, is likely to fail and result in yet more unnecessary deaths.

The study was funded by RAND Ventures, which is supported by gifts from RAND supporters and income from operations.

The Future of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids
Pardo, B; Taylor, J; Caulkins, J P; Kilmer, B; Reuter, P; Stein, B D. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019

Free Knowledge Here!

Got an hour or two and want to learn something new? There are a TON of free webinars and online trainings for librarians and information specialists on the web!

Here are a couple of recommended resources:

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM): NNLM has a ton of high-quality, free online webinars and courses, offering both live events and archived recordings you can view at your leisure. Topics in 2019 included health data standards, the new PubMed, data visualization, virtual reality and health, the librarian’s role in shaping systematic reviews, and more. https://nnlm.gov/training

WebJunction: This organization offers loads of free webinars on a huge range of topics, like access and equity, social media and marketing, space planning, and assessment and evaluation. https://learn.webjunction.org/course/index.php

Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL): ACRL offers a range of live and recorded webcasts geared toward academic library staff. Topics include copyright, making yourself marketable for academic library positions, equitable scholarly communications, and more. http://wwwala.org/acrl/onlinelearning □
CANNABIS RESOURCES

Cannabis: Inhaling vs Ingesting
An infographic that summarizes the key differences between inhaling and ingesting cannabis. Also includes tips for lower-risk cannabis use.

How To Safely Store Your Cannabis
An infographic that illustrates the important things to remember when storing your cannabis products. Items covered include what types of containers to use, proper labelling and where you should to store your products.

Know the Health Risks of Cannabis
An infographic that shows how using cannabis can affect physical and mental health. Learn how using cannabis can affect your mental health, ability to drive, respiratory system and other parts of your life.

However You Use It, Cannabis is Cannabis
An infographic that reminds people who use cannabis that all methods of cannabis use carry risks to their health.

Edible Cannabis: Always Read the Label
An infographic that illustrates what people should know before consuming edible cannabis, including reading the label to understand how much THC a product contains, and the importance of starting low — no more than 2.5 mg of THC — and going slow.

7 Things You Need to Know about Edible Cannabis
A list of seven important tips about edible cannabis products (or edibles) that people need to know before they try these products. Topics cover the delay in feeling the full affects and the length of the high, as well as the risks and harms associated with regular cannabis use.

Cannabis Legalization: Year One Observations
This policy brief provides the first summary of Canada’s experience in the first year of retail sales after cannabis legalization, with a focus on the public health and safety objectives of the Cannabis Act. Canada’s relationship with legal cannabis is evolving and the market is still developing. With the Act in effect for less than a year, any discussion of impact is limited to preliminary observations.

OTHER RESOURCES

Overcoming Stigma Through Language: A Primer
This primer facilitates conversations and increases awareness of the stigma that surrounds people who use substances, their support networks and service providers in the community. Developed in partnership with the Community Addictions Peer Support Association. □

ICYMI* on SALIS-L
(*In Case You Missed It)
Christine Goodair is planning to read the new book The Giver of Stars (Jojo Moyes), inspired by the women of the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky who delivered books to remote communities in the early twentieth century. If anybody else has read it, she’d be interested in your thoughts!

Barb Weiner alerted members to a new article from International Journal of Drug Policy that looks at who receives treatment in the U.S. in terms of demographic characteristics, addiction severity, and drug of choice. Find the article here (free via ISSUP through Jan 4, 2020). □
New Books
By Andrea L. Mitchell, MLS, Librarian


(Continued on page 11)
(New Books from p. 10)


King, Daniel L. and Paul H Delfabbro. *Internet Gaming Disorder: Theory, Assessment, Treatment, and (Continued on page 12)


(New Books from p. 12)


