

RAND, Social Experiments, Opioid Epidemic, and Alcohol

Additionally, RAND has researched the opioid epidemic and [alcoholism](#).^[51]

Education [\[edit \]](#)

The RAND analysis of the Intensive Partnerships for Effective Teaching, a \$575 million initiative from the [Gates Foundation](#) to increase teacher effectiveness, found that the interventions had no significant effect on student achievement.^[52]

Emerging technologies and innovation [\[edit \]](#)

RAND has examined the implications of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity threats, and autonomous systems. It was accused of working too closely with [Open Philanthropy](#) in its work on AI, at the risk of losing its independence.^{[53][54]} RAND employees have expressed concerns to Politico about the organization's objectivity after it was revealed that RAND helped draft the Executive Order on AI, following over \$15 million in funding from a Facebook founder-backed Open Philanthropy.^[56] In December 2023, the [House Science Committee](#) sent a bipartisan letter to the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) raising concerns over RAND's "research that has failed to go through robust review processes, such as academic peer review."^{[57][58]} On September 13, 2024, the ranking member of the [U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation](#) sent a letter to RAND to better understand its "involvement in the AI Executive Order and the administration's other actions related to online speech."^[59]

Other research areas [\[edit \]](#)

- [Auto insurance](#)^[60]
- [City government](#)^{[61][62][63][64]}
- [Cold War](#) and potential [nuclear conflict](#)^{[65][66][67][68]}
- [Iraq War](#)^{[69][70]}
- [National health insurance](#)^[71]
- [Vietnam War](#)^{[69][72][73][74]}
- [Transparency in government](#)^{[75][72][73]}

All of a sudden, I had false diagnoses of “alcohol abuse disorder,” “opioid addiction,” and being a “cigarette smoker.” My Leidos appointments felt unnerving. I had to go through the process all over again to have them remove these listings. Optum was fine, and I had no issues. They remedied the situation for me, and I was provided a hardship payment.

I also made sure to provide multiple letters to the VA and asked my treating physician to ensure that none of these diagnoses were listed. Still, within my electronic records, the diagnoses remained. Oddly, shortly after this experience, I saw a woman on LinkedIn talking about her important research with MDMA and all of the hard work she had contributed to ensuring that veterans receive care. This included promoting the use of chemicals such as MDMA to veterans.

Likewise, within a few months, I also saw a newsletter stating that the VA had just concluded research regarding “alcohol abuse disorder” and would begin trials involving mushrooms. I had never seen this disorder before, but all of a sudden, the name was appearing. The very random false diagnosis of alcohol abuse disorder, as well as the false records of opioid abuse and cigarette use, naturally made me question what went wrong with my records. Why couldn't I remove these electronic records? I also noticed, over time, that the wrong inputs

had been marked. I was actually upset because I felt that these diagnoses could affect my actual rating. The other experience I had, which is important to note, is that I was listed as having a rare cancer. I had to make sure this was corrected as well.

As RAND Corporation directly works on data collection and metrics, and as this data is used for policies and social “experiments,” I have to wonder: Are they treating us like we are a social experiment? If so, it wouldn’t be a government first. I would hate to think that my intuition here is right.