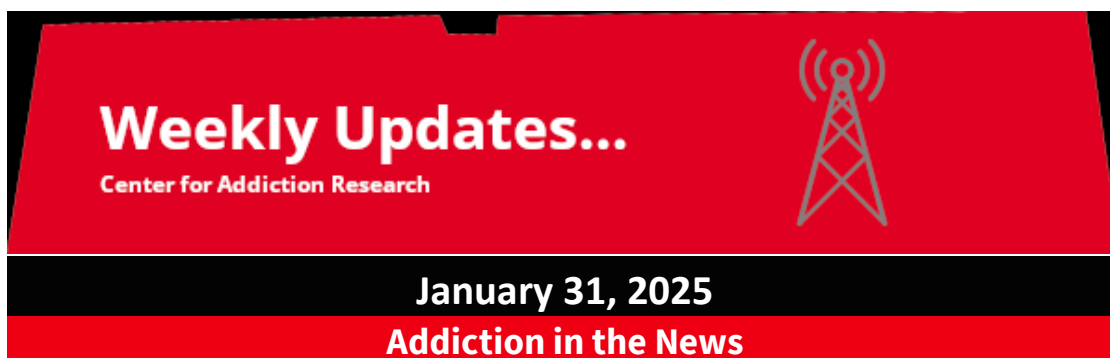


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Addiction Research - our mission is to accelerate scientific progress in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and their consequences by fostering research collaborations across: 1) UC departments, colleges, and centers including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; 2) Local, regional, and state community and governmental partners; and 3) Other academic institutions and industry."



UC/ Regional News

UC Research Rainmakers: Celebrating our Outstanding Researchers

The Office of Research is proud of the Research Rainmakers whose sponsored research awards in fiscal year 2024 placed them in the top 25% of earners at UC. Those recognized are from the arts, humanities, and social sciences as well as from the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical fields. Below is the list of CAR members who were recognized for this accomplishment and the number of times they have been recognized for this accomplishment since FY16.

College of Medicine

T John Winhusen, 9 **(CAR Director)**

Teresa M Reyes, 5

College of Allied Health Sciences

Jennifer Vannest, 4

College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services

Sarah Manchak, 3

The State of Research 2024: UC Research Enterprise Reaches New Heights

Research conducted at the University of Cincinnati and with its research affiliates UC Health, Cincinnati Children's, and the Cincinnati VA continues to grow and make a significant impact. In fiscal year 2024, research and development (R&D) expenditures grew to \$739.9 million, a \$41.2 million increase over the previous year, setting a new high for UC and affiliates. Federal funding remains a cornerstone, with

UC conducting over \$187 million in research this past fiscal year. Led by the College of Medicine with \$127 million and the College of Arts & Sciences with \$21 million in federal research, this total has risen by \$71 million over the past five years. Patrick Limbach, PhD, UC's vice president for research, says that crossing the \$700...

Changes could be coming to recreational marijuana laws in Ohio

CINCINNATI (WKRC) - Ohio lawmakers are considering changes to the state's recreational marijuana laws just months after legalization, with a new bill proposing to increase the excise tax and implement other restrictions. The proposed legislation, spanning nearly 150 pages, seeks to reduce the number of marijuana plants that can be grown at home from 12 to 6 and cap the number of dispensaries at 350. However, the most impactful change could be felt at the cash register. State Senator Steve Huffman, a Republican from Tipp City, is advocating for an increase in the excise tax on recreational marijuana from 10% to 15%. "We're not doing away with it; we're out on the fringes trying to make it better,"...

Kentucky is not doing enough to prevent smoking and vaping, says annual report

The American Lung Association gave Kentucky mostly failing grades when it comes to preventing tobacco use — and helping people access recovery — in a 2025 report released Wednesday. The new “State of Tobacco Control” report “evaluates state and federal policies on actions taken to eliminate use and recommends proven-effective control laws and policies to save lives.” It says Kentucky lawmakers should require merchants who sell nicotine products to have licenses to do so. This is at least partially in line with what Lebanon Republican Sen. Jimmy Higdon wants to do during the 2025 legislative session. Higdon told a committee in November that he would file legislation to license all sellers of tobacco or...

National News

Study: Among veterans with alcohol use disorder, women drink as much as men and have more severe mental health symptoms

Women veterans with alcohol use disorder (AUD) are drinking in similar quantities to their male peers and have more severe symptoms of co-occurring depression, anxiety, and PTSD, a new study suggests. Among veterans, the rates of AUD and related impairments in physical and mental functioning are higher than in the general population. The study in Alcohol, Clinical & Experimental Research implies that drinking trends among veterans are paralleling those in the general population. Overall, the prevalence of AUD and alcohol-related deaths has increased substantially in recent years. Historically, men drink more alcohol than...

Social factors associated with longer stays in alcohol treatment

When seeking treatment for alcohol use disorder, how a person is functioning in society strongly influences how long they will stay in inpatient treatment. According to a study published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research, people who are

dissatisfied in their primary social role—at work or school, for example—and people with a strong social network stay in treatment longer, giving them more opportunities for therapeutic intervention. The study highlights the importance of helping people in treatment for alcohol use disorder to strengthen their social network and social role. The purpose of the study was to examine...

Research shows a higher alcohol tax could lead to fewer drunk driving fatalities

It's no secret drunk driving is a problem in New Mexico. According to Alcohol.org in 2023, New Mexico ranks within the top five states in the country with the most drunken driving fatalities. So how do we fix it? While it wouldn't end drunk driving, University of New Mexico Economics Professor Brady Horn says a higher alcohol tax is a step in the right direction. Horn, graduate student Ana Milan Hinostroza, and senior lecturer David Dixon started researching alcohol policy in the state several years ago through a Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP), a state initiative to address New Mexico issues. They researched everything from drinking...

CBD reduces alcohol cravings in people suffering from alcoholism, clinical trial finds

A new study shows that cannabidiol (CBD) can reduce the craving for alcohol in people suffering from alcoholism. CBD is a natural component of the cannabis plant and has no intoxicating effects. With their work, scientists at the Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) provide the first evidence that this cannabis active ingredient could help with alcohol problems. The team has published the results of their study in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*. Alcohol-related diseases are associated with a high level of suffering and are among the most common and devastating diseases worldwide. Despite this, only a few...

Medical use of cannabis tied to higher prevalence of cannabis use disorder

Adults aged 18 to 49 years reporting medical-only or medical-nonmedical cannabis use may have a higher prevalence of cannabis use disorder (CUD) than those reporting nonmedical only, according to a research letter published online Jan. 22 in *JAMA Psychiatry*. Beth Han, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and colleagues examined differences in cannabis use frequency and CUD prevalence for medical-only and medical-nonmedical versus nonmedical-only use among U.S. adults aged 18 to 49 years. The analysis included data from 72,668 participants in the 2021 to 2022 National...

Trump Administration Withdraws Plan to Ban Menthol Cigarettes

The Trump administration has withdrawn a proposed rule from FDA that would have banned menthol cigarettes. The proposed rule, which had been in the works since mid-2022, was listed as "Withdrawn" as of January 21 on an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) webpage. Approval by the OMB is one of the last steps before a final rule is issued. When the rule was initially announced, HHS

Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement that the rule "would help prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers and help adult smokers quit. Additionally, the proposed [rule represents] an important step to advance...

Young people support the idea of a smoke-free generation in UK, finds study

Young people broadly welcome the idea of the government's smoke-free generation policy and see it as a chance to free their generation from harmful addiction, according to a study led by the University of Nottingham. Smoking tobacco kills more people than any other preventable cause. The UK Government are aiming for fewer than five in 100 people to smoke by 2030. However, one study estimates 127,500 people aged between 18 and 25 currently pick up smoking each year. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill Committee reports on Thursday 30 January and the Bill will return to the House of Commons for debate and final vote among...

Study finds vaping in pregnancy harms both mothers and babies

A University of Alberta research team is sending out a vehement warning that vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking during pregnancy. In a recently published paper in the Journal of Hazardous Materials, the researchers reviewed evidence from studies around the world and concluded that using e-cigarettes during pregnancy is associated with harmful outcomes for both mothers and their babies. "Our recommendation is very straightforward," says Subhabrata Moitra, assistant professor at the Bagchi School of Public Health at Ahmedabad University in India and former postdoctoral fellow at the U of A. "If a mother is smoking...

Support for rural primary care clinics increases their ability to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder

Despite the removal of the X-waiver requirement, which once restricted clinicians from prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD), only a small percentage of primary care clinicians currently prescribe medication for OUD (MOUD). A study published in The Annals of Family Medicine evaluated a structured support program to help small, rural primary care clinics improve their capacity to provide this treatment. Researchers worked with 15 primary care practices in Colorado over a 12-month period from January 2022 through January 2023. The program provided clinics with monthly educational sessions...

Opioid overdose deaths throughout Midwest most strongly linked to a lack of economic upward mobility, study finds

The unprecedented increase in drug overdose deaths in the U.S., long believed to be driven by access to legal and illegal opioids, is most closely tied to an equally dramatic decline in upward income mobility, according to a new analysis by Boston College researchers. Reporting in the International Journal of Drug Policy, the researchers evaluated the possible influence of another major 21st century trend: growing income inequality, said Gene Heyman, a senior lecturer in BC's Department

of Psychology and Neuroscience. "According to received opinion, the primary driver of opioid overdose deaths was increased access to opioids...

The national decline in overdose deaths is leaving Black communities behind

For years, we have studied and cared for patients living with a condition that resulted in annual death rates in the U.S. of more than 100,000 people per year. Now, we have seen the first real sign of hope in more than a decade: a stunning 14% decline in the national overdose death rate. We are encouraged by this sharp decline, yet are also deeply troubled that this hard-fought progress is not being shared equally across all our communities. While overdose death rates for white people had fallen dramatically by 2022, that isn't the case for Black people. In 2022, their overdose death rates rose to 1.4 times higher than those for White...

Mindfulness-based groups tied to significant reduction in opioid craving

For adults with opioid use disorder (OUD) receiving buprenorphine, a mindfulness-based group is similar to a recovery support group for opioid use, substance use, and reductions in anxiety, but demonstrates a larger reduction in craving, according to a study published online Jan. 21 in JAMA Network Open. Zev Schuman-Olivier, M.D., from Cambridge Health Alliance in Malden, Massachusetts, and colleagues compared the effects of the Mindful Recovery Opioid Use Disorder Care Continuum (M-ROCC) versus active control among adults receiving buprenorphine for OUD in a randomized clinical trial. The M-ROCC program was...

Medicaid patients struggle with telehealth access for opioid treatment post-pandemic

Patients with opioid use disorder enrolled in Medicaid were less likely to receive telehealth care after the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to patients with private insurance, according to a recent Northwestern Medicine study published in Health Services Research. Opioid-related overdose deaths in the U.S. reached an all-time high in the last several years, with more than 100,000 related deaths reported in 2022 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. While the popularization of telehealth care during the COVID-19 pandemic suggested increased access to care for patients with opioid use disorder, few studies have examined care access for...

Chiropractic care associated with reduction in opioid-related adverse drug events

A new study led by researchers at University Hospitals Connor Whole Health found that adults with newly diagnosed sciatica who initially received chiropractic spinal manipulation (CSM) were significantly less likely to experience opioid-related adverse drug events (ORADEs) such as overdose and poisoning over a one-year follow-up compared to those receiving usual medical care. The study highlights the value of CSM as a potential opioid-sparing approach in the management of sciatica, a low back disorder characterized by radiating pain, numbness, or weakness in the leg due to a compressed nerve root. "In light of the ongoing opioid crisis...

Combining self-help groups and medication boosts success in opioid treatment, research finds

In 2023, more than 84,000 people in the U.S. died from overdosing on opioids—everything from prescription painkillers to fentanyl to heroin. That number declined in 2024, but the problem remains an epidemic, leading to over 81,000 deaths, according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Many more people—an estimated 2.5 million people in the U.S.—live with an addiction to opioids. There are medications that can help treat addiction, but many who start treatment don't stick with it. But what about the patients who do complete treatment? What was different for them? That's what Northeastern University...

Doctors test a new way to help people quit fentanyl

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when fentanyl overdoses surged, doctors were desperate to find ways of helping their patients. They knew that buprenorphine could help people stop using opioids, but it was much harder to start the treatment for those who used fentanyl, which lasts longer in the body. Taking buprenorphine while fentanyl is still active can push someone abruptly into withdrawal. So, they started giving patients small doses of the drug over a series of days to slowly build up the drug in their systems until their bodies could handle a higher dose of buprenorphine. Now, doctors at UC San Francisco have tested...

Sackler family, Purdue Pharma reach \$7.4 billion settlement with 15 states over opioid crisis

The Sackler family and Purdue Pharma, the maker of the addictive painkiller oxycontin, have reached a \$7.4 billion settlement with a bipartisan coalition of 15 states for fueling the opioid crisis, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced Thursday. The settlement bars the Sackler family from selling opioids in the U.S. and ends its control of Purdue. This comes seven months after the Supreme Court overturned a prior deal with Purdue that would have given the Sackler family immunity from future opioid lawsuits, a provision that is not part of the new deal. This is the largest settlement with contributors to the opioid...

Analysis tackles the question of how many attempts it takes to quit different substances

Relapse is common when someone is trying to quit, regardless of whether they're giving up opioids or alcohol or cigarettes. To better inform treatment, researchers with the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC's Addiction Recovery Research Center wanted to better understand how the experience of quitting differed across substances. The findings are published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence. "When we talk about intervention for addiction, we know that we are far from the ideal model of treatment," said Rafaela Fontes, a research scientist at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and first author on the study...

IAS statement: Restore access to all PEPFAR-supported HIV services immediately

29 January 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland) – IAS – the International AIDS Society – notes the decision to waive the suspension of “life-saving humanitarian assistance”, including “core life-saving medicine.” This should now ensure that HIV treatment disbursed by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) can continue across all PEPFAR-supported countries. The Trump administration froze foreign aid funding, including to PEPFAR and, unexpectedly on 24 January, it imposed a stop-work order on existing operations. Clinic staff were sent home, distribution of ARVs bought with US funds was...

*HEAL Workshop:

Health Economics Research to Address the Needs of Those with Serious Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorder, and Comorbid Condition

Date/Time: Friday, February 14, 2025, 10:00 AM – 3:45 PM ET

This virtual half-day workshop is cohosted by the NIH HEAL Initiative, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The workshop will provide a forum for partners to engage with health economics researchers to share priorities and identify an agenda for rigorous health economics research to help meet the service needs of those with both serious mental illness and substance use disorder. The workshop is open to the public. Researchers, advocacy organizations, health system and community treatment providers, federal partners, policymakers, individuals with lived or living experience with substance use disorder and serious mental illness, and others interested in supporting cost-effective and quality care are invited to attend. Speakers and facilitators will include subject matter experts, dissemination and implementation partners, and federal staff. There will be an opportunity for discussion and to ask questions. **Subject to change based on recent presidential orders.*

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[PAR-25-378](#)

[Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health \(R34 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-OD-25-003](#)

[Short Courses on Innovative Methodologies and Approaches in the Behavioral and Social Sciences \(R25 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

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