

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

Distribution begins for Ohio opioid settlement money. Here's who is benefiting.

AKRON, Ohio — Nearly three years after it first formed, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation announced Wednesday its first grant recipients to utilize Ohio's opioid drug settlement money. OneOhio has been tasked with handling and distributing much of the money received from lawsuit settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors. Grant applications are currently being reviewed across the state, however, some regions of OneOhio, including Summit County, were ready to begin awarding grants to seven entities. Region 5, which makes up of Summit County, announced its recipients: "Some have chosen to really focus on how we can impact kids and families who been impacted by the epidemic," OneOhio...

Mother of son who died from overdose appointed to opioid abatement commission

FRANKFORT (KT) – A former teacher and the mother of a son who died from a fentanyl overdose has been appointed to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission to represent victims of the opioid crisis. Debbie Rains of Louisville was appointed by Attorney General Russell Coleman. Rains brings nearly four decades of teaching experience to the panel, as well as a personal connection to the Commission's work. The Commission, which is attached to the Attorney General's Office, was tasked by the Kentucky General Assembly with distributing the state's share of approximately \$900 million collected from opioid lawsuit settlements. "I've heard Debbie deliver her incredible prevention message, making a...

National News

Shedding light on alcohol's long shadow among pregnant and parenting women

The woman came in crying. She was disheveled and pregnant, and appeared to be intoxicated. She had a 5-year-old girl in tow and was looking for help from the crisis center where Anna Shchetinina volunteered. The mother got the help she needed. She sobered up, left her abusive partner, and eventually landed a job in the medical field. Still, 15 years later, Shchetinina can't stop thinking about the kids. "I didn't realize then that the mother's drinking was probably going to impact her children's whole lives, but now I understand that every decision matters, especially during sensitive and critical periods," she said. "Fetal..."

Study finds nonalcoholic drinks reduce alcohol consumption in mild cases

The provision of nonalcoholic beverages is an effective method for reducing alcohol consumption. In a study published in BMC Medicine, researchers at University of Tsukuba have investigated differences in the effectiveness of alcohol reduction depending on the level of problem drinking as assessed by the alcohol use disorders identification test. The findings indicated that the more serious the drinking problem, the less effective the provision of nonalcoholic beverages was in reducing alcohol consumption. Dealing with excessive alcohol consumption is a global challenge and is included in the United Nations Sustainable...

Researchers find high school IQ predicts drinking habits

A person's IQ during high school is predictive of alcohol consumption later in life, according to a study by UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers published in Alcohol and Alcoholism. Participants with higher IQ levels were significantly more likely to be moderate or heavy drinkers, as opposed to abstaining. "We're not saying that your IQ in high school controls your destiny," said senior author E. Sherwood Brown, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Distinguished Teaching Professor of Psychiatry and in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute at UT Southwestern. "But IQ levels could lead to intervening social factors that influence..."

Cannabis Use in Teens, Young Adults Linked to Lower Academic Success

Cannabis use during adolescence and young adulthood was linked to lower academic performance, a systematic review and meta-analysis suggested. Among 63 studies that comprised 438,329 participants, moderate-certainty evidence indicated that cannabis use among individuals ages 24 years and younger was likely associated with lower school grades (odds ratio [OR] 0.61, 95% CI 0.52-0.71) as well as less likelihood of high school completion (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.33-0.76), university enrollment (OR 0.72, 95% CI 0.60-0.87), and postsecondary degree attainment (OR 0.69, 95% CI 0.62-0.77), reported Li Wang, PhD...

DEA could reclassify marijuana to a less restrictive category. A drug policy expert weighs the pros and cons

The Drug Enforcement Administration announced in early 2024 that it would act on President Joe Biden's call to reclassify marijuana, moving it from the tightly controlled Schedule I category that it has been in since 1970 to the less restrictive Schedule III status of the Controlled Substances Act. That triggered a long process of hearings and reviews that will not be completed until after the presidential election in November. The news drew strong reactions from critics: 25 Republican lawmakers sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland protesting any changes to federal marijuana laws. They argued that the...

Cancer survivors who smoke cigarettes more likely to use cannabis before, during and after treatment

Up to 40% of cancer patients use cannabis to help with treatment side effects like nausea, loss of appetite or pain. But in a new paper published in JNCI Monographs, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center researchers show that patients who smoke cigarettes are also more likely to use cannabis, which may make cancer treatments less effective. Most cancer centers, including Hollings, have active tobacco smoking cessation programs. But those programs don't necessarily collect data or incorporate information about cannabis, said senior author Erin McClure, Ph.D., a behavioral psychologist. For those who smoke both tobacco and...

Life expectancy study shows it's never too late to stop smoking

Quitting smoking even as late as at 75 years of age can meaningfully increase a person's life expectancy, according to a new study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The research measures the impact of smoking on life expectancy at 10-year intervals from 35–75 years of age to determine the potential benefits of smoking cessation. The results show that although the benefits of quitting smoking diminish with age, there are still substantial gains for older individuals. Thuy T.T. Le, Ph.D., who conducted the study with co-investigators David Mendez, Ph.D., and Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D., all affiliated with the...

Older e-cigarette users face increased odds of respiratory issues, study finds

A study by doctoral student Adriana Eugene and Distinguished Professor Luisa N. Borrell found that older adults who use electronic cigarettes had greater odds of reporting respiratory illness such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and COPD. The findings are published in the journal Preventive Medicine. The researchers used data from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health study to quantify the association between e-cigarette use and asthma, chronic bronchitis, COPD, emphysema, or other lung or respiratory conditions. They used age, gender, and other tobacco products use as modifiers of this relationship...

Smokers have a higher level of harmful oral bacteria, study finds

A recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 8 million people die annually from smoking related complications. Despite efforts by governments and various organizations to create awareness about the dangers, around 1.3 billion people still use some form of tobacco and 80% of them live in low to middle income countries. There is no safe level of smoking. Even second-hand smoke can lead to serious complications such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. The mouth (oral cavity) is the first port of entry to the rest of the body and is home to a complex and diverse community of microorganisms, known...

Tax, smoke-free legislation and anti-smoking campaigns linked to smoking reduction

Tobacco use remains a significant global health challenge, despite extensive control measures at both national and international levels. Smoking continues to be a leading cause of premature death, with exposure to tobacco—whether through active smoking or secondhand smoke—significantly increasing the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory conditions, and diabetes. These NCDs account for nearly 75% of annual global deaths. A wide range of strategies has been developed to combat smoking and promote public health, including taxation, mass...

Vendors of Synthetic Nicotine Vapes on Instagram Are Skirting FDA Rules

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 9, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration currently mandates strong health warnings when vapes containing synthetic nicotine are advertised on Instagram and other social media. Trouble is, most vendors aren't adhering to those rules meant to protect kids, a new study finds. It's a new phenomenon, said study co-author Traci Hong, professor of communication at Boston University. "Because synthetic nicotine isn't derived from tobacco, it evaded the regulatory authority of the FDA until April 2022," Hong noted in a university news release. "This regulatory loophole allowed..."

Researchers link electronic cigarettes and vaping to increased cardiovascular risk

Electronic cigarette or e-cigarette "vaping" has gained popularity, both among smokers as a purported aid to quit smoking tobacco-related products all together, but also especially among adolescents and teenagers. Vaping is considered "safer" than smoking, but growing evidence points to its significant role in cardiovascular problems. A new study, co-led by researchers from the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory (APHEL) at the UC Irvine Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health, reveals that vaping can interfere with the normal coupling between blood flow and pressure as blood flows from the heart to the arteries...

Smoking cessation may reduce opioid prescriptions: Study

Smoking is recognized as a leading cause of preventable disability and death. New research shows that as smokers increase their daily number of cigarettes, they report higher rates of chronic pain, more prescription opioid use, severe work limitations due to pain, and poor mental health. A novel study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine details the results of an analysis of nationally representative data from the US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), revealing a strong link between smoking and opioid use and emphasizing the need for integrated treatment...

Overdose Deaths Are Falling but the Mission Is Far From Accomplished

The CDC released preliminary data showing U.S. drug overdose deaths dropped last year by more than 10%. This has been particularly newsworthy in the context of the ongoing "opioid epidemic" and heavy political campaigning around the dangers of fentanyl. Most noteworthy is that it marks the lowest annual death toll since 2020, and the first decrease since 2018. While it is preliminary data, it has already been extensively verified. In fact, this is a revision of earlier preliminary data, and now shows even fewer deaths than previously thought. The final number could go even lower. This has been widely celebrated as good news by any...

DEA Issues Warning About Illegal Online Pharmacies

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has seen an increase in illegal online pharmacies selling and shipping counterfeit pills made with fentanyl and methamphetamine to unsuspecting customers in the United States who believe they are purchasing real pharmaceutical drugs such as Oxycodone, Adderall, Xanax, and other drugs from legitimate pharmacies. As Americans increasingly turn to online pharmacies to purchase necessary medications, DEA is issuing this Public Safety Alert to warn of an increase in illegal online, often foreign-based websites that are deceptively targeting American consumers. DEA...

250 companies, schools and organizations pledge to provide overdose antidote naloxone

White House officials say more than 250 companies, universities, labor groups and other organizations have joined a national effort to reduce drug overdose deaths. They've agreed to stock free doses of the medication naloxone, also known as Narcan, that quickly reverses most fentanyl-opioid overdoses. The list of participants joining the national naloxone push includes major corporations like Amazon, the National Hockey League, and United Airlines as well as some universities. Labor and contractor organizations have also signed on, along with restaurant and hospitality trade groups. "From airlines to classrooms, from...

Drones could transform emergency response to opioid overdoses

The opioid epidemic has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the United States over the past two decades, devastating families and communities around

the country. As this epidemic remains one of the nation's most severe public health crises, health care professionals continue to search for effective ways to save lives amid this tragedy. In cases of an opioid overdose, rapid intervention is critical. Health care professionals have been pushing for the use of innovative technology, like drones, to deliver life-saving measures during these emergencies. Miguel Lejeune, a professor of decision sciences and electrical...

Chicago sees steep drop in number of deaths tied to opioid overdoses

Chicago and Cook County are on pace to see a drastic decline in opioid-related fatalities in 2024, keeping with a nationwide downturn in fatal drug overdoses since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health and law enforcement officials point to a variety of factors that could be responsible. Increased community outreach, addiction treatment efforts and less available fentanyl all likely play a role, they said. Through Sept. 20, Cook County had recorded 806 opioid-related deaths this year, according to data from the medical examiner's office. Of those, 580 occurred in Chicago. In that same time frame in 2023, the county...

Researchers use AI to find non-opioid pain relief options

An estimated one in five Americans live with chronic pain and current treatment options leave much to be desired. Feixiong Cheng, Ph.D., Director of Cleveland Clinic's Genome Center, and IBM are using artificial intelligence (AI) for drug discovery in advanced pain management. The team's deep-learning framework identified multiple gut microbiome-derived metabolites and FDA-approved drugs that can be repurposed to select non-addictive, non-opioid options to treat chronic pain. The findings, published in Cell Press, represent one of many ways the organizations' Discovery Accelerator partnership is helping to advance research...

Study finds high endocarditis mortality rates for those who inject drugs, but treatment dramatically improves survival

People who inject drugs are dying at an alarming rate from endocarditis, a serious but treatable heart-valve infection. But their odds of survival improve dramatically, even five years after their first admission to hospital, if they're treated not just for heart infection but are also provided with addiction support while in hospital, a Canadian study shows. The study also highlights that women who inject drugs are particularly vulnerable to endocarditis and are affected in disproportionately high numbers. "Endocarditis is potentially lethal and always costly," says Dr. Michael Silverman, an infectious diseases researcher at St....

A controversial but effective treatment for meth addiction gains ground

Bernard Groves has spent five years trying to quit methamphetamine. He lost his job. He lost his car. He nearly lost his apartment. Worse than that, he says, his addiction has hurt his family. "I went [to lunch] with my auntie and I saw such sadness in her eyes," Groves said. The 35-year-old checked himself into several rehab programs in San Diego and San Francisco hoping "to be that Bernard I used

to be for the people that I love." But each time, Groves felt the progress he made in therapy morphed into people talking at him, telling him what to do. Eventually, he would always return to meth. "My best friend was like, 'I don't get it..."

Hot Days and Methamphetamine Are Now a Deadlier Mix

PHOENIX -- On just 1 sweltering day during the hottest June on record in Phoenix, a 38-year-old man collapsed under a freeway bridge and a 41-year-old woman was found slumped outside a business. Both had used methamphetamine before dying from an increasingly dangerous mix of soaring temperatures and stimulants. Meth is showing up more often as a factor in the deaths of people who died from heat-related causes in the U.S., according to an Associated Press analysis of data from the CDC. Death certificates show about one in five heat-related deaths in recent years involved methamphetamine. In Arizona, Texas...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-NS-25-020](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Understanding Individual Differences in Human Pain Conditions \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AA-24-012](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Harmonization of research metrics on alcohol use, misuse, pathology, and mortality internationally.](#)

[NOT-AA-24-016](#)

[Notice of NIAAA Participation in PA-25-080 "NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings \(Parent R13 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

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