

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](mailto: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**

#### **Are teen 'just say no' campaigns effective? UC expert joins WVXU's Cincinnati Edition roundtable discussion**

The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission recently announced a new three-year drug prevention initiative, funded by grants from the state's opioid settlement fund for prevention, enforcement, treatment and recovery efforts. The University of Cincinnati's LaTrice Montgomery joined WVXU's Cincinnati Edition to discuss youth drug prevention programs and what research says about the most effective approaches. The popular DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program that began in the 1980s originally featured a uniformed officer speaking to kids in a lecture style on how to "just say no" to drugs. "As we now know, that lecture style doesn't always resonate with youth," said Montgomery... **(CAR Member, Dr. LaTrice Montgomery)**

### **Award Recipient**

Congratulations to Jayme McReynolds, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, & Neurobiology, recipient of an Early-Stage Investigator Merit award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). This is a 7-year award that reflects Dr. McReynolds outstanding priority score on her R01 application, as well as the esteem with which she is held by NIDA leadership. Congratulations Dr. McReynolds! **(CAR Member, Dr. Jayme McReynolds)**

### **Register: Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition's Monthly Engage & Exchange: An Hour of Insights, Collaborative Conversations, and Open Forum**

The first virtual session will be held on Thursday, October 10th, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. This series aims to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among coalition members, community stakeholders, and experts in addiction response. The goals of the virtual monthly call are to recap recent developments, share community updates, and provide a platform for knowledge exchange through guest presentations and roundtable discussions. By incorporating structured content and open forums, we aim to engage participants in collaborative problem-solving, encourage the sharing of innovative ideas, and address emerging challenges. The meeting also offers an opportunity for attendees to raise topics of interest, ensuring the coalition remains responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

### **Brown Announces New Investment to Combat Youth Substance Misuse In Lake County**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced that the Office of National Drug Control Policy has awarded \$125,000 to the Lake County Community Health Coalition to implement comprehensive community-wide strategies to address the opioid and fentanyl crisis and prevent youth substance misuse. This investment will be used to educate youth and local communities on the dangers of alcohol, opioids, and other substance use, support healthy drug-free activities, enhance access to systems and services that help prevent youth substance abuse, and to provide key stakeholders with the resources they need to combat youth substance misuse. “This much needed investment will help...

### **Kentucky attorney general sues Express Scripts alleging company’s actions fueled opioid crisis**

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman has sued a pharmacy benefits manager he says played a “role in worsening the deadly opioid crisis in Kentucky.” The complaint, filed in Jessamine County Circuit Court Wednesday, names Express Scripts and affiliates as defendants and targets alleged practices over the last two decades. “The opioid crisis was fueled and sustained by those involved in the supply chain of opioids, with manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and Pharmacy Benefit Managers ...including Express Scripts, each playing a role,” Coleman wrote in the suit. The 83-page court document says Express Scripts is “at the center of the opioid dispensing chain.” It also accuses the company of...

## **National News**

### **Alcohol warning labels haven’t changed in 35 years. Could an update help people cut back on drinking?**

You may be surprised to hear that Ireland — the land of Guinness and St. Patrick’s Day revelries — is also slated to become the first country in the European Union (and second worldwide) to better regulate booze by adding cancer warnings and health information to alcohol products. What’s even more surprising? The U.S.

hasn't updated its own alcohol warning labels in 35 years — despite the fact that we've learned a lot since then about alcohol and its associated health risks. Globally, only a quarter of countries require health warnings on alcohol, according to the New York Times. The U.S. is one of those countries, but labels...

### **Doctors Less Likely to Support Broader Access to Cannabis Than Pain Patients**

Physicians were less likely than chronic pain patients to support expanding access to cannabis for medical purposes, according to survey findings published in JAMA Network Open. Respondents included 1,000 physicians and 1,661 people with chronic pain practicing or living in states with medical cannabis programs. For example, physicians were less likely to support federal legalization of medical cannabis (59% vs 71% for chronic pain patients) or requiring insurance coverage of cannabis for chronic pain treatment (51% vs 64%, respectively), but they were more likely to support requiring patient registration with...

### **Maternal cannabis use linked to genetic changes in babies**

Novel research suggests cannabis use during pregnancy is directly linked to negative impacts on babies' brain development. Led by Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury (UC) School of Biological Sciences Senior Lecturer Dr. Amy Osborne, the study, for the first time, has found that prenatal cannabis use is associated with molecular changes in the genes of exposed children. "We know cannabis use during pregnancy is associated with childhood and adolescent brain development and cognitive function," Dr. Osborne says. "However, previous studies haven't been able to prove that cannabis exposure..."

### **Harris says she backs legalizing marijuana, going further than Biden**

Vice President Harris reaffirmed her support for legalizing marijuana Monday, speaking up on the issue publicly for the first time she became the Democratic nominee. "I just think we have come to a point where we have to understand that we need to legalize it and stop criminalizing this behavior," Harris said during a nearly hourlong interview on the sports and culture podcast "All the Smoke" released Monday. "I just feel strongly people should not be going to jail for smoking weed," she told hosts Matt Barnes and Stephen Jackson. "And we know historically what that has meant and who has gone to jail." The vice president...

### **Eliminating tobacco smoking could help increase life expectancy by 2050, study suggests**

Accelerating the decline in tobacco smoking globally, by decreasing smoking prevalence from current levels to 5% everywhere, could increase life expectancy and prevent millions of premature deaths by 2050, according to a study from the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries and Risk Factors (GBD) Tobacco Forecasting Collaborators published in The Lancet Public Health journal. The analysis suggests speeding up progress toward ending smoking could deliver substantial population

health benefits over the next three decades. Findings from the study suggest that, based on current trends, global life expectancy will likely rise to...

### **Substance abuse researcher discusses teen vaping crisis**

Teen vaping has surged to alarming levels, making e-cigarettes the most popular nicotine product among U.S. adolescents. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 4.6% of middle school and 10% of high school students, or 2.1 million students, used e-cigarettes in 2023. In Florida, the situation is even more concerning, with a staggering 410% increase in adolescent e-cigarette use since 2011. Elisa Trucco, an associate professor of psychology and a leading researcher on teen substance use at the Center for Children and Families shares her insights into why teen vaping continues to rise and what can be...

### **California passes law allowing Dutch-style cannabis cafes**

Starting next year, diners in the western US state of California can smoke cannabis at certain restaurants, thanks to a new law allowing for "cannabis cafes" akin to those popularized in the Netherlands. Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law Monday authorizing businesses that are already licensed to sell cannabis to serve hot food and non-alcoholic beverages. It will go into effect on January 1, 2025. California legalized recreational cannabis in 2016, but dispensaries that sell the substance legally remain less popular than the black market. "Right now, our small cannabis businesses are struggling to compete..."

### **One million people who never regularly smoked now vape in England, finds study**

The number of adults vaping in England who have never regularly smoked has increased sharply since 2021, when disposable e-cigarettes first became popular, according to a new study by UCL researchers. The study, published in *The Lancet Public Health*, estimated that as of April 2024, about one million adults in England who had never regularly smoked were now vaping, a sevenfold increase since 2021, with most of them vaping daily and over a sustained period. This increase was largely driven by young adults, with an estimated one in seven 18-24-year-olds (14%) who never regularly smoked now using e-cigarettes. Despite...

### **Research shows methadone, other substance use disorder treatments in jails reduces recidivism**

If you provide methadone treatment or other substance-use disorder treatments in jails, will it reduce people from going back to jail? Several University of New Mexico researchers say yes. Brady Horn, a professor in the Department of Economics, and Paul Guerin, the director of the Center for Applied Research and Analysis (CARA) at the Institute for Social Research (ISR), studied a program within Bernalillo County's Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) that provides methadone treatment in their jail. The program supplies methadone, a safe replacement for opioids, so inmates can start or continue treatment while behind...

### **The pipeline of deadly fentanyl into the U.S. may be drying up, experts say**

This summer, Dan Ciccarone, a physician and street drug researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, sent a team to gather data on the city's streets in areas where illicit fentanyl has been a killer for years. They found something unexpected. "The fentanyl supply is drying up for some reason," Ciccarone said. "Hang out on the streets, talk to people — the drugs are hard to find and more expensive." Kevin Donaldson in Burlington, Vermont. He says more people like himself are finding ways to survive the U.S. overdose crisis. Data shows overdose deaths nationwide are falling for the first time in decades. When...

### **AAP Releases First Guidance on Outpatient Opioid Prescribing for Youths**

ORLANDO -- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) rolled out its first clinical practice guideline detailing evidence-based approaches to safely prescribe opioids for children and adolescents with acute pain in outpatient settings. The guideline describes when opioids may be indicated to treat acute pain in the pediatric population, and how to minimize associated risks, such as the potential for opioid use disorder, poisoning, and overdose. Ultimately, the hope is that the new guideline will be "impactful for pediatricians," Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, of Mass General for Children in Boston, said during the AAP annual meeting. Both...

### **Study finds opioid poisoning in children increasing alongside adult misuse**

The impacts of the ongoing opioid crisis are trickling down to young children, according to research presented during the American Academy of Pediatrics 2024 National Conference & Exhibition at the Orange County Convention Center from Sept. 27–Oct. 1. One abstract, "Characteristics of Children with Opioid Poisoning Consulted by a Child Protection Service," examined the demographic and medical records of 69 children who were assessed by Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect teams in the Philadelphia, PA area. The study found that over a 10-year period from June 2012 to Dec. 2023, there was an increase in cases of...

### **Naloxone successful in over half of uses in reversing signs of opioid overdose in the prehospital setting**

The opioid epidemic is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States, and it is increasingly impacting children and teenagers. Naloxone can reverse the effects of opioid overdose and is being used in hospitals and by emergency responders outside the hospital to save the lives of young people poisoned by opioids. Research titled, "Naloxone Administration to Pediatric Patients During Emergency Medical Service Events," finds that among pediatric emergency medical service responses where naloxone was administered, the first dose was successful in improving clinical status in 54.1% of cases. Approximately...

### **Will people accept a fentanyl vaccine? Interviews draw thoughtful responses**

In 2022, more than 100,000 people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S., according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Roughly three quarters of these deaths involved fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid. Fentanyl-related deaths have spiked over the past decade, many of them occurring in people with no known history of opioid use who used other drugs laced with very small amounts of fentanyl. Since 2019, the Precision Vaccines Program at Boston Children's Hospital has received nearly \$20 million from the National Institutes of Health to develop a new and unusual approach: a fentanyl vaccine. Still...

### **Drug overdose deaths take a growing toll on US children**

2% of all children nationwide—had lost a family member to a drug overdose as of 2019, according to a study by researchers at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and Pennsylvania State University. The findings, published in the American Journal of Public Health, shed light on the often-overlooked emotional toll of overdose deaths on the youngest and most vulnerable members of society and provide the first concrete data quantifying its impact. Since 2006, opioid-related deaths have been rising faster than those caused by other substances. In 2019, opioid overdose deaths were 2.4 times more common than...

### **Pre-arrest diversion-to-treatment programs may reduce crime, overdose deaths**

Pre-arrest diversion-to-treatment programs that focus on long-term treatment for substance use disorder may reduce crime recidivism, incarceration and overdose deaths, according to new study led by a research team from Penn State College of Medicine. Diversion programs aim to connect individuals who have committed a crime to programs or services as an alternative to the criminal justice system, avoiding prosecution and arrest. The research team evaluated the Madison Area Recovery Initiative (MARI), a community-wide, law-enforcement-led program in Madison, Wisconsin. They found that people who committed non-violent...

### **CDC warns of fake drug dangers from online pharmacies**

Americans who turn to online pharmacies to find cheaper versions of expensive prescription medications, especially opioids, may instead be buying themselves dangerous drugs that could trigger an overdose, U.S. health officials warned Wednesday. The warning, issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, follows a federal indictment announced last week against 18 individuals who are accused of running a massive illegal online pharmacy operation. "The victims of the scheme include people from all walks of life—people of all ages and occupations—from all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto...

## **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$68.5 Million Awarded for Behavioral Health Education, Training and Community Programs**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently awarded \$68.5 million in grants that support behavioral health education, training and community programs to help address mental health and substance use conditions in support of the President's Unity Agenda for the Nation. "Far too many Americans, especially young people, are struggling with behavioral health challenges," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "We are bolstering our health workforce by funding education, training, and community programs so anyone who...

## **Newsom signs bill expanding methadone access in California amid opioid crisis**

In the ongoing fight against opioid addiction, Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a bill aimed at expanding access to methadone treatment in California. Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2115 by Assemblymember Matt Haney, a Democrat from San Francisco. The measure, which was unanimously approved in the legislature, aims to end what Haney said were outdated state laws limiting access to the medication. "We've reached a point where the treatment for opioid addiction is much harder to get than the deadly drugs themselves," Haney said in a statement Friday. According to Haney's office, the bill changes California's laws on...

## **Funding Opportunities**



[RFA-DA-26-009](#)

[Mitochondrial-associated Mechanisms of Neuropathological and Immunodeficient Aging in the Context of HIV and SUD \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-26-010](#)

[Mitochondrial-associated Mechanisms of Neuropathological and Immunodeficient Aging in the Context of HIV and SUD \(R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-046](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Accelerating the Pace of Substance Use Research Using Existing Data \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-047](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Accelerating the Pace of Substance Use Research Using Existing Data \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-24-294](#)

[Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network \(BPN\): Biologic-based Drug Discovery and Development for Disorders of the Nervous System \(U44 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-24-293](#)

[Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network \(BPN\): Biologic-based Drug Discovery and Development for Disorders of the Nervous System \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

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