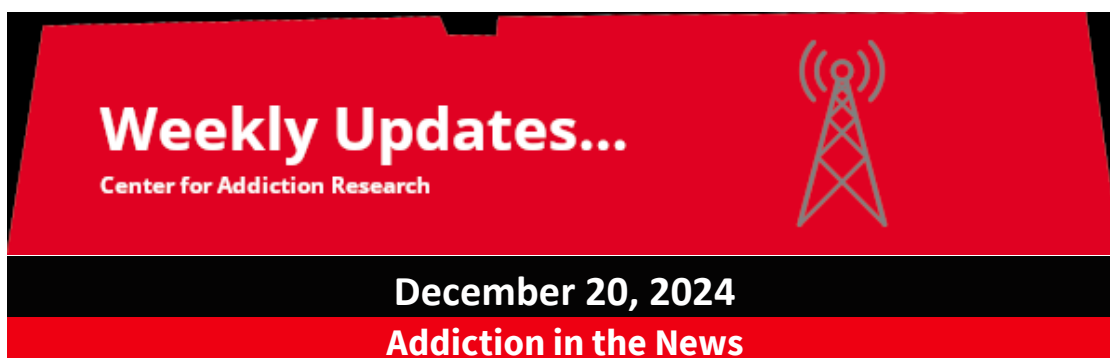


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. **The next weekly newsletter will be distributed on 1/10/2025 - we at CAR wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!** 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

CDC warns of deadly drug 100 times more potent than fentanyl

The Centers for Disease Control recently reported nearly 70% of all U.S. overdose deaths in 2023 were attributed to illegally manufactured fentanyls. This includes carfentanil, an altered version said to be 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The CDC said there were 29 carfentanil overdose deaths between January and June 2023, with 238 deaths over the same time period in 2024. The University of Cincinnati's Chris Tuell, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral neuroscience in UC's College of Medicine and clinical director of addiction services at UC Health's Lindner Center of HOPE, told Fox News Digital carfentanil's "high profitability" likely drives its prevalence. "Very small amounts can produce..."

Ohio prescription tracking system to alert pharmacists, doctors if patients have overdosed in the past

To better catch patients at risk of future overdoses, Ohio's prescription drug monitoring program will begin alerting health care providers about patients who have experienced a non-fatal drug overdose. The alerts through the tracking system known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) are intended to improve care, as well as promote access to medication for opioid use disorder and other tools to prevent fatal overdoses. "The goal of this alert is to give us an extra

chance to save someone's life," Gov. Mike DeWine said. Research shows people who have recently experienced a non-fatal overdose are at a higher risk to overdose again in the near future, DeWine said. They often have regular...

As Ohio's opioid settlement funds get dispersed, families who lost loved ones feel left behind

The opioid crisis is personal for Brenda Ryan. She started her nonprofit, Keys 2 Serenity, in Cuyahoga Falls after her own daughter, Sheena, passed away from an opioid overdose in 2016. Sheena was survived by her 5-year-old child. Nine years later, Ryan juggles her nonprofit work, a part-time job as a hairdresser and the caretaking of her 14-year-old grandson, Wyatt. He's one of an estimated 47,000 Ohio children who lost one or both parents to an opioid overdose between 2006 and 2021, according to a new study commissioned by Harm Reduction Ohio, a group that advocates for people addicted to opioids and their families. In the early days of the opioid crisis, Ryan gained notoriety in the addiction...

Medical marijuana sparks mixed reactions across Kentucky

RICHMOND, Ky. – Medical marijuana will be legal in Kentucky on Jan. 1, 2025, and it has sparked both celebration and concern across the state. Gov. Andy Beshear signed Senate Bill 47 in March 2023, establishing Kentucky's first medical cannabis program. Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, Kentuckians with cancer, chronic pain, epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other qualifying medical conditions can apply for a medical marijuana card. Kentucky will be one of 13 states that has legalized marijuana strictly for medical use. Medical marijuana is seen as a versatile drug that can benefit patients more than other treatments. Marijuana can help maintain seizures for people suffering from epilepsy, reducing chronic pain, and...

National News

Screening with telephone-based intervention reduces risky alcohol use in Texas study

Researchers from Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin successfully implemented a screening and telephone-based intervention program for unhealthy alcohol use at a large Federally Qualified Health Center system in Texas. The study demonstrated significant reductions in alcohol use among a diverse adult patient population, including those insured through county-based programs for otherwise uninsured or low-income individuals. Unhealthy alcohol use contributes to increased risks of multiple health conditions, including liver disease, cardiovascular disease...

Alcohol, adolescents and parental perceptions

New research led by Flinders University is expanding the understanding of parents' attitudes towards supplying alcohol to their underage children. Published in the Health Promotion International journal, the new study surveyed more than 1,000 Australian parents with children aged 12–17 years, to evaluate their motives, beliefs

and attitudes in supplying alcohol to their children. "We wanted to understand parents' attitudes and perceptions about alcohol consumption in adolescence, and how these contribute to the provision of alcohol to their children," says lead author, Professor Jacqueline Bowden, Director of the National...

Alcohol prescribing for severe withdrawal: What the research shows

In rare and severe cases of alcohol withdrawal, one NHS trust is prescribing alcohol to treat patients. A specialized team at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust prescribes carefully controlled doses of alcohol in a medical setting to a select group of patients. The goal? To prevent life-threatening complications. This unconventional approach has sparked discussions surrounding its safety and effectiveness. But a review by my colleagues and I found that alcohol prescribing was as effective as standard treatments in most cases. Alcohol withdrawal happens when someone with a significant dependency...

Been drinking and your heart's fluttering? You may have 'holiday heart'

It's the time of year for workplace Christmas parties, and gatherings with family and friends. Maybe you'll drink a lot in one go. Then you feel your heart beating fast or irregularly. Maybe there's a flutter in your chest or neck. Maybe you feel dizzy or short of breath. You may feel so concerned you go to the emergency department. After a few tests, you're told you have "alcohol-induced atrial arrhythmia." In plain English, that's an irregular heartbeat brought on by excessive, or binge drinking. The condition is common at this time of year. That's why it's also called "holiday heart". What is holiday heart? Every festive season, emergency...

U.S. life spans rebound from pandemic lows, helped by drop in fatal overdoses

After years of decline, U.S. life expectancy is finally on the rise again for the first time since 2019, new government research shows. This turnaround was driven in part by a decline in drug overdose deaths, which had risen dramatically as a result of the opioid epidemic, according to a second report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That includes the first reduction in OD deaths caused by powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl and tramadol, researchers said. "The age-adjusted rate for drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone decreased from 2022 to 2023, the first such...

McKinsey & Company to pay \$650 million for role in opioid crisis

The global consulting firm McKinsey and Company Friday agreed to pay \$650 million to settle a federal probe into its role in helping "turbocharge" sales of the highly addictive opioid painkiller OxyContin for Purdue Pharma, the U.S. Justice Department announced on Friday. Federal officials said the influential consulting company - which often advises governments and powerful corporations around the globe - committed crimes while trying to aggressively boost opioid sales. "It was a strategy, it was executed and it worked," said U.S. attorney Christopher Kavanaugh during a press conference on Friday. "McKinsey's strategy..."

Providers, You Are the Missing Piece: Your Patients With OUD Need You

As of 2023, more than 5 million people ages 12 or older in the U.S. have opioid use disorder (OUD). Although evidence shows that patients receiving medication for their OUD die of all causes at half the rate of those who do not receive such treatment, only an estimated 1 million people (18%) are receiving FDA-approved treatment. Primary care providers (PCPs) are uniquely positioned to make a positive impact in addiction care, just as they have for other chronic conditions. Many may already provide medical care to people who have OUD, putting them in a key position to prescribe medications for OUD in addition to other...

'I want help': Behind bars, pleas for addiction medications often go nowhere

James Mannion knew what he needed. For nine months, while incarcerated in a county jail in Portland, Maine, he pleaded for a medication called buprenorphine. Mannion, a barber, recreational fisherman, and father of two, was once a regular heroin user, but had used the medication to eliminate the cravings and withdrawal he experienced whenever he tried to quit opioids cold turkey. Buprenorphine had worked before for Mannion, just as it has worked for millions of others, helping him to avoid using far more dangerous illegal drugs like heroin and fentanyl. On Aug. 11, 2022, a doctor working at the jail examined Mannion and...

Justice Department Files Nationwide Lawsuit Alleging CVS Knowingly Dispensed Controlled Substances in Violation of the Controlled Substances Act and the False Claims Act

In a civil complaint unsealed today in Providence, Rhode Island, the Justice Department alleges that CVS Pharmacy Inc. and various subsidiaries (collectively, CVS) filled unlawful prescriptions in violation of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and sought reimbursement from federal healthcare programs for unlawful prescriptions in violation of the False Claims Act (FCA). CVS is the country's largest pharmacy chain, with more than 9,000 pharmacies across the United States. The government's complaint alleges that, from Oct. 17, 2013, to the present, CVS knowingly filled prescriptions for controlled substances that lacked a...

National Organizations Urge the White House to Lift the Contingency Management Funding Cap

Last week, the Addiction Policy Forum joined the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP), the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), the National Council on Mental Wellbeing, and other national organizations in sending a letter to the administration to lift the current \$75 max restriction on many federal grant programs on patient incentives for recovery behaviors or Contingency Management (CM) from opioid, stimulant, and alcohol use disorders. The letter states: "The current \$75 cap policy contradicts over six decades of scientific research supporting the efficacy of higher incentives. It also fails to recognize..."

Q&A: Should pharmacists be moral gatekeepers?

Since the opioid epidemic was declared a public health crisis in 2017, it has claimed the lives of nearly half a million Americans. High-profile cases like that against Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family put the focus on prescription drugs, but the reality is far more complicated, says Elizabeth Chiarello, author of the book "Policing Patients: Treatment and Surveillance on the Frontlines of the Opioid Crisis" and a former fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute. Over the course of 10 years, she spoke to health care workers who face difficult choices between treating and punishing patients, and the problems that have arisen from...

Georgia lawmakers consider making opioid alternatives more affordable

A panel of Georgia lawmakers is considering introducing legislation next year forcing insurance companies to cover the cost of alternatives to opioid pain medications as a way to further address problems with the addictive medications. State Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, said she and other members of a special House opioid study committee expect to make alternative medications more affordable by requiring insurance companies to cover nonopioid pain management options the same way they do for opioids. There is legislative precedent for such a requirement. Au pointed to a 2022 mental health measure that...

Study finds federal needle exchange programs reduce health care costs and blood-borne infections

The World Health Organization has set a target of reducing hepatitis C infections to fewer than two per 100 people who inject drugs per year as part of an elimination strategy for hepatitis C. In 2024, Canada unveiled its 2024–2030 Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection Action Plan that emphasized support for harm reduction programs and expanding the PNEP. Researchers from Canada and Australia sought to assess the return on investment for Canada's PNEP, and the potential impact of scaling it up, as part of efforts to eliminate blood-borne infections in prisons. Using a modeling study, they found that expanding...

Reported use of most drugs among adolescents remained low in 2024

After declining significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, substance use among adolescents has continued to hold steady at lowered levels for the fourth year in a row, according to the latest results from the Monitoring the Future Survey, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These recent data continue to document stable and declining trends in the use of most drugs among young people. "This trend in the reduction of substance use among teenagers is unprecedented," said Nora D. Volkow, M.D., director of NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). "We must continue to investigate factors..."

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[PAR-25-317](#)

[Risk and Protective Factors of Family Health and Family Level Interventions \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-AA-24-012](#)

[Model Continuums of Care Initiative \(MCCI\) to Advance Health Equity and End Health Disparities Among Women and Girls in Racial/Ethnic Minority and Other Underserved Communities \(U34 Clinical Trials Required\)](#)

[PAS-25-236](#)

[D-START: Data Science Track Award for Research Transition \(D/START\) \(R03-Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-077](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Translating Research to Practice to End the Overdose Crisis \(R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-078](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Translating Research to Practice to End the Overdose Crisis \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PA-25-301](#)

[NIH Research Project Grant \(Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PA-25-303](#)

[NIH Research Project Grant \(Parent R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[PA-25-305](#)

[NIH Research Project Grant \(Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PA-25-304](#)

[NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Project Grant \(Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PA-25-306](#)

[NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Project Grant \(Parent R21 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PA-25-307](#)

[NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Project Grant \(Parent R21 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[PA-25-302](#)

[NIH Small Research Grant Program \(Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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