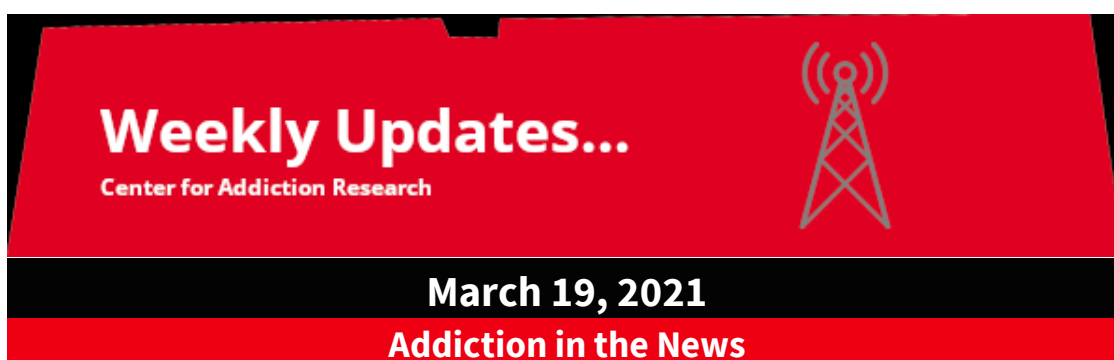


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.19.2021

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.

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

Could Opioid Crisis Mean More Strokes for Americans?

Health Day

THURSDAY, March 11, 2021 (HealthDay News) -- One Ohio medical center has seen a sharp rise in heart infections and strokes related to IV drug abuse -- pointing to one more consequence of the U.S. opioid epidemic, researchers say. In a preliminary study, the researchers found that between 2014 and 2018, their hospital...

National News

NIDA AIDS Research Program Symposium on the Avant-Garde Award Program

Apr 27, 2021 01:00 PM in [Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#) [Click Here to Register](#)

The NIDA AIDS Research Program invites you to a symposium on the [Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV/AIDS and Substance Use Disorder Research \(DP1\)](#). Join NIDA leadership and recent Avant-Garde Award recipients to discuss their innovative, transformative research into HIV and substance use. **(Flyer attached)**

Research Suggests Vaping Marijuana May Be Worse Than Smoking Or Vaping Tobacco.

The [Detroit News](#) (3/14, Taylor, 1.16M) reports, “Recent University of Michigan studies have found that vaping marijuana could be more harmful to teens than vaping or smoking nicotine.” Research indicates “that vaping cannabis puts teens at greater risk for respiratory symptoms indicative of lung injury.” The research included “self-reported symptoms from a sample of 12- to 17-year-olds” and found that “those who vaped marijuana were about twice as likely to report wheezing and whistling in the chest than those who did not.” The research concluded “cigarettes and e-cigarettes are unhealthy and not good for lungs. However, vaping marijuana appears even worse.”

U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Have Grown Faster In Urban Counties.

[US News & World Report](#) (3/17, 1.91M) reports, “Recent drug overdose deaths in the United States have affected urban communities more than rural ones, according to a new analysis from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” According to the analysis, “In 2019, 22 people in urban counties died of drug overdoses for every 100,000 people,” while “rural counties saw an age-adjusted rate of 19.6 overdose deaths for every 100,000 people.” The report was issued by the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics. The report also found that “fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have been driving the rise in overdose deaths in the last decade,” and “the widespread availability of such substances...is likely behind the shift in demographics affected,” Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, tells U.S. News.”

Opioid Epidemic Derailing Confirmation Of Biden’s FDA Pick.

[Politico](#) (3/18, Cancryn, 6.73M) reports that two months into Biden’s presidency, the search for a commissioner to run the FDA “has become a drawn-out and messy affair, vexing administration officials and threatening to disrupt a rare period of harmony on health care within the Democratic Party, according to more than a half-dozen current and former officials and people familiar with the deliberations.” Politico says “the process has pitted Biden’s allies in the cancer and drug development worlds against a wave of vocal anti-opioid activists and liberal groups eager to push the president further left.” Meanwhile, “what was once seen as the inevitable coronation of longtime FDA regulator Janet Woodcock has stalled amid worries she would face sharp opposition among a handful of Senate Democrats over her handling of the opioid epidemic – and among progressive groups who say she’s too friendly with the pharmaceutical industry.”

How America Segregates Drug Use

The New Republic

The sudden overdose deaths of Philip Seymour Hoffman and Prince, in 2014 and 2016, happened during wall-to-wall coverage of an emerging crisis, which had come

to be known as the “opioid epidemic.” A *60 Minutes* [investigation](#) in 2015 titled “Heroin in the Heartland” was premised on heroin’s...

Bill seeks to have SC doctors prescribe overdose drug when they give patients opioids

Post and Courier

A bill headed through the S.C. Statehouse would require doctors to offer lifesaving overdose reversal drugs to some patients who might potentially need them, even as the largest physicians’ lobbying group in the state expresses concern the law would be an overreach. If passed, [Senate Bill 571](#) would mandate...

How should the CDC opioid guideline be changed?

Pain News Network

It was five years ago today – March 15, 2016 – that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its controversial [opioid guideline](#), which discourages doctors from prescribing opioids for chronic pain. “This guideline is intended to improve communication between clinicians and patients...

West Virginia University Addresses Addiction Crisis with Novel Ultrasound Treatment

Imaging Technology News

March 17, 2021 — On the heels of the country’s deadliest year for drug overdoses, the [West Virginia University Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute](#) launched a first-in-the-world clinical trial to investigate the use of [focused ultrasound](#) technology to treat those with opioid use disorder. The procedure marks the potential...

Oklahoma Becomes 1st State To Expand Medicaid Coverage To Include Opioid Treatment

News 9

Oklahoma now has a new tool to help fight opioid addiction in the state. The federal government has approved the expansion of Medicaid coverage in Oklahoma to pay for different treatments. Oklahoma is now the first state in the entire country to offer this coverage and state leaders ...

House Members Broadening Approach To Drug Epidemic Beyond Opioids.

[Roll Call](#) (3/16, Raman, 130K) reports, “House lawmakers are restructuring their bipartisan task forces dedicated to combating the drug epidemic and expect the chamber to consider behavioral health legislation this year.” The changes are expected to “broaden the scope of legislative efforts beyond opioids to include all forms of addiction and mental health.” [Roll Calls](#) adds, “Over 86,000 individuals died from drug overdoses in the 12-month period ending in July 2020,” according to data from the Centers for Disease Control. CDC data has also “shown sharp increases in individuals experiencing mental health symptoms,” with “spikes in

suicides, and children's advocates worry that the pandemic will have lasting effects on kids' mental and social health."

At Last, Some Help For Meth Addiction.

[Scientific American](#) (3/16, Wallis, 3.1M) reports, "About one million people in the U.S. are addicted to meth," and "fatal overdoses appear to have spiked by nearly 35 percent during the COVID pandemic," yet "meth users have no approved medications to help them shake their habit. And most behavioral therapies fail." Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said, "Methamphetamine is the drug that produces the largest release," and added, "An animal will go crazy pressing a lever in order to get the drug." A recent study using bupropion, to "buffer the misery of steep drops that occur when people stop using meth," and naltrexone, to attempt to lessen cravings, found that of "403 heavy users of meth," the combined therapies "helped 13.6 percent stay off the drug," compared to "2.5 percent of those given placebos." Another study of Contingency Management found that "one person benefits from CM for every five treated."

Sources Say Biden Favors Ex-West Virginia Health Commissioner For ONDCP Director Nomination.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/17, Diamond, Viser, Bernstein, 10.52M) reports, "Rahul Gupta, the top health official at maternal-and-child advocacy group March of Dimes, is favored to" be nominated as the next permanent director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), according to four anonymous individuals "with knowledge of the selection process." The possibility of a Gupta nomination is a concern for some substance use disorder prevention advocates, who are "arguing he did too little to ensure safe-needle exchange during a 2017 HIV outbreak" in West Virginia. But Gupta, who was West Virginia's health commissioner at that time, "has a strong working relationship with" Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV).

Opinion: Addiction Care Workers Need Access To COVID-19 Vaccines.

River Oaks Treatment Center CEO Jeff Turiczek writing in [STAT](#) (3/15, 262K) says healthcare workers who work in behavioral health and addiction treatment centers are considered essential workers, but have so far been left out of COVID-19 vaccine programs. He argues, "Across the country, health care workers in facilities that treat patients with addiction and behavioral health issues must be given the same Covid-19 protection, testing, and vaccination priority as those in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care settings."

Clinicians Viewed Just 1% Of Patient Genomic Data In EHR, Study Finds.

[EHR Intelligence](#) (3/15, Jason) reports, "Researchers implemented the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) Network into the EHR to evaluate how clinicians engage with genomic data." eMERGE "gathers and displays genetic

testing data in EHR systems.” A study found that “clinicians viewed only 1 percent of patient genomic data in the EHR.” The study authors concluded, “Data contribute important empirical knowledge on the application of objective EHR log data to evaluate clinician engagement with genomic data and with unsolicited findings displayed in the EHR, within a clinical context.”

Pediatric Physicians Seeing Mental Health Crisis In Children.

The AP (3/12, Leicester) reported for physicians who treat children “the pandemic’s impact on the mental health of children is increasingly alarming.” For example, a pediatric hospital in Paris “has seen a doubling in the number of children and young teenagers requiring treatment after attempted suicides since September.”

Physicians in other places “report similar surges, with children – some as young as 8 – deliberately running into traffic, overdosing on pills and otherwise self-harming.” Child and adolescent suicides in Japan “hit record levels in 2020, according to the Education Ministry.” Some psychiatrists “say they’re also seeing children with coronavirus-related phobias, tics, and eating disorders.”

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-OD-21-005](#)

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

[RFA-NS-21-015](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Analgesic Development Initial Translational Efforts \[Small Molecules and Biologics\] \(U19 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-21-016](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Planning Studies for Initial Analgesic Development Initial Translational Efforts \[Small Molecules and Biologics\] \(R34 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-21-163](#)

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

[RFA-MH-21-135](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: Integration and Analysis of BRAIN Initiative Data \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-OD-21-004](#)

[Maximizing the Scientific Value of Existing Biospecimen Collections \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-OD-21-003](#)

[Secondary Analyses of Existing Datasets of Tobacco Use and Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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