

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

Thank you for your interest in the UC/UC Health Addiction Center - our mission is to generate new knowledge through innovative research, disseminate that knowledge through education and training, and provide high-quality, evidence-based treatment for individuals affected by addiction and related conditions. We are committed to supporting lifelong recovery and promoting dignity and respect for all individuals on their recovery journey.



UC/ Regional News

Correction: Research Rainmakers

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Rick Ryan, **(UCAC Research Member)** whose sponsored research awards in fiscal year 2025 placed him in the top 25% of earners at UC and led to his recognition on the Research Rainmakers list for the third time. In our previous newsletter, Dr. Ryan was inadvertently omitted from the list.

'Paradigm-shifting' study confirms effectiveness of long-acting HIV treatment

A recent clinical trial involving the University of Cincinnati targeted the challenges of medication adherence in people living with HIV. Results were published in The New England Journal of Medicine. UC was the leading enrolling site in the U.S., with 32 of the 453 participants taking part in the LATITUDE study, a Phase III randomized trial that tested the efficacy of monthly injectable antiretroviral therapies cabotegravir and rilpivirine instead of daily oral antiretroviral therapy (ART). The findings indicate that both injectable drugs are superior in preventing regimen failure among people living with HIV who have...

ADAMHS Board delays crisis center vote, but leaders say 'there is no help coming'

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board is giving itself two more weeks to decide whether to fully fund a new behavioral health crisis center or preserve funding for the dozens of addiction and mental health programs that already serve the county. Board members said they need

more time to review a revised funding proposal from The Centers, which will operate the new crisis center, and explore whether additional dollars could be secured from the county, foundations or hospital systems. Those changes, they reasoned, could reduce reliance on ADAMHS Board funding and allow the crisis...

Inside Cuyahoga jail's fight against overdoses — and how drugs still get in

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Last spring, jail officials found an unresponsive inmate face-down in a cell near a toilet. Correctional officers administered Narcan three times after seeing telltale signs of an overdose: shrunken pupils and gasping breaths. The inmate was transported to MetroHealth and survived. The ensuing investigation led to federal charges against a guard, Quiana Thompson, 32, accused of smuggling methamphetamine, Suboxone and synthetic marijuana into the jail. It wasn't the first time. The year before, in July 2024, an inmate at Cuyahoga County Corrections Center died after staff failed at every step to prevent an...

OneOhio Recovery Foundation funds opioid programs statewide

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is a private non-profit formed to distribute \$236 million to counties across the state. The organization received this money from pharmaceutical companies found liable for their role in spurring on the opioid epidemic. The organization, created in December 2021, received payments from 15 different lawsuits settled between 2023 and 2025, according to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation website. The lawsuits included companies like Walmart, Walgreens, CVS and more. The money was split in three ways, with 55% of it going to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, 30% going directly to...

Napoleon Council supports MAN Unit drug treatment effort

NAPOLEON — Napoleon City Council approved a request from the Multi-Area Narcotics Task Force, commonly called the MAN Unit, for funding through Napoleon's portion of the OneOhio Fund. The action came at the Monday council meeting. OneOhio distributes money from the state's opioid settlement. Edward Legg, Napoleon police chief, said how that money can be spent is restricted, basically to drug abuse education and treatment. The city has about \$33,000 in OneOhio funds which it could draw upon to support the request. Ben Williams, MAN Unit commander, said in 2024, a liaison position was created, connecting...

'My mom was not a bad parent. She was sick.'

I was 2 years old when my mom went to jail. I do not remember everything she remembers. I was too young. What I do remember is what came after. I remember missing her. I remember confusion. I remember loss before I had the words for it. What I see clearly now is how hard it is for her to talk about it. Every time my mom shares her story, I can see the pain return. The guilt of missing my early years hasn't really left her. It hurts me to watch my mom relive the worst moments of her life. I can no longer sit quietly and watch her carry that weight alone. That's not the man my family raised me to be. When my mom was incarcerated, I went...

Overdose Lifeline group discusses addiction, peer support

Substance abuse is one of the most harmful problems in modern society. With the recent emergence of fentanyl in many commonly used drugs, becoming trapped in an addiction is easier than ever, but there are groups on campus that want to talk and offer resources where they can. Overdose Lifeline—a group dedicated to helping young adults make informed decisions when it comes to substance use—came out to Purdue's Jischke Hall on Wednesday to talk about just that: breaking the cycle. On the panel was Cameron McNeely, an Overdose Lifeline member; Carol Ott, a professor of various health courses here at Purdue; Emily...

How Bloomington organizations are using Downtown Outreach grants

Marilyn Grimes' phone buzzes with a call from the Monroe County Jail. It's business as usual for Grimes' "baby," Courage to Change Sober Living, she said. Grimes, a grandmother recovering from addiction herself, is the executive director of Courage to Change, an organization devoted to providing a sober, structured and affordable environment for former addicts getting their lives back together. The organization owns six houses across Bloomington, with three for men and three for women. Together, the organization provides housing for around 40 people. Courage to Change Sober Living is one of several...

National News

Alcohol abstinence enables regeneration even in advanced liver cirrhosis

Consistent and permanent abstinence from alcohol can lead to the regression of existing liver-related complications, even in cases of advanced alcohol-related cirrhosis. This is shown by an international multicentre study led by MedUni Vienna, which was recently published in the Journal of Hepatology. Up to one third of patients with already decompensated alcohol-related cirrhosis were able to achieve so-called "re-compensation" through consistent abstinence from alcohol—i.e., the complete resolution of liver-related complications with simultaneous recovery of liver function. In addition, the study identifies the factors that...

Prenatal infection may raise adult alcohol misuse risk, study suggests

Exposure to infection and other immune stress in the womb increases the likelihood of alcohol misuse in adulthood, a risk that may be reduced through prenatal antioxidant treatment, a new Washington State University study shows. The findings, published in the journal Psychopharmacology, provide insight into how early biological stress shapes addictive behaviors and identifies a potential approach for lowering the risk of alcohol use disorder—a problem with massive social and financial costs. "People don't talk about alcohol use disorders as much as other drugs because alcohol is legal," said Angela M. Henricks...

Adolescent Cannabis Use Associated With Increased Risk of Psychiatric Disorders

A new study published in JAMA Health Forum found that adolescent cannabis use was associated with an increased risk of developing psychotic, bipolar, depressive, and anxiety disorders by young adulthood. The study included over 400,000 adolescents ages 13 to 17 who were universally screened for past-year cannabis use during routine pediatric visits between 2016 and 2023. Participants were followed through age 25, and researchers examined clinician-diagnosed psychiatric disorders documented in electronic health records. During follow-up, there were more than 4,000 new diagnoses of psychotic and bipolar...

Supreme Court hears arguments in illegal drug user, gun case

WASHINGTON (Gray DC) - The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday in a closely watched case that could reshape how federal gun laws apply to millions of Americans who use marijuana. At issue: whether people who regularly use controlled substances can be barred from possessing firearms under federal law, even if they are otherwise law-abiding. The case stems from the 2023 arrest of Ali Hemani, a Texas man charged after FBI agents found a handgun and marijuana inside his home. Federal prosecutors charged Hemani under a decades-old law that makes it a felony for an “unlawful user” of a controlled substance...

Q&A: Integrating tobacco treatment in HIV care

Modern HIV treatment is one of medicine's great success stories. With today's therapies, many people living with HIV can expect long, full lives. But as patients age, a new reality has emerged: The biggest threats to their health are often the same ones facing the general population—heart disease, cancer, and chronic lung conditions. For many, smoking is a major contributor to those risks. Yet tobacco use can be overshadowed by other urgent medical and social concerns. E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS, professor of medicine (general medicine) at Yale School of Medicine (YSM), has spent years studying the intersection of HIV and...

Amid Opioid Addiction Treatment, Losing Insurance Tied to Mortality Risk

Disenrollment from health plans was associated with an increased risk of mortality among patients who initiated medications for opioid use disorder (OUD), according to a retrospective cohort study. In adjusted analyses of more than 20,000 patients, ever experiencing disenrollment was associated with increased risks of all-cause mortality (HR 1.51, 95% CI 1.23-1.84) and overdose mortality (HR 1.56, 95% CI 1.17-2.09), reported Anh P. Nguyen, PhD, of Kaiser Permanente Colorado in Denver, and colleagues. The all-cause mortality rates were 17.6 versus 14.7 per 1,000 person-years for patients with and...

Prenatal opioid exposure impacts child well-being through adolescence, finds study

Children with prenatal opioid exposure face struggles in health, education, and social well-being throughout their childhoods and teenage years, even when sociodemographic factors are factored out. The global opioid crisis has largely been

viewed as a crisis of adult users, but it has also led to a rise in children exposed to opioids before birth, only some of whom are diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome—essentially, withdrawal. In 2023, approximately 95,000 American infants may have been exposed to opioids in utero. Publishing in PNAS Nexus, Gaëlle Simard-Duplain and Jonathan Zhang analyzed two...

Overdose deaths decline but new risks emerge as drug supply changes

The main point: Overdose deaths continue to decline, but the drug supply continues to change, presenting new risks. The details: Millennium Health released a report on drug use trends based on more than 1.69 million clinical urine drug tests collected 2016-2025. The new data show the most sustained national decline in overdose deaths in two decades, but the continued rise of illicit stimulant use threatens to undercut progress. Fentanyl + stimulants: In 2025, 85% of people testing positive for fentanyl also tested positive for an illicit stimulant, the highest proportion ever recorded in Millennium's data. Illicit stimulant use increased...

What to know about how GLP-1 medications might fight addiction

The blockbuster GLP-1 drugs that have reshaped the treatment of diabetes and obesity may help prevent multiple substance use disorders—and reduce the tragic outcomes they cause, a large new study finds. An analysis published Wednesday in a medical journal looked at electronic health records from more than 600,000 U.S. Veterans Affairs patients with diabetes. It found that those treated with medications such as Ozempic and Mounjaro were less likely to develop addictions to alcohol, nicotine, cocaine, opioids and other substances than those treated with a different class of drugs. In those already addicted, the GLP-1 drugs were...

What decades of research reveal about involuntary substance use treatment, and why evidence points elsewhere

Since President Donald Trump issued a July 2025 executive order aimed at "ending crime and disorder on America's streets," national attention has increasingly focused on involuntary treatment as a response to visible homelessness and drug use. A few months later, in September 2025, officials in Utah announced plans for a 16-acre facility on the edge of Salt Lake City that would hold up to 1,300 people experiencing homelessness after they are removed from public spaces and offered a choice: the facility's abstinence-based shelter or jail time. The facility also plans to include 300 to 400 beds reserved for involuntary...

Study Warns of Large Increase in New HIV Cases in U.S. if Ryan White Program Ends

DENVER -- Ending funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program would result in an estimated 73% increase in HIV infections in 30 states over 5 years, according to a simulation study. An analysis of aggregated data from 30 states that included over 99% of people diagnosed with HIV projected an additional 117,431 infections over 5 years if the Ryan White program ends, and an additional 68,264 infections if the

program is interrupted for 2.5 years, reported Melissa Schnure, PhD, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. The Ryan...

Funding Opportunities



There are no new NIH Grants Funding Opportunities to post this week.

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