

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

New in the PATHS Toolkit: Workbook on OUD and Pregnancy

The Prenatal Action for Taking Healthy Steps (PATHS) toolkit, developed out of protocol CTN-0080-A3 (led by the Ohio Valley Node), offers evidence-based educational resources about the use of medication to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) during and after pregnancy. Toolkit materials include flyers, info sheets, posters, an education video, social media images and short videos (“Reels”) for download and sharing, and a discussion guide that can be used to direct conversations about MOUD in pregnant/postpartum people either in a group or individual settings, as well as a set of external links and resources that can be helpful... **(OVN Principal Investigator and UCAC Director, Dr. T. John Winhusen)**

UC Blue Ash expert examines a link between sports betting and binge drinking behavior

Keshar Ghimire, PhD, an associate professor of economics at UC Blue Ash, has co-authored a new study in the journal Health Economics that examines a possible link between gambling and substance use. Ghimire and researcher Kabir Dasgupta, a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Board, used data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and a difference-in-difference (DID) estimation strategy to assess the impact of legalizing sports betting on smoking and drinking behavior among adults. Local 12 News spoke with Ghimire for a segment on sports betting and March Madness. Ghimire's primary appointment is...

State legislators present ‘Save Ohio Sports Act,’ reigning in legalized sports betting

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WOIO) - A group of state lawmakers and advocacy groups announced on Wednesday the Save Ohio Sports Act aimed at addressing both health and sports integrity concerns. “We don’t have a [Narcan] spray for problem gambling,” said Dr. Chris Tuell, Director of Addiction Services at the Lindner Center of Hope. “Sometimes, in this case, the pen is mightier than the sword.” Sports betting officially became legalized in Ohio in 2023. The bill was introduced by State Representatives Gary Click, Riordan McClain and Johnathan Newman is divided into two initiatives. First, it aims to create new consumer protections...

Cincinnati program helps women overcome stigma after addiction, exploitation

CINCINNATI (WXIX) - Hundreds of women across greater Cincinnati are working to rebuild their lives after addiction, exploitation and time on the streets. But many say the hardest part isn’t recovery. It’s overcoming the societal stigma that follows them. Brandy Adams said her past gets brought up to her nonstop. Leaving the streets wasn’t the end of her fight. It was just the beginning of proving she’s more than her past. “I just keep fighting whether people hear me or not,” Adams said. “People can change. Yes, I did.” That stigma, often louder than their progress, is something many women carry off the streets. For LaToya Bagley, that...

Louisville health experts stress importance of Alcohol Awareness Month

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WAVE) - The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence designated April as Alcohol Awareness Month. Launched in 1987, the end goal is to update knowledge about alcohol use disorder and its adverse impact on health and society. The National Institutes of Health said each year, there are more than 178,000 alcohol-related deaths, making alcohol a leading preventable cause of death in the United States. In addition, they say more than 200 diseases and injury-related conditions are associated with alcohol misuse. Norton Health Care nurse practitioner Jenn Truman believes the first step in...

Attorney General Russell Coleman tackles social media addiction for minors

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman says protecting children from online addiction is the “new fight of our time,” comparing it to the state’s decade-long battle against opioids. In a new op-ed published across the Commonwealth, Coleman highlighted recent legal victories, including a New Mexico jury verdict ordering Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, to pay \$375 million after accusations the platform allowed child predators to operate freely. A separate California jury also found Meta and YouTube designed their apps to be addictive and harmful to young users. Kentucky is now part...

'Pregnancy doesn't cure addiction': Overdose is top cause of death for new Indiana mothers

Dana Cahill, peer recovery specialist for the Community Health Network's CHOICE program, said she helps women feel human again. It's a voluntary 24-7 program that helps mothers detox from heroin, methamphetamine, and other addictive substances. When she's not giving out pastel-colored toys or maternity clothes, Cahill helps patients rebuild their lives. Sometimes that means getting a driver's license or applying for jobs. Other times, Cahill helps mothers find an inpatient treatment center. She went through the program herself and credits God with giving her a chance to give back. "You're essentially picking yourself..."

Overdoses Are Down, but Addiction Treatment Access Remains a Crisis

BLOOMINGTON, IN, UNITED STATES, April 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ — Overdose deaths are falling in Indiana, but most people who need addiction treatment still are not receiving it. Fear of losing work, family obligations and stigma remain major barriers to care. Accidental overdose deaths have been declining each year since 2021, falling from 2,718 to 1,648 in 2024, according to the Indiana Overdose and Suicide Reports. Yet, access to addiction treatment remains a serious challenge. Four out of five Hoosiers who need help are not receiving care, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "Recovery..."

National News

Researchers start to clarify the likelihood of recovery after alcohol-associated hepatitis

Returning to drinking after alcohol-associated hepatitis (AH) is closely related to recurrent liver disease and death. Of those hospitalized for AH, 30% die within 90 days. Among the survivors, alcohol use is key to outcomes. The risk of relapse after AH is modifiable and lower in patients who engage with treatment for alcohol use disorder (AUD). Although behavioral therapy and medications can reduce drinking among people with AUD, it's not clear which AH patients are most at risk for drinking or at what stages interventions are most helpful. For the study in Alcohol: Clinical & Experimental Research, US investigators assessed alcohol use...

Alcohol Remains the Primary Driver of Treatment Admissions in the U.S., followed by Methamphetamines and Heroin

A recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides a comprehensive look at substance use disorder (SUD) treatment across the United States, including who is entering treatment, what substances are most commonly involved, and what services are being utilized. Drawing on data from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), the annual report captures admissions and discharges among individuals ages 12 and older receiving treatment at facilities licensed or certified by Single State Agencies (SSAs). The report includes episode-level data—meaning each record reflects...

CMS unveils new Medicare pilot for hemp, CBD products

The Trump administration has announced a new initiative that would allow participants in certain alternative payment models to offer hemp-based products to patients when it aligns with clinical guidance. The new Substance Access Beneficiary Engagement Incentive (BEI) was unveiled on April 1 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The agency said it would be available to providers participating in the ACO REACH model as well as the Enhancing Oncology Model, and will be allowed under the eventual Long-Term Enhanced ACO Design (LEAD) Model beginning next year. CMS said in the announcement that...

Distance to opioid treatment programs limits methadone access in many US jails

A new study led by researchers at Brown University School of Public Health found that more than half of U.S. jails are located at least a 30-minute drive from the nearest opioid treatment program—a distance that may make it harder for incarcerated people to receive methadone, a key medication for opioid addiction. The research letter, published in JAMA Network Open, analyzed 3,228 nonfederal jails and 2,096 federally licensed opioid treatment programs, or OTPs. The team from Brown, led by health policy researcher Brendan Saloner, along with collaborators at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, found...

Recent Medicaid expansions sharply increased access to treatment for opioid use disorder, researchers find

Medicaid insurance expansions between 2017 and 2023 sharply increased access to medication treatment for opioid use disorder in a period when fatal overdoses continued to climb, according to Rutgers Health researchers. Their study, published in JAMA Network Open, finds that expanded Medicaid coverage yielded meaningful population-level increases in the use of buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorder. Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides free or low-cost health coverage to low-income Americans. Beginning in 2014, states could decide whether to expand their Medicaid...

As Opioid Use Declines, Gabapentinoid Co-Prescribing Rises

The number of U.S. patients prescribed long-term opioid therapy declined from 2015 to 2023, but co-prescribing of opioids with gabapentinoids increased, prescription data showed. In 2023, 4.2 million people had an active long-term opioid therapy episode, defined as a period of opioid dispensing lasting at least 90 days. This represents a 24.3% drop from 5.6 million people in 2015, reported Thuy Nguyen, PhD, of the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, and co-authors. Meanwhile, co-prescribing of opioids with gabapentinoids (e.g., gabapentin and pregabalin) rose substantially, from 47% in 2015...

Reported 2025 drug overdose 'spike' was an illusion, new study finds

In June 2025, several mainstream media outlets reported a surge in U.S. drug overdose deaths in early 2025 that was based on data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A new Northwestern University study has found that the surge was not real, and the apparent spike was a statistical modeling artifact, not a true reversal in overdose trends. In fact, the study found overdose deaths have continued to decline following a peak in August 2023, marking the longest sustained decrease in more than four decades. The findings directly address speculation that the CDC made data reporting errors or intentionally...

'Rhino tranq': CDC warns of dangerous veterinary drug spreading in illicit fentanyl supply

WASHINGTON (TNND) — Federal health officials warned that a powerful veterinary sedative is increasingly being found in the U.S., raising the risk of overdose and severe withdrawal symptoms. In a Health Alert Network notice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday said the drug medetomidine -- also known as "rhino tranq" -- is being detected alongside fentanyl and other illicit opioids, complicating treatment for overdoses and addiction. The agency said the alert was issued in coordination with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which has been tracking the rapid...

How the insurance system quietly undoes recovery from addiction

In medicine, we like to believe that progress is linear. That once a patient stabilizes, regains lost skills, and returns to work, the hardest part is behind them. But in addiction care, stability is fragile because the systems supporting patients are weak. Recently, I sat with a patient who has done everything we ask of people in recovery. She has been abstinent for years. She attends visits. Her urine drug screens are consistently appropriate. She works. She parents. She plans for the future. And yet, halfway through our appointment, her voice changed, not when we discussed cravings or trauma, but when she told me her...

Study Flags Gaps in PrEP Use Among Youth at Risk for HIV

U.S. adolescents and young adults at risk of HIV aren't getting the preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) prescriptions they need, according to a national analysis of prescription data on over 100,000 youth. In individuals ages 13 to 21 years with a documented sexually transmitted infection (STI) or high-risk sexual behavior, just 1.6% filled a PrEP prescription from 2018 to 2022, reported researchers led by Nicholas Venturelli, MD, MPH, of Boston Children's Hospital. Minors, young women, and those living in the South faced larger disparities, the findings in JAMA Pediatrics showed. "This cohort study demonstrates persistently low rates of PrEP..."

Congress gave money for global HIV work. The Trump administration isn't spending it

Studying labor law is not why Dr. Caspian Chouraya went to medical school. For more than two decades, he's worked in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. Now, he oversees HIV/AIDS programs in 12 African countries for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. But in recent months, Chouraya finds himself talking to legal advisors and burying himself in the law surrounding layoffs in various African countries. This is because for months, U.S. funding has been arriving in fits and starts. Not knowing when funds will arrive is undermining one of the U.S.'s most successful global health initiatives — the worldwide fight to combat...

Funding Opportunities



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

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or russecg@foundation.uc.edu at **least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

Brain & Behavior Foundation Takes Nominations for Mental Health Research Prizes

Nominations Deadline: April 29, 2026

The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) invites nominations for its Outstanding Achievement Prizes, which recognize exceptional scientists who have made significant contributions to mental health research. These awards honor individuals whose work advances the understanding, treatment, and prevention of psychiatric and neurological disorders, with a focus on innovation, impact, and future potential. The Lieber Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Schizophrenia Research is a \$50,000 award presented to a scientist whose work significantly advances the understanding of schizophrenia. This includes research on its causes, pathophysiology, treatment, or prevention, as well as broader insights into brain mechanisms related to the disorder. The Colvin Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Mood Disorders Research is a \$50,000 award given to a scientist conducting impactful research on bipolar disorder or related affective illnesses. The prize recognizes work that enhances understanding of mood disorders and contributes to the development of new treatment approaches. The Ruane Prize provides a \$50,000 award to a researcher whose work focuses on severe psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents. This includes research on the causes, pathophysiology,

treatment, or prevention of early-onset psychiatric conditions. The Goldman-Rakic Prize for Cognitive Neuroscience Research offers a \$40,000 award recognizing excellence. This prize honors work at the cellular, physiological, or behavioral levels that contributes to a deeper understanding of psychiatric or neurological diseases. For more information, see the funder's website.

NAM Fellowship will Advance an Early Career Pharmacist in Health Science

Deadline: June 1, 2026, 3:00 PM ET

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) is calling for Nominations for the NAM Fellowship in Pharmacy, a prestigious two-year program designed to support early-career scholars in the pharmaceutical and clinical sciences. The fellowship provides a flexible research grant of \$25,000 to support the fellow's academic and professional growth, in addition to experiential learning opportunities. The funding is administered through the fellow's home institution and is intended to facilitate research and scholarly activities aligned with the goals of the fellowship.

Nominators must be members of the NAM, Board of Directors of American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), or Board of Regents of American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). The purpose of this fellowship is to provide emerging leaders with the opportunity to actively contribute to health and medicine-related initiatives at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine while advancing their professional development. Supported through an endowment from the AACP and ACCP, this fellowship aims to cultivate the next generation of leaders in pharmacy and health sciences. The selected fellow will maintain their primary academic appointment while dedicating approximately 10 to 20 percent of their time over two years to fellowship activities. Eligible candidates must hold a Pharm.D. and/or Ph.D. in a relevant field, be within a specified timeframe post-graduation, and demonstrate the capacity to commit to the fellowship's time requirements. Nominees must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must be nominated by an authorized entity, with institutional sponsorship and endorsement from senior leadership. The nomination process requires submission of a complete nomination packet by the stated deadline. This program represents a unique opportunity for early-career scholars to engage in high-impact health policy work, contribute to interdisciplinary research, and develop leadership skills within a nationally recognized institution.

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