

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 4.21.2023

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. 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

Animal sedative found in fentanyl powder, pills and alone. DEA warns of xylazine threat

Anyone who uses drugs in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Michigan faces an even greater threat than the deadly fentanyl epidemic has spawned now that there's a compounded menace in the form of an animal drug known on the street as tranq. A fentanyl detection kit includes a warning about the dangers of xylazine, an animal tranquilizer being found in fentanyl mixes known as tranq dope. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Detroit field division discussed xylazine in the Cincinnati, Ohio, and Michigan in a press conference Tuesday. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration division for the region made that clear in a public address on Tuesday, noting that xylazine has been...

Greene County makes naloxone easily accessible with new kiosks

XENIA, Ohio – As the state of Ohio, and the nation, continues to battle the opioid epidemic, many counties are doing everything they can to make the overdose treatment, known as naloxone, more accessible. Colton Holly-Wolf is part of the harm reduction team for Greene County and a peer advocate. “You have a bag there? Start loading up man,” Holly-Wolf said as he passed out boxes of free naloxone at a local Fairborn food pantry. A major initiative for the county’s public health department is to implement the state’s Project Deaths Avoided With Naloxone (DAWN) program. “There are cases where it happens to college students. It happens to elderly who may not have proper kidney functioning. You...

National News

Cannabis exposures in suspected suicide attempts are on the rise

Suspected suicidal cannabis exposures have increased 17% annually, over a period of 12 years, according to a Washington State University-led analysis of U.S. poison center data. The vast majority of the attempts, more than 92%, involved other substances in addition to cannabis, and the data cannot show a direct causal link between cannabis and suicide attempts. Still, the findings are cause for concern, the researchers said, especially since the increase was more pronounced among children and women during and after the pandemic. They reported their findings in the journal JAMA Network...

New research shows e-cigarette use up sharply among younger adults in US during EVALI outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic

A new study by researchers at the American Cancer Society (ACS) shows almost three-quarters of a million more adults in the United States, ages 18-29 years, used e-cigarettes between 2019-2021 during the period that spanned the EVALI outbreak (E-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury) and COVID-19 pandemic. Scientists report the year-on-year increase was primarily among adults who never smoked cigarettes. The study was published today in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM). "Unfortunately, these numbers show we're moving in the wrong direction..."

Concurrent vaping in early teen smokers linked to persistent and heavier smoking in late teens

Young teen smokers who also vape may be at heightened risk of persistent and heavier smoking in their late teens, reveal the combined findings of two nationally representative UK and U.S. studies, published online in the journal Tobacco Control. Despite national differences in e-cigarette regulation and marketing between the two countries, the findings suggest that e-cigarettes may deepen early patterns of smoking, known as the "entrenchment hypothesis," conclude the researchers. The prevalence of smoking among teens has fallen sharply over the past several decades. But it's...

How AI and a mobile phone app could help you quit smoking

A stop-smoking mobile app that senses where and when you might be triggered to light up could help you quit, according to University of East Anglia research. Quit Sense is the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) stop smoking app that detects when people are entering a location where they used to smoke. It then provides support to help manage people's specific smoking triggers in that location. A study published today shows how the new app helped more smokers to quit than people who were only offered online NHS support. The research team hopes that by helping people manage trigger...

Medical dramas influence thoughts on dangers from vaping, new Twitter analysis reveals

After three popular primetime medical dramas included storylines about health harms from using e-cigarettes, hundreds of people took to Twitter to comment—including some who said they planned to quit vaping because of what they saw on the shows. A new analysis led by University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health scientists and published in the Journal of Health Communication examines the tweets for insights into the use of television shows to share public health messaging. Following the January 2020 episodes of New Amsterdam, Chicago Med and Grey's Anatomy that each included plots...

Opioid exposure in the womb could raise the risk of heart disease later in life

A new study sheds light on an understudied aspect of today's opioid crisis: What happens to the cardiovascular health of babies exposed to opioids in the womb. The outcomes of the study suggest that children born to mothers who use opioids during pregnancy may be more likely to develop chronic diseases as adults, including cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Researchers will present their work this week at the American Physiology Summit, the flagship annual meeting of the American Physiological Society (APS), in Long Beach, California. Opioid abuse is a key public health challenge...

Offering medications for opioid addiction to incarcerated individuals leads to decrease in overdose deaths, study shows

New research from Boston Medical Center concluded that offering medications to treat opioid addiction in jails and prisons leads to a decrease in overdose deaths. Published in JAMA Network Open, the study also found that treating opioid addiction during incarceration is cost-effective in terms of healthcare costs, incarceration costs, and deaths avoided. Overdoses kill more than 100,000 people per year in America and this number continues to increase every year. People with addiction are more likely to be incarcerated than treated, with those from communities of color who use drugs...

All Opioid Pain Meds to Get New Safety Warnings, FDA Says

The FDA is making several updates to prescribing information for opioid pain medications to provide guidance on safe use, according to a Drug Safety Communication, including a new warning that they can increase sensitivity to pain. Changes to the prescribing information and labeling for immediate-release (IR) and extended-release or long-acting (EX/LA) opioids will be made to more clearly state that overdose risk increases with higher doses for all opioids. In addition, labeling for IR opioids will state that they should not be used for extended periods, unless alternative treatment options are...

Opioid Prescriptions and Suicide: New Study Unveils Complex Connection

The impact of policies aimed at lowering opioid prescriptions has sparked debate due to fears that a sudden drop in these medications could lead to an increase in suicide rates among individuals who become desperate after being taken off of opioids. A recent study conducted by Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia University Irving Medical Center, however, has found that changes in regional opioid prescription rates and regional suicide rates generally tend to move in the same direction. The findings were consistent for both the frequency of opioid prescriptions...

FDA Mulling Trial Design Issues for Long-Term Opioids in Chronic Pain

To evaluate the long-term efficacy and tolerability of a representative extended-release (ER)/long-acting (LA) opioid in a 12-month placebo-controlled trial, FDA staff are considering an enriched enrollment randomized withdrawal (EERW) study design, they noted in a briefing document ahead of an advisory committee meeting. On Wednesday, the Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee will consider the advantages and limitations of using an EERW design to evaluate morphine sulfate ER in a phase IV trial -- part of a postmarketing requirement -- among patients with...

Xylazine: The new overdose crisis

When she entered Cooper University Hospital's outpatient clinic in Camden, New Jersey, in October 2021, Ashley (last name withheld due to privacy concerns) could barely walk. Open wounds—a common result of injecting the drug xylazine—covered her legs from ankles to knees. She had already sought addiction treatment at another hospital, but the staff had dismissed her severe pain. But a doctor working at Cooper that day happened to have trained at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia—an epicenter of xylazine use and overdose—and recognized the 29-year-old's symptoms. Ashley...

Therapeutic can seek and destroy potent opioid to treat overdoses

A new therapeutic designed by Scripps Research chemists can alter the molecular structure of the potent opioid carfentanil, inactivating the opioid and reversing a carfentanil overdose. The compound, which is described in an ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science paper published on April 17, 2023, and hasn't yet been studied in humans, works in a fundamentally different way than existing treatments for opioid overdose. Carfentanil is up to 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times stronger than fentanyl, making it one of the deadliest opioids. It is typically only used as a tranquilizer...

School prevalence of stimulant therapy for ADHD associated with higher rates of prescription stimulant misuse among teens

Researchers have identified a strong association between prevalence of prescription stimulant therapy for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

and rates of prescription stimulant misuse (taken in a way other than as directed by a clinician) by students in middle and high schools. The study, which appeared today in JAMA Network Open, highlights the need for assessments and education in schools and communities to prevent medication-sharing among teens. This is especially important considering non-medical use of prescription stimulants among teens...

Women less likely to seek substance use treatment due to stigma, logistics

Fewer than 11% of women with a substance use disorder (SUD) received treatment in 2019 according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. New research from Penn State examined the barriers that women with SUDs reported that prevented them from seeking treatment. The findings may help health professionals identify personalized interventions that could encourage more women to seek treatment. "For this project, we hoped to determine which barriers women in different life circumstances face regarding seeking treatment for substance use, and this information...

Survey: More than 3 in 4 Americans use addictive behavior or unhealthy coping mechanisms to manage their mental health

(SOUTH BEND, Indiana) – Addiction is all too common. In addition to drugs and alcohol, many people use unhealthy behaviors—from binge/restrictive eating to excessive gambling and social media use—as coping mechanisms. A new national survey from Myriad Genetics, the GeneSight Mental Health Monitor, finds while nearly all Americans (94%) agree that substance and behavioral addictions often mask underlying mental health issues, more than three in four (77%) have used one or more addictive behaviors to cope with life’s problems in the past year. “Mental health and addiction often...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-24-022](#)

[Ending the HIV Epidemic: Resource Center to Engage Justice-Involved Populations \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-023](#)

[Ending the HIV Epidemic: Focus on Justice Populations with SUD-Data Coordination and Dissemination Center \(UM1 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-015](#)

[Ending the HIV Epidemic: Focus on Justice Populations with SUD \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PAR-23-161](#)

[Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative: Translational Science Career Enhancement Awards for Early and Mid-career Investigators \(K18 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-TR-23-011](#)

[Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative- New Innovator Award \(DP2 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-038](#)

[Developing Regulated Therapeutic and Diagnostic Solutions for Patients Affected by Opioid and/or Stimulants use Disorders \(OUD/StUD\) \(R41/R42 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-020](#)

[Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-021](#)

[Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-TR-23-010](#)

[Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative-Early-Stage Discovery of New Pain and Opioid Use Disorder Targets Within the Understudied Druggable Proteome \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-MH-23-330](#)

[BRAIN Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 Independent Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[RFA-MH-23-331](#)

[BRAIN Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

CAR Member New Publications

Collaborative care programs for pregnant and postpartum individuals with opioid use disorder: Organizational characteristics of sites participating in the NIDA CTN0080 MOMs study

Frankie B. Kropp, Marcela C. Smid, Michelle R. Lofwall, Elisha M. Wachman, Peter R. Martin, Sean M. Murphy, Christine M. Wilder, T. John Winhusen

Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.josat.2023.209030>

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Pregnant individuals with substance use disorders face complex issues that may serve as barriers to treatment entry and retention. Several professional organizations have established recommendations on comprehensive, collaborative approaches to treatment to meet the needs of this population, but information on real-world application is lacking. Sites participating in the NIDA CTN0080 “Medication treatment for Opioid use disorder in expectant Mothers (MOMs)”—a randomized clinical trial of extended release compared to sublingual buprenorphine among pregnant and postpartum individuals (PPI)—were selected, in part, because they have a collaborative approach to treating PPI with opioid use disorder (OUD). However, organizational differences among sites and how they implement expert recommendations for collaborative care could impact study outcomes.

Methods: Prior to study launch at each of the 13 MOMs sites, investigators used the Pregnancy and Addiction Services Assessment (PAASA) to collect information about organizational factors. Input from a team of addiction, perinatal, and economic evaluation experts guided the development of the PAASA. Investigators programmed the PAASA into a web-based data system and summarized the resultant site data using descriptive statistics.

Results: Study sites represented four US census regions. Most sites were specialty obstetrics & gynecology (OB/GYN) programs providing OUD services (n = 9, 69.2 %), were affiliated with an academic institution (n = 11, 84.6 %), and prescribed buprenorphine in an ambulatory/outpatient setting (n = 11, 84.6 %); all sites offered access to naloxone. Sites reported that their population was primarily White, utilized public insurance, and faced numerous psychosocial barriers to treatment. Although all sites offered many services recommended by expert consensus groups, they varied in how they coordinated these services.

Conclusions: By providing the organizational characteristics of sites participating in the MOMs study, this report assists in filling the current gap in knowledge regarding similar programs providing services to PPI with OUD. Collaborative care programs such as those participating in MOMs are uniquely positioned to participate in research to determine the most effective models of care and to determine how research can be integrated into those clinical care settings.

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