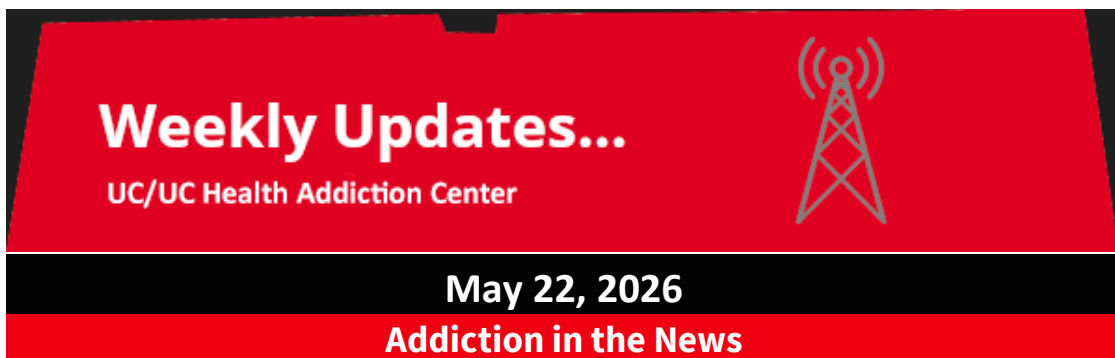


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email 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

UC finds integrating substance use disorder treatment into clinic-based internal medicine expands access to care

Researchers at the University of Cincinnati found that embedding addiction treatment into primary care training clinics may be a promising approach to addressing substance use disorders (SUDs). Published in the journal *Academic Medicine*, the study shows how integrating SUD treatment into an internal medicine resident practice could not only expand access to primary care addiction treatment for patients but also significantly boost physician confidence in treating addiction. Based on the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 48.4 million Americans aged 12 and older (about 16.8% of the population)... **(Lead author; Dr. Michael Binder, and co-authors; Dr. Carolyn Chan and Dr. Marisa Brizzi –clinicians affiliated with the UCAC, see publication below in the newsletter)**

‘Union County’ brings Logan County’s recovery story to the big screen

A powerful new independent drama with deep roots in Logan County made a local stop Sunday, May 17, when Union County screened before a packed theater at the Holland Theater in Bellefontaine ahead of its nationwide theatrical release later this year. The 2026 American drama, written and directed by Adam Meeks, was filmed almost entirely in Bellefontaine and throughout Logan County, blending professional actors with real members of the local recovery community to tell an

authentic story centered on addiction recovery and drug court programs in rural Ohio. The film stars Will Poulter as Cody Parsons and Noah Centineo...

National News

Medications initiated in 30% of hospitalizations for alcohol use disorder among Veterans

Within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 30% of hospitalizations for alcohol use disorder (AUD) result in medications for AUD (MAUD) initiation as an inpatient or within seven days of discharge, according to a study published online in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Timothy S. Anderson, M.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort study involving veterans hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of AUD in 2022 or 2023. Data were included for 29,041 hospitalizations for AUD of veterans without MAUD at baseline in 142 hospitals. The researchers found that MAUD was initiated as an...

STAT: U.S. alcohol crisis ignored

STAT launched a new investigative series, *The Deadliest Drug*, on the toll of alcohol and lack of adequate response. The main point: Alcohol is by far the most popular and harmful substance in the U.S. but is not seen as a public health emergency. Why it's important: Alcohol-related injuries, disease, and fatalities have spiked in recent years, with older adults, women, and young people especially harmed. This is the result of failures of the medical and public health systems, industry, and government. The details: Part 1 — Lacking response: Political leaders have largely ignored alcohol's toll, with industry groups exerting strong...

FDA drops guardrails on vaping industry in major Trump pivot

The Trump administration is pivoting hard on vaping, taking down guardrails that have limited the industry's growth in recent years and making clear the tobacco industry's enduring influence over Washington. In the span of two weeks, the Trump administration granted marketing authorization to four flavored vaping products and issued new guidance allowing unauthorized vapes to stay on the market. For almost a decade, federal authorities had sought to tamp down on the proliferation of flavored vapes that appeal to youth, including during President Trump's first term. New guidance from the Food and Drug...

Why do LGBTQ+ youth vape more than their peers? Stigma, bullying, and rejection are major factors

John, a 16-year-old high school student who identifies as transgender, comes home after an unfortunately common experience—ridicule from his classmates. In his bedroom, John reaches for his vape to alleviate stress. John is one of the estimated 1.63 million middle and high school students in the United States who currently use e-cigarettes, commonly known as vapes. Youth who identify as sexual and gender minorities (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, collectively LGBTQ+) vape at

higher rates than non-LGBTQ+ youth, according to existing research, and are therefore at greater risk of associated negative...

When someone's vaping nearby, what are you breathing in? The risks of vape pens' secondhand aerosols

Sometimes, you're on the train or enjoying a bite to eat on a restaurant's patio and you catch a whiff of an oddly sweet scent. A moment later, you see a puff dissipate around a nearby stranger and realize: You're smelling a vape pen or an e-cigarette. So what exactly are you inhaling? A lengthy list of chemicals, it turns out. And recent Food and Drug Administration decisions have the potential to increase how often you're exposed to these substances. On May 5, under presidential pressure, the FDA for the first time authorized fruit-flavored e-cigarettes for people ages 21 and older. On May 8, the FDA said it would not prioritize...

FDA Warns Retailers Selling Illegal Tobacco Products That Look Like Everyday Products

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today that it issued warning letters to eight retailers for selling unauthorized tobacco products, including nicotine pouches and dissolvable tobacco products. The warning letters involve unauthorized tobacco products that have labeling, advertising, and/or design features that cause the products to imitate candy, breath strips, and cough drops. Products that look like everyday items pose dual concerns: They can accidentally be ingested by young children and may appeal to children looking to disguise the nature of the products from parents, teachers, or other...

WHO warns loosely regulated nicotine pouches risk youth addiction

LONDON, May 15 (Reuters) - The World Health Organization on Friday urged governments to do more to control the sale of nicotine pouches, warning that the highly addictive products were being "aggressively marketed" in ways that particularly appealed to younger people. Pouches, which users insert under their lip to get a nicotine buzz, have rapidly become one of the most important products for big tobacco companies looking to offset the decline in smoking. But campaigners and researchers have criticised their marketing tactics. The WHO said that governments needed to introduce more safeguards to protect people, especially...

Nicotine e-cigarettes reduce harmful chemical exposure and help smokers quit, study finds

Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, even as rates of cigarette smoking have fallen to an all-time low of approximately 10% in 2024. Some studies suggest that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) help people quit smoking and expose them to fewer harmful chemicals—but products have changed rapidly, and it's unclear whether these benefits still hold true. A new study led by researchers from Penn State College of Medicine found that switching

to a pod-based salt-nicotine e-cigarette—one of the most popular types of e-cigarettes on the market—could improve the odds of quitting cigarette...

Nicotine Vapes Triple Smokers' Odds Of Quitting Tobacco

Nicotine vapes can triple smokers' odds of successfully giving up traditional cigarettes, while also exposing them to fewer harmful chemicals, a new study argues. Smokers who started using a nicotine e-cigarette were over three times more likely to quit smoking within six weeks, compared to smokers who used an identical e-cigarette containing no nicotine, according to results published May 19 in JAMA Network Open. They also had lower levels of toxic chemicals produced by burning tobacco, researchers found. "For people who smoke and haven't been able to quit using approved medications, this research suggests that...

Too Much or Too Little Opioid Pain Relief May Drive Refills After Urologic Surgery

WASHINGTON -- Too much or too little opioid pain management at discharge after urologic surgery significantly increased the likelihood of refills, providing new insight into opioid overuse, according to a study reported here. More than 60% of patients received discharge opioid prescriptions that were mismatched with their last in-hospital opioid dose, with underdosing accounting for a third of the mismatches. As compared with patients who received matched opioid doses at discharge, overprescription increased the odds for additional refills by as much as 85% and underprescription increased the odds by as...

Erectile Dysfunction May Predispose Older Men to Multiple Types of Substance Abuse

WASHINGTON -- Older men with erectile dysfunction (ED) have an increased risk of substance abuse, including sedatives, opioids, and cocaine, according to a large retrospective study. ED had the strongest association with sedative abuse, more than twice as likely as a matched cohort without ED. The risk was at least 50% greater for other psychoactive substances (such as ketamine), cocaine, and opioids. The risk of cannabis abuse was 45% greater in men with ED. An ED diagnosis was associated with a reduced risk of nicotine dependence in men of all ages. The analysis did not include alcohol abuse. Surprisingly, the associations did not...

Studies at the intersection of HIV and substance use can shape prevention, treatment, and care.

The HIV epidemic is so entwined with the crisis of drug addiction that they are sometimes referred to as a syndemic. Drug intoxication can impair judgment and increase impulsivity, raising the risk of exposure to situations associated with HIV acquisition and transmission. Drug use can also weaken immune function and interfere with health care engagement—factors that together accelerate HIV transmission and disease progression. Recent HIV clusters in the United States have

consistently been associated with overlapping structural, social, and health-related factors—including housing instability, psychosocial stressors...

Funding Opportunities



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

New Publications from UCAC Faculty

Development of an addiction medicine clinic integrated into an internal medicine ambulatory practice

Michael C Binder, MD, MPH , Marisa B Brizzi, PharmD , Sally A Santen, MD, PhD , Carolyn A Chan, MD, MHS

Academic Medicine

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acamed/wwaf097>

ABSTRACT

Problem: Substance use disorders (SUDs) are widespread, yet few individuals receive treatment. Internal medicine (IM) residents need clinical training on how to provide SUD treatment.

Approach: In 2023, the authors used a structured approach to develop an addiction clinic integrated into the University of Cincinnati IM resident primary care practice to provide SUD treatment. A formative logic model with output measures to evaluate the short-term outcome of the first 15 weeks of clinic was used. Output measures included no-show rates, number of patient visits, and primary SUD diagnosis. Short-term outcomes of residents' experiences were evaluated using a retrospective pre-post survey and the McNemar paired test to assess their confidence in performing addiction-related clinical tasks before vs after their rotation.

Outcomes: Eighteen learners were sent a survey from December 2023 to March 2024, with 11 responding (61%). Short-term outcomes included resident-reported confidence as moderate, quite, or extremely confident in the listed tasks before vs after their clinic experiences: making an SUD diagnosis (4 [36%] vs. 10 [91%], $P = .03$), interpreting urine drug screen results (4 [36%] vs. 10 [91%], $P = .03$), starting buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD) (1 [9%] vs. 8 [73%], $P = .02$), titrating buprenorphine for OUD (0 [0%] vs. 8

[73%], $P = .01$), starting medications for alcohol use disorder (4 [36%] vs. 7 [64%], $P = .36$), and harm reduction counseling (4 [36%] vs. 9 [82%], $P = .06$). In the first 15 weeks of this clinic, there were 73 patient visits. Primary SUD diagnoses were OUD (37 [51%]), alcohol use disorder (18 [25%]), other (7 [9%]), stimulant use disorder (6 [8%]), and nicotine (5 [7%]).

Next Steps: Next steps include further evaluation of the clinic rotation's impact on resident clinical behaviors, attitudes on SUD, and patient SUD outcomes.

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