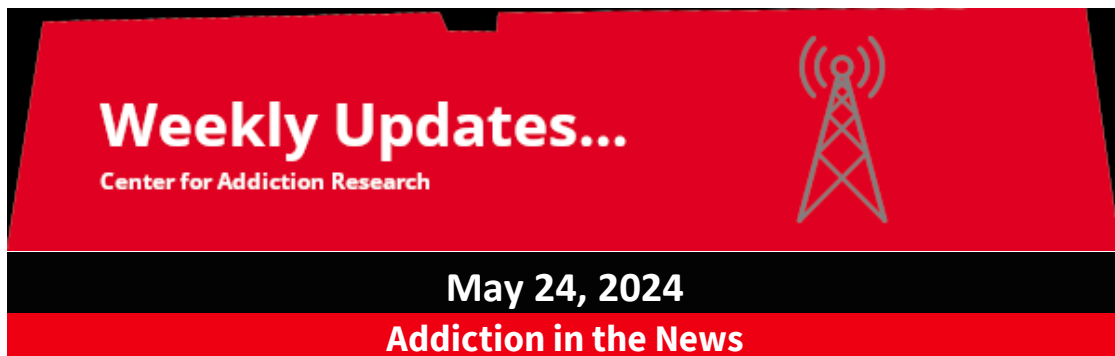


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 5.24.2024

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

Ask the Expert: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder with Dr. T. John Winhusen

In the latest video explainer in the Ask the Expert series from the HEALing Communities Study, Dr. John Winhusen explains how medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) work, their effectiveness, and dispels myths about MOUD. Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) help reduce or block the euphoric effects of illicit opioids, decrease opioid craving, and help individuals engage more fully in work and social roles. Studies have found that buprenorphine and methadone are associated with a 53 percent reduction in all-cause mortality, with significant reductions in suicide, cancer, drug-related, and alcohol-related deaths.

(Dr. T. John Winhusen is co-Principal Investigator of the HEALing Communities Study and the CAR Director)

Does CBD really work?

As recreational marijuana sales are coming to Ohio, more CBD shops are springing up in the meantime selling a variety of tinctures, topicals and tonics with various claims of health benefits. CBD is claimed to relieve pain, anxiety, insomnia and more, but what does the research say? The University of Cincinnati's LaTrice Montgomery, PhD, and Michael Privitera, MD, joined WVXU's Cincinnati Edition to discuss how CBD claims stack up to scientific research. Privitera said Epidiolex, a CBD medication for epilepsy, is currently the only Food and Drug Administration approved CBD treatment. Epidiolex contains more than 10 to 20 times the CBD concentration of products that can be purchased in health food... **(featuring CAR**

Member, Dr. LaTrice Montgomery)

Judge rules Ohio law that keeps cities from banning flavored tobacco is unconstitutional

An Ohio law prohibiting cities from banning the sale of flavored tobacco products is unconstitutional, a judge has ruled. The state is expected to appeal the ruling issued Friday by Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Mark Serrott, who had issued a temporary restraining order in April that stopped the law from taking effect. The measure had become law in January, after the Republican Legislature overrode GOP Gov. Mike DeWine's veto of a budget measure that put regulatory powers in the hands of the state. The ruling stemmed from a suit brought by more than a dozen cities, including Columbus and Cincinnati, and Serrott's decision means their bans will stay in effect. The ruling, though, applies...

Ohio gears up for legal marijuana sales for adult use

This week, Ohio approved adult-use marijuana sales as part of a 2023 ballot measure, with sales anticipated to start mid-June. Ohioans age 21 and over can now legally purchase marijuana across the state. In December, a law was enacted allowing people to grow and possess marijuana, but with no legal avenues to purchase it. Gov. Mike DeWine and some Republicans sought swift action to prevent black market sales. Jim Canepa, cannabis control superintendent for the Ohio Department of Commerce, said after years of experience in liquor control, his role is to fairly and responsibly permit folks who grow, process, sell and test cannabis. "My focus right now is really on coming up with the rules that are required..."

Workplace policies begin to evolve after Ohio legalizes cannabis use

Though it is now legal for Ohioans to use cannabis, the 2023 passage of Issue 2 does not prevent employers from drug testing job applicants and employees and instituting zero-tolerance policies. Employers in Ohio are still permitted to penalize workers who use, possess or distribute marijuana. But the City of Cleveland announced in December that it would eliminate pre-employment drug tests for some city jobs. "Pre-employment testing can oftentimes create obstacles in filling open positions by preventing otherwise qualified candidates from even applying," said Matthew Cole, director of human resources for the City of Cleveland, in an email. "These policy updates are more cost-effective and will..."

Affordable housing for people in recovery will offer wraparound services and childcare

The southwest side of Indianapolis will welcome a new housing complex next spring that will provide on-site wraparound services to people recovering from substance use, with a focus on families. Fred Yeakey, an educator at Providence Cristo Rey High School, decided to create the housing development company 2 Thirty-Eight Properties LLC properties in response to the students he serves. "There will be times that we will have breaks from school and I will come back to school looking to invite our students back — whether it's summer break, Christmas break

— and these students would be gone,” Yeakey said. “And when you do home visits, they're gone because the homes that they were living in [are] no longer available...

Study finds COVID-19 shutdown flipped drug overdose mortality rates among industries

Drug overdose deaths spiked following Kentucky's COVID-19 stay-at-home and business closure orders of March 2020. But the industries that suffered the most overdose deaths were surprising, according to research conducted by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health (CPH). The study, titled "Interrupted time series analysis of drug overdose fatalities in service-related industries versus non-service-related industries during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2018–2021," was published in the journal Injury Prevention in 2023. In the years leading up to the study, researchers found Kentucky's service industry employees experienced the most drug...

Local Prosecutor's Office receives \$46,605 grant as part of Ohio's Drug Task Force Support Initiative

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced on Friday that nearly three dozen local drug task forces in Ohio are receiving state support for their work to disrupt the drug trade and promote substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery. More than \$2.1 million in grants from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be awarded to 35 existing drug task forces to help officers identify high-level drug traffickers, dismantle large drug trafficking organizations, interrupt the flow of money and drugs from international cartels, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics. “Drug task forces across the state have stepped up in a big way to support individuals who are recovering from...

Indiana sees decrease in fatal drug overdoses in 2023

INDIANAPOLIS — New data issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated a nearly 18% decrease in overdose deaths in Indiana in 2023. According to a news release from Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, around 2,190 people died by drug overdoses in 2023, a 17.85% decrease compared to 2022. Indiana's decrease was the second highest percentage decrease in the United States. In 2023, 107,543 deaths were reportedly related to drug overdoses in the United States, a 3% decrease nationally, the release said. “Hours after I was sworn in as governor in 2017, I signed an executive order creating a new cabinet-level position in state government dedicated to reversing the trend of overdose deaths...

Felony charges prompt call for change to ‘outdated’ Ohio laws criminalizing HIV

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WCMH) — Ohio laws criminalizing HIV, including a statute barring those with the virus from donating blood, could soon be amended after nearly 80 faced prosecution for failing to disclose their HIV status to sexual partners. House Bill 498 has been introduced to repeal Ohio revised code penalizing individuals with

HIV who attempt to donate blood, while House Bill 513 has been proposed to amend five other laws that have yielded more than 200 HIV-related criminal prosecutions. Introduced by Rep. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton), the bills are backed by a bipartisan group who said the current laws are “based on an outdated understanding of HIV and only help to further stigma.” FBI most wanted suspect...

National News

Alcohol use disorder can be treated with an array of medications—but few people have heard of them

More than 29.5 million Americans ages 12 and up had alcohol use disorder—the medical term for the disease commonly known as alcoholism—in 2022, when the most recent national data was published. The condition is characterized by a pattern of heavy alcohol consumption with loss of control over drinking despite negative social, occupational or health consequences. Deaths from excessive alcohol use have sharply increased in recent years, to 178,000 in the United States in 2021, up from 138,000 five years earlier. The greatest increase occurred during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alcohol is responsible for...

Ozempic maker sets clinical trial to study drug's effect on alcohol consumption

The maker of Ozempic is planning to investigate a phenomenon surrounding its drug's effect on users' desire to drink alcohol. Though the drug is approved for treating Type 2 diabetes — and is often used to aid in weight loss — users have reported an unintended side effect of taking the medication is a reduced craving to drink, suggesting it could potentially be used as a treatment in fighting alcoholism. And while Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has acknowledged that possibility, it's not precisely the main focus of its recently announced clinical trial, said to possibly have begun Monday in records filed last month. The study...

If you have a mind to drink less, mindfulness can help

Mindfulness is having a moment, but is it worth all the hype? Researchers at CU's Center for Health and Neuroscience, Genes, and Environment (CUChange) say the answer is yes—particularly when it comes to drinking behavior. A team including Carillon Skrzynski, a faculty research associate at CUChange, has published research building on the growing body of evidence suggesting mindfulness plays a significant role in influencing alcohol use. Their research, published in *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, found that mindfulness techniques, including intentional awareness of what's happening and non-judgmental acceptance...

Daily marijuana use outpaces daily drinking in the US, a new study says

Millions of people in the U.S. report using marijuana daily or nearly every day, according to an analysis of national survey data, and those people now outnumber those who say they are daily or nearly-daily drinkers of alcohol. Alcohol is still more widely used, but 2022 was the first time this intensive level of marijuana use overtook high-frequency drinking, said the study's author, Jonathan Caulkins, a

cannabis policy researcher at Carnegie Mellon University. "A good 40% of current cannabis users are using it daily or near daily, a pattern that is more associated with tobacco use than typical alcohol use," Caulkins...

Legal Marijuana Leads to More Hospital Trips for Older Adults

Cannabis legalization led to more hospital trips for cannabis poisoning among older adults, administrative data in Canada showed. Emergency department (ED) visits for cannabis poisoning among older people in Ontario doubled after dried cannabis flowers were legalized for recreational use (adjusted incidence rate ratio [IRR] 2.00, 95% CI 1.29-3.10) and tripled after edible cannabis was legalized (adjusted IRR 3.08, 95% CI 2.04-4.65), reported Nathan Stall, MD, PhD, of the University of Toronto in Canada, and co-authors. Many of these older ED patients also had cancer, alcohol use disorder, or dementia, Stall and colleagues...

First US trial of varenicline for e-cigarette cessation shows positive results

The first U.S. trial of varenicline for e-cigarette cessation shows promising results and warrants larger-scale trials, the researchers say. Researchers from Yale Cancer Center and MUSC Hollings Cancer Center published the results of their clinical trial of varenicline to help adults to stop using e-cigarettes in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine on May 16. The results showed a significant disparity between the placebo group and the group receiving the medication. "We had a 15% difference in quit rates, with those in the medication group having a quit rate of 45%," said Lisa Fucito, Ph.D., lead author and director of the...

The More Kids Use Social Media, The More They're Likely to Vape

FRIDAY, May 17, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- Kids and young adults who use social media for seven or more hours per day have double the risk of taking up vaping or smoking or both, new research shows. The study is based on a survey of almost 11,000 young British people ages 10 to 25 who were tracked from 2015 through 2021. Overall, 8.5% said they currently smoked, 2.5% said they vaped and about 1% did both. How much time they spent on TikTok, Instagram and other social media platforms tracked well with their odds for smoking or vaping, the study found. Just 2% of people who reported no social media use...

TikTok: Ground Zero for Vaping Sales to Kids

THURSDAY, May 23, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- TikTok is full of fun memes, pranks, dances and challenges -- and illicit vaping product sales targeting teenagers, a new study reports. Advertising and sales of vaping products is common on the video-sharing platform, according to findings published May 23 in the journal Nicotine and Tobacco Research. What's more, the users offering these items often use hashtags like #puffbundles to hide vaping products within packages also containing lip gloss and candy, the researchers added. "Parents should be aware that children may be receiving e-cigarette products through the..."

Link between e-cigarette use and early age of asthma onset in US adults discovered

A significant link between the use of electronic cigarettes and earlier age of asthma onset in U.S. adults was reported by UTHealth Houston researchers May 17, 2024 in JAMA Network Open. Led by first author Adriana Pérez, Ph.D., MS, professor of biostatistics and data science at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, the research found that adults who were asthma-free at the beginning of the study and reported e-cigarette use in the past 30 days increased their risk of developing earlier age of asthma onset by 252%. "While previous studies have reported that e-cigarette use increases the risk of asthma, our study was...

Varying state drug laws create patchwork landscape for efforts to prevent overdose and death

U.S. states vary widely in their laws and legal approaches to managing drug paraphernalia and opioid prevention centers (OPCs), according to new research published by the Center for Public Health Law Research at the Temple University Beasley School of Law. This creates a patchwork of laws that could affect efforts to prevent overdose and overdose death. The research examines laws that govern drug paraphernalia, with a specific focus on drug checking equipment, such as fentanyl testing strips. State laws can make it difficult for people who use drugs to access drug checking equipment because that equipment may be...

Virtual medicine: How telehealth has improved the lives of people with substance disorders

From the driver's seat of his parked truck, Lewis recalled what it felt like to take opioids. He was prescribed Vicodin after getting his wisdom teeth removed at age 15, he says, which jumpstarted an addiction he's battled for nearly two decades. (Lewis' last name has been omitted for concerns regarding his medical privacy.) "I just remember it took all the worries away," said the Pennsylvania native during a September interview over Zoom. "It gave me a feeling almost like I didn't have to be afraid." He eventually started experimenting with stronger opiates, namely Percocet and Oxycontin, and progressed to heroin a couple...

Shared Fentanyl Pipe Residue a New Overdose Danger

THURSDAY, May 23, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- San Francisco researchers report that smoking has now replaced injections as the most common way of ingesting illicit fentanyl. That switch has created a potentially deadly new danger, however, as fentanyl residues slowly build up in shared equipment used to smoke the drug. Study author Dr. David Ciccarone likened it to a prior scourge, also linked to illicit drug use. "The risk of overdose when sharing smoking devices with fentanyl resin could be seen as analogous to the risk of shared injection paraphernalia and HIV transmission," said Ciccarone, a professor of addiction...

Two distinct neural pathways may make opioids like fentanyl so addictive

Fentanyl's powerful pull comes from both the potent, rapid euphoria people feel while on the drug and the devastating symptoms of withdrawal. Researchers have now zeroed in on brain circuits responsible for these two forces of fentanyl addiction. The study in mice, reported May 22 in *Nature*, suggests two distinct brain pathways are in play. "Addiction is not a simple disorder — it's very complex and dynamic," says Mary Kay Lobo, a neuroscientist at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore who was not involved with the new research. She appreciates that the study looks not only at reward in the brain, but also...

Pediatricians Have Important Role in Talking About Substance Use, Experts Say

Alarming data on fentanyl, including the synthetic opioid's staggering presence in counterfeit pills and contribution to overdoses among young people, continue to emerge, as do questions about the role of physicians in addressing the crisis. Notably, pediatricians and other physicians who regularly provide care to children and teens are in a unique position when it comes to having conversations about the dangers of fentanyl and other drugs. "If we look at the big picture, we are seeing, unfortunately, a rapid increase in the number of overdose deaths in adolescents," Kao-Ping Chua, MD, PhD, a pediatrician and health...

Smoking fentanyl can cause irreversible brain damage, report shows

A middle-aged American man with no previous medical history was found unconscious in his hotel room, with "unidentified crushed pills and a white residue" on a nearby table, according to a recent paper in *BMJ Case Reports*. White powder was visible around the man's mouth. This situation would be fairly unremarkable for a country that is in its tenth year of an illicit fentanyl epidemic. However, there was something remarkable about this case. It was the first reported instance of toxic leukoencephalopathy—damage to the brain's white matter from a toxic substance—from smoking fentanyl. There have been many previously reported...

Philly health officials detect a veterinary sedative more powerful than xylazine in drug samples

The animal tranquilizer xylazine's spread into Philadelphia's illicit opioid supply has introduced new hazards to an already dangerous drug crisis, sending people in addiction into intense blackouts and leaving them with severe skin wounds. Now, another veterinary sedative more potent than xylazine has emerged. The discovery of the drug, known as medetomidine, in drug samples in the city is another sign of increasing toxicity in the Philadelphia region's illicit drugs. Yet another emerging danger recently showed up in Montgomery County, where a person who died of an overdose showed signs of having...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-24-033](#)

[Notice of Participation of NIDA in RFA-MH-25-186, "Advancing HIV service delivery through pharmacies and pharmacists \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[NOT-DA-24-013](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Coordinating Center Infrastructure to Support Research on Opioid Overdose and HIV Risk in the Context of Justice Systems](#)

[NOT-OD-24-119](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Research Opportunities Centering the Health of Women Across the HIV Research Continuum](#)

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