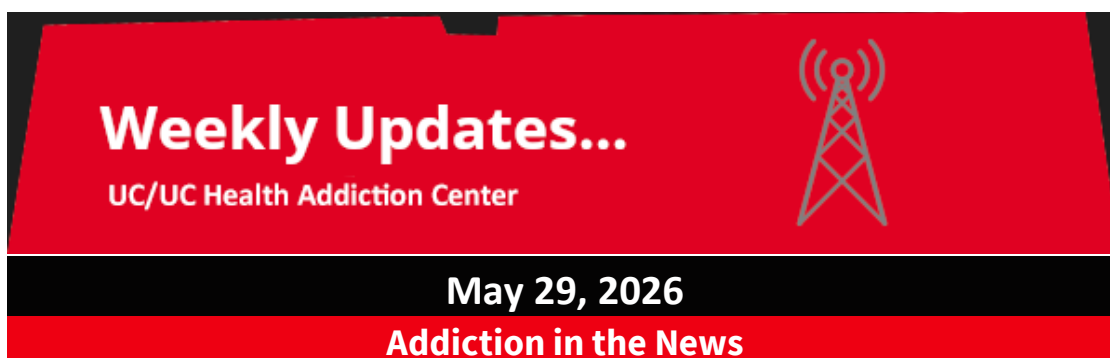


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email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

University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center upcoming 2026 Summer Speaker Series Event

Join us for the first of three-monthly virtual Summer Speaker Series events, Wednesday, June 10 at 12pm on "Beyond Daily Dosing: Comparing Extended-Release and Sublingual Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy and Postpartum—Research Evidence and Lived Experience." The session will be presented by **T. John Winhusen, PhD, UCAC Director**, with co-presenter **Kelsie Buchanan, Recovery Advocate and trial participant**. Dr. Winhusen will discuss recently published study results, and attendees will also have the unique opportunity to hear firsthand from a trial participant. All presentations will be held virtually and are free and open to the public. **(PDF event flyer attached)**

>> Register for any of the presentations

Treating opioid use during pregnancy to take center stage during Addiction Center series

A University of Cincinnati researcher has led the first-ever randomized clinical trial testing weekly injectable extended-release buprenorphine as a treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) in patients who are pregnant — and the results, published in JAMA Internal Medicine and by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and covered by major outlets including MedPage Today and Medscape, are reshaping how clinicians think about addiction care during pregnancy. On Wednesday, June 10, at 12 p.m., the UC/UC Health Addiction Center will host the first event of its 2026 Summer Speaker Series, bringing research directly to the... **(UCAC Director,**

Principal Investigator, and June Summer Speaker Series presenter, T. John Winhusen, PhD)

CCTST – LIFT Mentorship Workshops

A series of mentorship workshops to fill gaps in research mentorship knowledge and training. All mentorship workshops are led by **Jason Blackard (UCAC Research Member), PhD**, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine. If you have any questions, please email Andi Christopher at chrisao@ucmail.uc.edu, Project Manager, LIFT, CCTST Workforce Development.

Register Here

June 15, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Effective Communication

July 17, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Assessing Understanding

August 14, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Fostering Independence

September 29, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Aligning Expectations

November 6, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Promoting Professional Development

Mortality risk decreases when opioid use disorder treatment duration continues past 6 months: results of a retrospective cohort study

Clinical guidelines suggest opioid use disorder medications should continue for at least 6 months to provide benefit, but it is unclear what the optimal treatment duration may be. This study examined how length of opioid use disorder medication treatment was associated with risk for mortality among a sample of veterans. WHAT PROBLEM DOES THIS STUDY ADDRESS?

Opioid use disorder remains a significant public health concern: an estimated 80,000 people a year die from opioid overdoses. In addition, opioid use disorder increases the risk of death from other causes, including infectious diseases like Hepatitis and HIV. Medications for... **(publication co-author, Dr. T. John Winhusen, UCAC Director)**

12 ODs in 5 days: What's causing spike in drug-related deaths in Greater Cincinnati?

CINCINNATI (WKRC) - Hamilton County leaders are warning residents to be on alert after a spike in suspected drug overdoses and deaths that left 12 people dead between Friday and Tuesday. Health officials said the deaths are all believed to be related to drug overdoses. Medical teams have not yet determined what is behind the surge, but they warned they believe there has been a change in the potency of the local drug supply. Newtown Police Chief Tom Synan, a member of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition, said the number of overdoses and deaths in such a short period is alarming. "That is a huge red..."

Bars, liquor stores in Ohio, Kentucky hurting as federal ban on THC drink sales looms

Some states already ban them, and now a federal crackdown on THC and hemp drinks is expected to go into effect this fall. The billion-dollar THC drink industry

already took a hit in Ohio when sales were limited to dispensaries just a couple of months ago. In Montgomery, The Belle and The Bear said that when cannabis was legalized in Ohio, bars saw sales take a hit. Once THC drinks entered the market, selling those gave them a way to compete, but as soon as businesses was getting good, they say state law stripped it away. "I think a lot of small businesses and bars are pissed. And they should be pissed. Because a lot of...

Making history at Lucas Co. DART: Woman joins drug abuse prevention team that helped save her life

TOLEDO, Ohio (WTVG) - From going through drug addiction, to helping people start their own recovery journeys, coming into work every day is a full-circle moment for Krystin Poulson. She's making history in the Lucas County Sheriff's Office Drug Abuse Response unit, or DART, joining the very team that helped save her life. "I actually share my office with my DART officer, Karl. He was at my bedside after my overdose in December 2017," Poulson said. The Lucas County Sheriff's Office DART unit helped Poulson become sober. She says during her drug addiction she was a part of the problem in her community. Now she's on the other...

Chillicothe social work student overcomes addiction, finds purpose in helping others

As Sean Cawood prepares to celebrate eight years of sobriety, the Ohio University Chillicothe senior looks forward to earning his social work degree and continuing to build a career focused on helping others. A native of Bainbridge, Ohio, Cawood is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work, balancing full-time work, fatherhood and his own recovery journey. He started college after graduating from high school in 2003, but addiction derailed his life, leading to incarceration, homelessness and personal loss. "My story is proof that recovery and change are possible," he said. "I went from struggling with addiction to rebuilding..."

Gov. Beshear Celebrates 4 Straight Years of Declining Overdose Deaths as Team Kentucky Supports Recovery and Second Chances

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 27, 2026) – Gov. Andy Beshear said Team Kentucky is working together to save lives and strengthen communities as the commonwealth celebrates four straight years of declines in overdose deaths. Encouraged by the lifesaving progress, the Governor is highlighting important programs that led to the success, including addiction services through Medicaid and the Opioid Response Effort, Narcan distribution, grant funding to addiction treatment organizations, Recovery Ready Communities, reentry services, and efforts by the Kentucky State Police (KSP) and law enforcement to remove dangerous drugs from...

Meta settles social media addiction case brought by rural Kentucky school district

Social media companies including Meta have settled the first of many lawsuits brought by hundreds of school districts seeking compensation for costs they say

they incurred dealing with harms to children's mental health from social media addiction. The lawsuit brought by a small, rural Kentucky school district was set to go to trial next month in federal court in Oakland, California. The judge and the parties selected it as a bellwether case — essentially a test for both sides to see how their arguments play out before a jury — out of 1,200 similar cases. The settlement only applies to the Breathitt County School District. Meta...

'Strengths, value and worth' | Hamilton County program works to help those in addiction recovery

HAMILTON COUNTY, Ind. — For some going through addiction recovery, it might feel like there's no way out. Now, a partnership with Invest Hamilton County and Ivy Tech is providing those struggling with a long-term plan. It's a new program called Rise and Reskill. Fourteen people are currently enrolled in the cohort, and more groups will be added every month. Enrollees take nightly classes where they learn how to build a resume, improve interview skills and more that can land them a job. The instructors say this program is more about building confidence than getting a college credit. "They come into our program and...

National News

Scientists Confirm Alcohol Causes Widespread Health Damage

Researchers reviewing decades of evidence conclude that alcohol plays a major role in disease and injury, affecting everything from the immune system to the brain and heart. A major new review published in *Addiction* paints a sobering picture of alcohol's impact on health, linking drinking to dozens of diseases, infections, and injuries that affect nearly every organ system in the body. Researchers say some of alcohol's harms may lessen after people reduce or stop drinking, but many effects of long-term heavy use can persist for years — and in some cases may never fully reverse. The World Health Organization's current...

Study reveals brain changes linked to alcohol addiction recovery

Scientists say they've uncovered striking new evidence of how alcohol addiction impacts the brain's learning systems—and how those systems may slowly adapt during recovery—in a new study published in *Clinical Neurophysiology* today, May 22. Led by researchers from the University of Manchester and the University of Huddersfield, the team combined traditional EEG brain-wave analysis with cutting-edge machine-learning tools to probe how people with a history of alcohol dependence learn from rewards and punishments. The researchers used a reward-learning game—which they asked 20 abstinent alcohol-dependent and 26...

Prenatal alcohol exposure linked to 45% higher hazardous drinking risk at 16

Teens who were exposed to alcohol in utero are more likely than their peers to engage in risky behaviors—most notably, hazardous drinking and underage sex, a combination that could perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). The UK has one of Europe's highest rates of alcohol use

during pregnancy: at least 41%, potentially reaching 75%. PAE increases the risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, a range of neurodevelopmental impairments. In adolescence, these may manifest as impulsivity, difficulties in making judgments, and social struggles, sometimes extending to...

Psychosis and Cannabis Legalization: Where's the Evidence?

Just what impact nationwide cannabis policy changes might have on psychosis remains unclear, with mixed and emerging data from the studies that have been done, preliminary findings of a systematic review indicated. Across the 33 studies reviewed, cannabis dose and age at first use appeared to play a role in the risk for psychosis, Jeonghyun Shin, MD, MPH, of Maimonides Medical Center in New York City, said at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting in San Francisco. For example, one study linked daily use of high-potency cannabis (>10% tetrahydrocannabinol [THC]) to a nearly five-fold increase in the odds of...

FDA move allowing more e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches into U.S. blindsides officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior officials in the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco center were blindsided by a recent decision that opens the door to allowing more unauthorized electronic cigarettes and nicotine pouches onto the U.S. market, The Associated Press has learned. The guidelines, posted days before former FDA Commissioner Marty Makary resigned, will allow companies to launch certain nicotine-based products before they've been fully vetted by regulators. Some FDA officials tasked with enforcing vaping regulations were not consulted on the changes and only learned of them the night before the document...

The Quit-Smoking Tool That's Beating Patches and Gum

A major review of global smoking cessation research has found that e-cigarettes containing nicotine appear to help people quit smoking more effectively than several other commonly used methods. These include nicotine replacement therapy (nicotine patches, gum, lozenges, etc.), non-nicotine e-cigarettes, and behavioral support programs. The research combined evidence from multiple systematic reviews to provide a clearer picture of how well different smoking cessation tools work. Researchers analyzed findings from fourteen systematic reviews published between 2014 and 2023. The strongest and most reliable...

Smartphone data predict smoking cravings and lapses, with potential to treat addiction and other conditions

Minuscule movement patterns collected from smartphones and often undetectable to humans have been used to predict cravings and compulsive behaviors with groundbreaking accuracy—potentially offering timely and bespoke treatment for smoking and other addictions and conditions. The technology was tested with a group of 17 smokers whose movement data was passively collected on smartphones while they went about their daily routines. The smokers were asked

to press a button on their screen when they smoked a cigarette over a two-week period. Their movement data was processed through an...

Fentanyl, meth found at house where New Mexico responders got sick after answering overdose call

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Fentanyl and methamphetamine were found at a home where first responders became sick after answering a call about suspected overdoses in a rural county in New Mexico, authorities said Friday. Three people found inside the house on Wednesday died. A fourth person who was in the house and one of the emergency responders who became sick were still being treated at a hospital Friday. A doctor who saw the responders exhibiting symptoms — including nausea and dizziness — said their symptoms most closely resembled fentanyl exposure. However, the investigation into how the...

U.S. street drug deaths keep dropping, but some Western states see deadly overdose surge

Despite a handful of states in the West where overdose deaths are surging, overall street drug fatalities in the U.S. continued to drop at a historic rate in 2025, falling roughly 14% compared with 2024. In all, 69,973 people died from fatal overdoses last year nationwide, according to the latest preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While that toll is painful, it means roughly 11,300 fewer people lost their lives to drugs compared with the year before. "This is very good news," said Dr. Nora Volkow, head of the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], the federal government's leading addiction research...

Nearly half of maternal deaths in Pennsylvania occur more than 6 weeks after giving birth

For too many women, the journey to motherhood ends in death. Maternal mortality—the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 42 days of giving birth—is not a rare tragedy. Globally, the maternal mortality rate is unacceptably high—about 260,000 women died during and following pregnancy and childbirth in 2023. In the U.S., it is also an ongoing crisis. The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality among high-income countries. Globally, the most common indicator used to measure maternal deaths is the maternal mortality ratio. This is the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Estimates show that the U.S. has a...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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

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