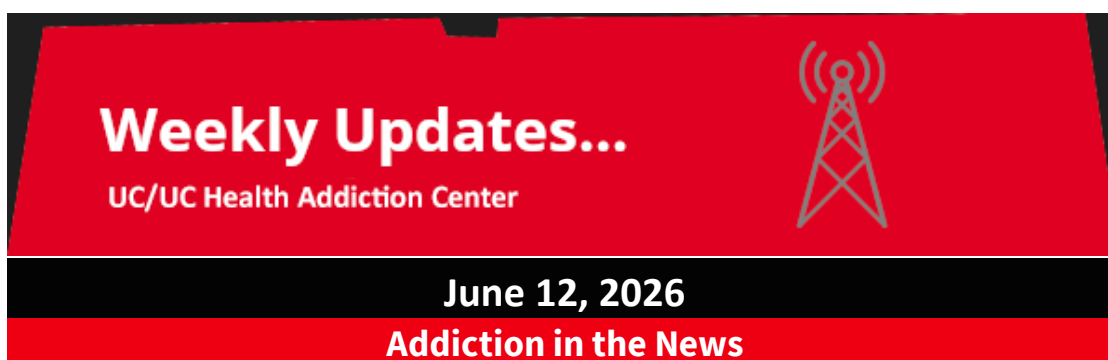


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. **Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be published Friday, June 26.** 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

Federal funding ends for fentanyl test strips as Ohio public health agency supplies run low

Many Ohio public health agencies have lost a key funding stream from the Trump administration to stock test strips for illegal drugs containing fentanyl or other dangerous substances. These test strips are considered a vital harm reduction tool that helps prevent overdose deaths. Agencies like Columbus Public Health warn they might run out of test strips, risking a jump in overdoses after the Buckeye State saw a reduction in deaths in the last several years. A spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) confirmed...

National News

One daily drink no longer looks harmless, as alcohol's risks rewrite moderate drinking rules

Even what many Americans consider moderate drinking is linked to an increased risk of death, disability, and chronic diseases such as cancer and heart disease, according to a new study in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, published at Rutgers University. The new research, called the Alcohol Intake and Health Study—initially commissioned by the U.S. federal government to inform development of the new U.S. Dietary Guidelines—found a mortality risk from

alcohol of 1 in 25 for people who consumed an average of 14 drinks per week. In contrast, drinking up to seven drinks per week was associated with only...

Lower dopamine may drive teen risk-taking that fades with age

Teenage risk-taking, such as experimentation with alcohol, cannabis, nicotine and other substances, may reflect a compensatory response to lower baseline dopamine, the brain chemical for reward activity, a new University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study published in Nature Communications suggests. The study's nuanced findings challenge previous beliefs associating higher dopamine with risk-taking and could reshape how scientists think about brain development in adolescence. While additional research is needed, new evidence suggests that noninvasive measurements of brain dopamine...

Study shows dangerous associations between drug and alcohol use and adolescent mental health

Adolescents who use drugs or binge drink alcohol are more likely to experience psychological distress and have seriously thought of or attempted suicide, according to a new study from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR). Data from the 2022–2024 California Health Interview Surveys (CHIS) show that 9% of California adolescents ages 12–17 currently use one or more substances, which for this study included marijuana/THC, binge drinking alcohol, e-cigarettes and cigarettes. Current use was defined as having used any of the four substances in the past month. The study also showed that 46% of adolescents who...

NIH research clears way for study of experimental treatment for opioid use disorder

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) today announced that its Investigational New Drug (IND) application for mitragynine, the primary psychoactive compound found in *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom), has taken effect with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The IND paves the way for an NIH-led phase I clinical trial to evaluate mitragynine as a potential treatment for opioid use disorder. Researchers at NIH and the University of Florida developed the purified formulation of mitragynine to be used in the trial, as well as the preclinical work that led to the submission of the IND application. "This IND is a major step toward...

Genetic map for cocaine addiction points beyond brain to liver

Researchers at the University of California San Diego have completed a massive genetic study that identifies key biological drivers of cocaine addiction, uncovering a potential new target for treatment that resides in the liver rather than the brain. The study, published in Nature Communications, used a genetically diverse group of nearly 900 rats to map the genetic markers associated with compulsive drug use. "Finding a liver-based enzyme that shapes cocaine-taking behavior was a real 'aha' moment for us," said co-corresponding author Olivier George, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry at UC San Diego School of Medicine...

A heritable 'brake' for stopping cocaine use in rats

Cocaine produces strong euphoric effects, but many users experience unpleasant effects after the rewarding aspects of the drug wear off, which serve as a "brake" for continued use. Research suggests that those who go on to misuse cocaine may not have as sensitive a natural brake on their use of the drug. Is there a genetic cause for this variability? Informed by previous work suggesting that this brake is activated to different degrees by cocaine in different rats, Thomas Jhou, from the University of Maryland Baltimore, led a study exploring the genetic heritability of this trait in rats. As presented in their eNeuro paper, the...

Ozempic, GLP-1s may help curb substance use disorders, study finds

A new study led by researchers at the University of Texas at El Paso found that use of weight-loss drugs like Ozempic and other GLP-1s is associated with a lower risk of developing alcohol, opioid, nicotine and cocaine use disorders. The study, led by UTEP School of Pharmacy researchers Tadesse Abegaz, Ph.D., and Gabriel Fietze, Ph.D., was published in Frontiers in Psychiatry. It looked at more than 142,000 cases involving patients with Type 2 diabetes or obesity, of whom about 20,000 were prescribed GLP-1 medications. Researchers then examined whether GLP-1 users were more or less likely to develop substance use...

10 states join CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the addition of 10 states to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid Demonstration Program. Why it's important: The program provides states with sustainable funding that expands access to comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) treatment and recovery support services. Reminder: CCBHCs must meet federal standards for timely access and scope of services. They are required to provide 24/7 crisis care, timely outpatient services, and access to a comprehensive range of services with care coordination. Clinics...

HHS issues Request For Information on addiction initiatives

The Department of Health and Human Services June 8 released a [request for information](#) on research, policy and strategies to improve addiction and mental illness prevention, treatment and recovery. HHS said it seeks to identify successful initiatives, recommend novel policy ideas and address research gaps. Comments are due to HHS by July 5.

Millions in the US report past-year psilocybin use, study finds

A new look at data from a nationally representative survey finds that more than 8 million people, roughly 2.8% of the U.S. population, reported having used psilocybin in the year prior to the survey. The data came from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health and included responses from 58,000 people in the U.S. age 12 and older. The new findings are detailed in the American Journal of

Preventive Medicine Focus. Psilocybin is a potentially hallucinogenic compound found in more than 200 mushroom species. Interest in its use as a potential treatment for depression, anxiety, substance use disorders and other maladies...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

PAS-27-028

Science Track Award for Research Transition (START) Program (R03, Clinical Trial Optional)

PAR-27-026

Avant Garde/Avenir Awards for Investigators Conducting High Risk/High Reward Research on HIV and Substance Use (or Substance Use Disorders) (DP1 Clinical Trial Optional)

RFA-DA-27-013

HEAL Initiative: Limited Competition for the HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study - Research Project Sites (Collaborative U01- Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

RFA-DA-27-014

HEAL Initiative: Limited Competition for the HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study- Consortium Administrative Core and Data Coordinating Center (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

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