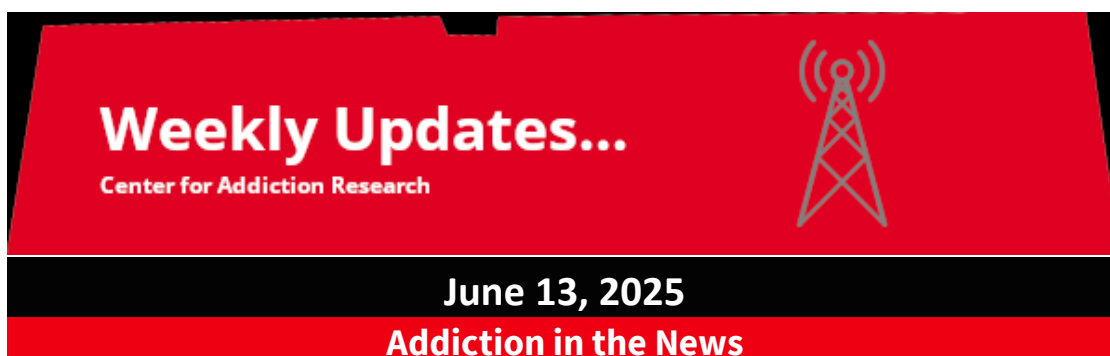


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe ([roweji@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)) 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**

#### **New Service Offers Hope for Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder Needing Transplants**

A new addiction recovery program for organ transplant patients at UC Health in Cincinnati provides vital support for individuals with alcohol use disorder—offering a real chance at both recovery and successful transplantation. Patients who need an organ transplant and struggle with alcohol use disorder (AUD) often face a difficult road. Time isn't on their side. Until recently, they had to navigate separate systems—addiction care in one place, transplant evaluation in another. That delay cost some patients the chance to get on the transplant list in time. Now, a new program available at UC Health is changing that story. Launched in February 2025, Integrated Transplant and Alcohol Recovery Services integrates addiction...

#### **She was saved by Narcan 36 times. Now sober, she worries potential cuts could jeopardize that care for others**

CINCINNATI — In recent years, Kate Dawes' life has come full circle. The mother-of-three once struggled with persistent substance misuse for more than a decade, but now, she helps others experiencing the same through her work with DeCoach Recovery Center. "They said I would never be (my kids') mother," she said. "(Now), I have custody of all of my children. I help thousands, literally, in my career, to find recovery." Dawes first began misusing opioids around 2007 after a doctor's prescription. From that point on, until she got sober in 2020, she described a cycle of "bouncing in and out of treatment, in and out of jail, in and out of (emergency rooms), in and out of ambulances." Dawes credits much of her progress to...

### **She started abusing drugs at 12. Finally treating her PTSD and depression helped her become a nurse again**

HAMILTON, Ohio — Sam Mees lights a cigarette. A few minutes ago, she took a drug test. Every day when she wakes up, there's a chance she might be required to take another one. It's all part of a long journey to keep her nursing license after she lost almost everything to addiction. That's why she's on her way to see her dad. "He drove me to literally every appointment, every drug screen, every court date," Mees said. "He's a big part of my recovery." Recovery that meant digging her way out of felony criminal charges for leading police on a high-speed pursuit in 2020. "It's an everyday thing," Mees said. "I have to plan my life around recovery. I have to." Mees has been sober for more than three years...

### **Butler County group helps animals and those recovering from addiction**

BUTLER COUNTY, Ky. — A new local program is giving furry friends and those in recovery a second chance. Breaking Every Chain focuses on breaking boundaries. Friends of Butler County Animals partnered with Kentucky Christian Recovery Center to provide dogs with freedom and those recovering from addiction with healing. Wendy Bllew, volunteer with the clinic, reveals she has "family in recovery" and has "lost family to addiction." She said she believes it was a "great fit" to combine things she is passionate about. Clinic director, Ruby Fooks, says animal welfare and addiction recovery are "near and dear to my heart." That's why she decided to "bring both of those together." The recovery volunteers go from home...

### **Yost Awards Additional \$2.3M in Grants Targeting Inmate Addiction in Jails**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — A second round of grants totaling \$2.3 million is headed to jails across the state to help sheriffs prioritize addiction treatment for inmates, Attorney General Dave Yost announced today. This batch of grants, awarded to 13 jails serving a combined 18 counties, expands the program's reach to 26 counties statewide. With the latest payments, the total amount awarded since Yost announced the grants in March stands at more than \$3.5 million. "Each time I tour a jail with a sheriff who has received a grant, I am encouraged to hear how this funding is going to make a real difference in the fight against addiction," Yost said. "Although a jail is no substitute for a rehab center, these grants will aid recovery..."

### **Texas invests \$50 million in ibogaine research for addiction treatment, advocates still eye Tri-State**

CINCINNATI — Texas has launched the largest publicly funded research initiative for ibogaine, investing \$50 million to study the plant-based psychoactive compound as a potential breakthrough treatment for addiction. Bryan Hubbard, Executive Director of the American Ibogaine Initiative, successfully advocated for the Texas program after facing resistance in other states, including Kentucky. "Making sure that folks understand what ibogaine is, what it does, and why it is very distinct from all those things that individuals would customarily associate broadly with

psychedelics," Hubbard said. Hubbard emphasized that ibogaine is not recreational but a serious medication. "When a lot of people, especially in red state...

### **Kentucky to award \$5 million in grants for research tackling opioid epidemic**

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman has announced that the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) will award \$5 million in grant funding to support research aimed at tackling the state's ongoing drug epidemic. "For too long, Kentucky was at the epicenter of the drug crisis. Now, by funding cutting-edge innovation, we also have the chance to be at the heart of the recovery," said Coleman in a press release. "We're looking to leaders in prevention, treatment and recovery to bring their best research ideas that can drive the solution, and, in turn, help save lives." The funding will be available to registered for-profit and non-profit organizations in good standing with...

### **'Never experienced anything like this' | Meet the team of experts finding solutions to NKY substance abuse**

COVINGTON, Ky. — Once a week at the Life Learning Center, a team of experts sits down to talk about how to best serve those struggling with addiction. The team is called CAREs, or Coordinating All Recovery Efforts. It's a collaborative effort across Boone, Kenton, Grant and Campbell counties to "intercept crises and provide a compassionate and non-criminalizing approach to recovery," according to a handout explaining the team's work. "You've got the emergency rooms where they come in in the crisis, medically cleared and then we can get them into either a short-term detox or a long-term detox, and they can get into inpatient or outpatient rehab. So it'd be and then and then we have LLC Life Learning Center, which is...

## **National News**

### **Fewer than 500 neurons are associated with the suppression of binge drinking, new research finds**

Among the billions of neurons in the brain, fewer than 500 are responsible for suppressing binge drinking, according to new research by Gilles E. Martin, Ph.D., associate professor of neurobiology. Published in Nature Neuroscience, these findings provide insights into binge-drinking behavior and alcohol dependency that may lead to new therapeutic targets. "It's really hard to comprehend how only a few neurons can have such a profound effect on behavior," said Dr. Martin, a member of the Brudnick Neuropsychiatric Research Institute at UMass Chan. "This is exciting because we are starting to understand how only a...

### **Cannabis use disorder may increase risk for certain psychiatric illnesses**

Pot. Weed. Mary Jane. Dope. Cannabis goes by many names. The drug has had a rocky history in the United States, but today, many states have legalized cannabis use or made it available with a doctor's prescription. A research team led by Yale scientists evaluated the relationship between cannabis use traits and psychiatric disorders. Their results, published recently in Nature Mental Health, show that

cannabis use disorder places people at increased risk of developing several psychiatric disorders, providing beneficial guidance that public health professionals can use to gauge the potential utility of cannabis for their...

### **Provoking symptoms before brain stimulation shows promise for treating OCD and nicotine dependence**

A new study published in JAMA Psychiatry makes the case that symptom provocation may significantly improve the clinical effectiveness of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS), a noninvasive brain stimulation method used to treat depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and nicotine dependence. The study was conceptualized, designed and supervised by Heather Burrell Ward, MD, assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and director of Neuromodulation Research, in collaboration with Simon Vandekar, Ph.D., associate professor of Biostatistics and Daniel Bello and Megan Jones...

### **Adolescents who smoke or vape may believe tobacco's perceived coping benefits outweigh accepted health risks**

Tobacco use in a variety of forms is common in adolescent life today, with over 2.25 million youth using. Huge progress has been made over the past few decades in reducing cigarette use among young people. But tobacco use—primarily through e-cigarettes, also known as vapes—remains a complex problem for public health and policy. In 2024, just over 8% of U.S. middle and high school students reported having used a tobacco product. Among tobacco users, nearly 6% used e-cigarettes, more than a quarter of whom used an e-cigarette product daily. We are behavioral health researchers. Our team's ongoing research examines the...

### **E-cigarettes may emit harmful substances, raising safety concerns**

Once marketed as a safer alternative to smoking, electronic cigarettes have been often considered less harmful by consumers. But emerging research reveals that vaping may carry serious health risks of its own. At the University of Miami College of Engineering, recent Ph.D. graduate Kapiamba Fabrice is leading critical research into the invisible toxins released by e-cigarette aerosols and their potential impact on users and bystanders. Working under the mentorship of associate professor Yang Wang in the Particle Measurement and Technology Lab, Fabrice conducted a comprehensive study of the physical, chemical and...

### **College vaping rates linked to social discussions within close friend groups**

College students are more likely to vape if their friends frequently talk about electronic cigarettes, according to a new study from The University of Texas at Arlington. The effect is particularly strong in tight-knit friend groups, where regular conversations about vaping are linked to more consistent use. "These findings are important because they point to the significant role of interpersonal communication in shaping college students' e-cigarette use," said Joshua Awua, a

postdoctoral research associate in UT Arlington's School of Social Work and the lead author of the study recently published in *Addiction Research &...*

### **August 2023 marked the turning point in US drug overdose crisis, study finds**

While the U.S. has recently seen a welcome downturn in drug overdose deaths, a new study from Northwestern Medicine is the first to pinpoint when the tide began to turn—identifying August 2023 as the national inflection point in the crisis. "This is an unprecedented shift in the modern drug crisis," said corresponding author Lori Post, director of the Institute for Public Health and Medicine's Buehler Center for Health Policy and Economics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "Even with this promising decline, drug overdose death rates remain near historic highs. Things are better but still not good. For context...

### **New approach reverses opioid overdoses more safely, rat study shows**

Opioid overdoses are a major public health issue in the U.S., killing tens of thousands of people every year. The medicine naloxone, which is available as an over-the-counter nasal spray or given by injection, has saved countless lives by rapidly reversing opioid overdoses. But in blocking opioid receptors in the brain, naloxone causes severe withdrawal symptoms, including pain, vomiting and agitation. A research team from the Moron-Concepcion Lab at WashU Medicine has discovered a promising new way to treat opioid overdoses without triggering severe withdrawal symptoms. Their study, titled "Peripheral opioid receptor...

### **Drug deaths plummet among young Americans as fentanyl carnage eases**

PHILADELPHIA — When Justin Carlyle, 23, began experimenting with drugs a decade ago, he found himself part of a generation of young Americans caught in the devastating wave of harm caused by fentanyl addiction and overdose. "I use fentanyl, cocaine, crack cocaine, yeah, all of it," Carlyle said, speaking to NPR on the streets of Kensington, a working class neighborhood in Philadelphia where dealers sell drugs openly. "I was real young. I was 13 or 14 when I tried cocaine, crack cocaine, for the first time." As an elevated train rumbled overhead, Carlyle described turning to fentanyl, xylazine and other increasingly toxic...

### **A glycoprotein marks cocaine-activated brain neurons and regulates cocaine reward**

Cocaine, a drug of abuse, activates just a portion—10% to 20%—of the neurons in the brain's nucleus accumbens, a critical region linked to motivation and addiction. Though small in numbers, this activated neuronal population strongly controls drug-related behavior through downstream changes in gene expression, nerve synapses, neural circuitry and neural function that lead to behavioral change, including addiction. In a study published in *Science Advances*, University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers led by Kasey Brida and Jeremy Day, Ph.D., report that the secreted glycoprotein reelin is a marker for those nucleus...

### **Prescribing ADHD medications via telehealth does not alter risk of substance use disorder, researchers find**

Telehealth can make health care easier to access for patients with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who need treatment, but experts worry about an increased risk of substance use disorder for patients being prescribed controlled medications such as stimulants for ADHD during these appointments. Mass General Brigham researchers scrutinized this concern with the first-ever study comparing substance use disorder rates in patients with ADHD who were prescribed stimulant medications during in-person versus virtual appointments. They found that, overall, telehealth was not associated with an...

### **Medicaid cuts would devastate mental health, substance use treatment services in red states**

When House Republicans voted in the wee hours of the morning of May 22 to cut approximately \$700 billion from Medicaid, they moved one step closer to rendering dangerously vulnerable the millions of Medicaid recipients struggling with mental illness and substance use disorder. Medicaid, which covers more than 72 million Americans, is the single largest payer of behavioral health services, which includes mental health and substance use disorder treatment. As the United States works to destigmatize mental health and its treatment, it becomes even more important to ensure that people have the means to...

### **NIH walks back ban on new grants for universities with DEI programs or Israel boycotts**

The National Institutes of Health has, for now, walked back a policy requiring universities and other research institutes to certify that they do not have unlawful diversity, equity, and inclusion programs or boycotts of Israel in order to receive research dollars. The rule, which was initially posted in April, was seen as the next stage of using research funds as leverage against private universities and efforts to increase diversity in the sciences. It is unclear what prompted the rescission of the policy, which is effective immediately. But the notice published on Monday says, "NIH is awaiting further Federal-wide guidance and will provide..."

### **Doctors raise concern over rise in recreational ketamine use**

The rise in non-prescribed ketamine use across the UK in recent years is a cause for concern, say doctors in The BMJ. Irene Guerrini at South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and colleagues warn that its low cost has made it popular among young people. They say public awareness of the risks and long-term harms associated with ketamine remains insufficient, and they call for better diagnostic criteria, a national registry, and screening tools to support earlier identification, guide treatment, and help evaluate emerging therapies. Ketamine is routinely used as a general anesthetic and lower doses are prescribed for...

## Funding Opportunities



### GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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

#### **UC Foundation Funding Opportunities**

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or [russecg@foundation.uc.edu](mailto:russecg@foundation.uc.edu) at **least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

#### **Funder Supports Community-Driven Responses to Opioid Use, Overdose Mortality**

**Deadline: July 2, 2025**

Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) will fund eligible projects that support community-based organizations (CBOs) as they build capacity to address opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose mortality. Applicants may apply for a grant of up to \$75,000 per year for up to two years (up to \$150,000 total). Locally driven efforts are critical to ensure that communities disproportionately impacted by OUD have access to effective prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services. CBOs are positioned to identify and respond to local needs but often struggle to find flexible funding to enhance their operations. This RFP expands community-driven responses with new funding aimed at supporting more CBOs as they strengthen their operations, refine programming, and foster community partnerships. FORE will provide support for selected requests that build capacity for and promote the sustainability of initiatives that reduce the burden of OUD and overdose mortality in local communities. Requests may include one or more of the following, or may propose other activities: Enhance operational effectiveness to improve productivity and organizational functioning in areas such as administration, finance, human resources, and technology, with the goal of achieving long-term sustainability and diversified funding, Strengthen communication efforts to raise awareness about an organization's mission and attract attention and resources to the organization, Strengthen and evaluate programming to enhance access and delivery of evidence-based OUD services to more individuals and families in their communities, and Foster collaborations with a broader range of allies — in education, business, courts, and primary and behavioral healthcare settings — to strengthen community engagement that results in stronger and expanded services. Applicant organizations must be a community-based 501(c)3 organization or nonprofit with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, have been in operation for at least two years, and have an annual operating budget between \$150,000 and \$7 million.



### **Saks Foundation Helps U.S.-Based Organizations Address Mental Health Needs**

**Deadline: July 1, 2025**

The Saks Fifth Avenue Foundation's Local Grant Program, offering grants from \$10,000 to \$30,000, supports U.S.-based, local organizations serving the mental health of those in need. Support will be provided for 10 organizations focused on increasing awareness and education, improving access to care, and building protective factors. The Foundation aims to fund organizations serving communities with unique mental health needs, including youth, women, communities of color, and the LGBTQ+ community. The Foundation's mission is to make mental health a priority in every community, especially those where support is most needed.

### **Marian R. Stuart Grant Explores Link Between Mental and Physical Health**

**Deadline: July 10, 2025**

The American Psychological Foundation invites applications for the Marian R. Stuart Grant, which aims to further the research, practice, or education of an early career psychologist on the connection between mental and physical health, particularly for work that contributes to public health. A grant of \$20,000 will be awarded to support an early career psychologist. Examples include but are not limited to research-based programs that teach medical doctors counseling skills; research-based programs on the effect of behavior on health; and research-based programs on psychologists' role in medical settings for the benefit of patients. Applicants must be an early career researcher (no more than 10 years postdoctoral); affiliated with a nonprofit charitable, educational, or scientific institution or a governmental entity operating exclusively for charitable and educational purposes; and have demonstrated competence and capacity to execute the proposed work. Preference will be given to psychologists working in medical schools.

### **Morgan Stanley Invites Proposals for Mental Health Solutions for Youth**

**Deadline: July 7, 2025**

The Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health Innovation Awards aims to seed-fund transformative mental healthcare solutions for children and youth across the United States. U.S.-based 501(c)(3) public charities with an annual total revenue under \$5 million are eligible to apply. The Next Gen Innovation Awards are open to nonprofits founded and/or led by leaders younger than 32 years old, with more than two years in operation. Each winner will receive seed funding for their new or piloted project, including \$100,000 for each Innovation Award winner and \$25,000-\$50,000 for each Next Gen Innovation Award Winner; expert-led training from industry professionals; networking opportunities to build connections with other nonprofits and potential funders in the youth mental health space; and opportunities to raise their profile and showcase their program. The program will support new or piloted projects from direct-service organizations that help address stress, anxiety, depression, or other mental health issues in children and young



adults. Awards are made in two categories: the Innovation Awards, which are open to all, and the Next Gen Innovation Awards, which are open to nonprofits founded or led by leaders younger than 32 years old. Programs must be new or piloted projects from direct-service organizations that will help address the far-reaching challenge of stress, anxiety, depression, or other mental health issues in children and young adults in the United States. Projects must tackle specific issues and address unmet needs, with a goal of educating the public, reducing stigma, increasing access to care, improving equity in mental health, enabling early identification/prevention, enhancing intervention, or fostering peer support, especially among disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. The proposed project can be national, regional, or local in scope. The goal of the fellowship is to advance innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches that enhance our understanding of biological systems across both ecological and evolutionary timescales.

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