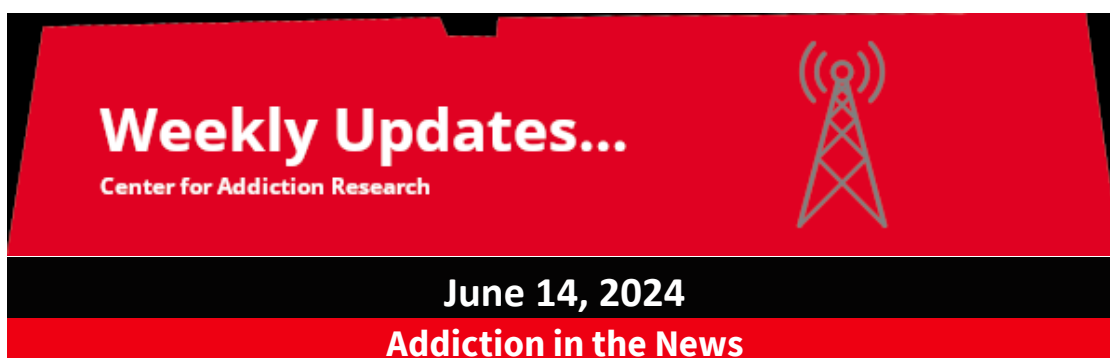


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 6.14.2024

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](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**

### **Ohio overdose deaths drop in 2023 after recent high during COVID-19 pandemic: What to know**

The number of U.S. fatal overdoses fell last year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. Agency officials noted the data is provisional and could change after more analysis, but that they still expect a drop when the final counts are in. It would be only the second annual decline since the current national drug death epidemic began more than three decades ago. Experts reacted cautiously. One described the decline as relatively small, and said it should be thought more as part of a leveling off than a decrease. Another noted that the last time a decline occurred — in 2018 — drug deaths shot up in the years that followed. Ohio experienced a drop from a recent 12-month high of 5,582 overdose deaths...

### **Ky. overdose deaths drop nearly 10% in second straight annual decline**

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Drug overdose deaths in Kentucky fell nearly 10% in 2023, marking a second straight annual decline in the fight against an addiction epidemic that's far from over, Gov. Andy Beshear said Thursday. The number of fatal overdoses statewide dropped below 2,000, as officials credited a comprehensive response that includes treatment and prevention as well as illegal drug seizures by law enforcement. "Even while we celebrate progress, there's a lot of heartbreak and pain because of this epidemic that continues," the Democratic governor said at a statehouse ceremony. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell — who has steered huge sums of federal funding to his home state to combat its addiction...

## **National News**

### **Alcohol use tied to mood instability in patients with bipolar disorder**

Alcohol use is associated with mood instability (depression and manic symptoms) in people with bipolar disorder (BD), according to a study published online June 7 in JAMA Network Open. Sarah H. Sperry, Ph.D., from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and colleagues characterized the longitudinal alcohol use patterns in BD and examined the temporal associations among alcohol use, mood, anxiety, and functioning over time. Analysis included data from 584 participants in the Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder. Participants had a BD type I (76.2 percent) or BD type II (23.8 percent) diagnosis. Over...

### **Researchers assess rates of cannabis-associated psychotic episodes**

A team of computational biologists and psychologists from University College London, working with a colleague from the University of Lausanne, has attempted to estimate how often and what types of marijuana users experience a psychotic episode due to their smoking habits. In their study, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, the group analyzed prior research efforts to learn more about the frequency of psychotic episodes among marijuana users and what they learned by doing so. Anecdotal evidence and some research efforts have found that marijuana smokers can experience a psychotic episode as a result of inhaling...

### **Heavy cannabis use linked to CVD mortality in women**

Heavy cannabis use is associated with a significantly increased risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality among women, according to a study published online June 6 in JAMA Network Open. Alexandre Vallée, M.D., Ph.D., from Foch Hospital in Suresnes, France, examined sex-stratified associations of cumulative lifetime cannabis use with all-cause, CVD, and cancer mortality using data from volunteers in the U.K. Biobank population. Data were included for 121,895 participants. During a median follow-up of 11.80 years, Vallée identified 2,375 total deaths, including 1,411 and 440 deaths from CVD and cancer...

### **Mental health stressors have differing impacts on odds of young adult use of nicotine or cannabis**

Use of nicotine and cannabis products in varying forms including smoking and vaping by young adults is growing at a time of increased reports of mental health stressors—anxiety, depression and discrimination—by this age group. In one of the first studies of the impact of these commonly co-occurring stressors on diverse young adults, researchers, including Arthur Owora, Ph.D., MPH, of Regenstrief Institute and Indiana University and Wura Jacobs, Ph.D., MSc, of IU School of Public Health-Bloomington, have found that these stressors have differing impacts on odds of substance use depending on the race or ethnicity of the...

### **Justice Department and FDA Announce Federal Multi-Agency Task Force to Curb Distribution and Sale of Illegal E-Cigarettes**

The Justice Department and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today announced the creation of a federal multi-agency task force to combat the illegal distribution and sale of e-cigarettes. Along with the FDA and the Justice Department, the task force will bring together multiple law enforcement partners, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); U.S. Marshals Service (USMS); U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS); and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to coordinate and streamline efforts to bring all available criminal and civil tools to bear against the illegal distribution, and sale of...

### **Juul Vaping Products' Stay of Execution Is Now More Official**

In yet another delay in FDA action to regulate electronic cigarettes, the agency announced it was rescinding its earlier denial of the marketing orders necessary for Juul to keep its vaping products on retail shelves. The FDA had effectively ordered Juul off the market in June 2022, determining that the company's premarket tobacco product applications didn't show enough evidence that public health would be protected if the e-cigarettes and nicotine pods remained for sale. At the time, the FDA pointed to "insufficient and conflicting data -- including regarding genotoxicity and potentially harmful chemicals leaching from the..."

### **Opioid giant's tactics to influence doctors revealed in court documents**

Opioid giant Mallinckrodt, selling more than Purdue Pharma in the US, was forced by the courts to publish more than 1.3 million internal documents. In *The BMJ*, researchers Sergio Sismondo and Maud Bernisson sift through nearly 900 contracts which together reveal a carefully coordinated effort to shape medical attitudes toward pain medicine. Pharmaceutical companies have a long history of managing physician and public opinion, explain the authors. For example, by recruiting physicians to serve as influencers, planting articles in scientific journals, coordinating conference presentations, and developing...

### **Baltimore City wins \$45 million settlement with Allergan, seeks billions in suits vs. other opioid distributors**

Baltimore went its own way and has won the first leg of a potentially billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid distributors. Pharmaceutical company Allergan will pay the city a \$45 million settlement within 30 days for its role in pumping pharmacies with drugs, according to a news release from the mayor's office Monday morning. If the city had joined other state and local governments as defendants in a global settlement with the company, the payoff would have been \$7 million over seven years. "This is such an unprecedented recovery for the city," City Solicitor Ebony Thompson said. "We had a lot of pressure to basically sell out our..."

## **Massachusetts reports largest single-year decline in opioid-related overdose deaths in two decades**

Massachusetts experienced a 10% drop in opioid-related overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023, the largest single-year decline over the past two decades and a trend that is expected to continue based on early data from 2024, according to a report released June 12. But even as experts with the Department of Public Health signaled a victory lap was in order because of the decrease, officials warned of "concerning data" on opioid-related overdose deaths when statistics were broken down by race and ethnicity that could temper any celebrations. While opioid-related overdose death rates among white, non-Hispanic males decreased...

## **Clinical trial shows promising results in a two-drug combination that curbs methamphetamine use**

A clinical trial on a two-drug therapy for methamphetamine use disorder reduced use of the highly addictive drug for up to 12 weeks after initiation of treatment, UCLA-led research suggests. Participants in the ADAPT-2 clinical trial who received a combination of injectable naltrexone plus extended-release oral bupropion (NTX+BUPN) had a 27% increase in methamphetamine-negative urine tests, indicating reduced usage. By contrast, the placebo group had an 11% increase in negative tests. The study is published in the journal *Addiction*. "These findings have important implications for pharmacological treatment for..."

## **Funding Opportunities**



## **GRANTS & FUNDING**

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-062](#)

[HEAL Initiative: JCOIN Phase II Innovation Hubs \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-025](#)

[HEAL Initiative: JCOIN Phase II Clinical Research Hubs \(UM1 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-026](#)

[HEAL Initiative: JCOIN Phase II Community Engaged Research Resource Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-061](#)

[HEAL Initiative: JCOIN Phase II Economic Research Resource Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-040](#)

[Translational Resource Centers to Build Bridges Between Substance Use  
Epidemiology/Etiology and Prevention Intervention Research \(U24 Clinical Trials  
Not Allowed\)](#)

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