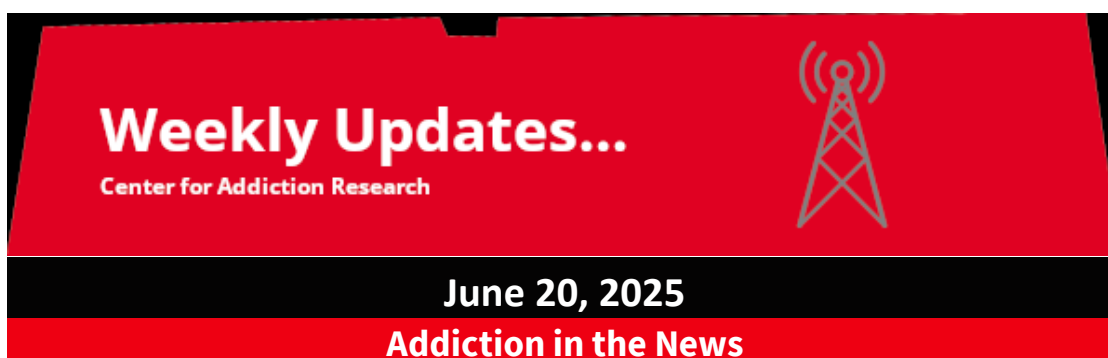


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Tri-State attorneys general sign onto \$7.4B opioid settlement, could bring millions to local communities

CINCINNATI — Ohio has signed onto a \$7.4 billion opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family. Attorney General Dave Yost's office announced the decision Monday and said the settlement could bring up to \$198 million to Ohio and its local communities for addiction, prevention and recovery services. "I think it holds them accountable. \$7.4 billion is significant," said Tom Synan, Newtown Police Chief and co-founder of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition. According to a press release from Yost's office, Purdue Pharma, under the Sacklers' ownership, "manufactured and aggressively marketed opioid products for decades, contributing to the largest drug crisis...

\$5 million in grants going to combat opioid crisis in Kentucky

FLORENCE, Ky. — \$5 million in grant money is going to support research and new ways to fight the state of opioid addiction in Kentucky. This funding is meant to go towards for-profit and non-profit organizations across the state. Government entities, like cities and counties, can also apply. The Northern Kentucky Health Department works very closely with these groups in opioid prevention and solution. Specifically, the department's harm reduction program helps to identify strategies, activities and policy initiatives within the community. Many of these groups usually stick with strategies backed by research, the department says, and what they know works. This grant money will help make strides for new solutions to...

Addiction Policy Forum & NIH HEAL Initiative Webinar Series: Building Effective Public Health Communications Campaigns on Substance Use Treatment and Overdose Prevention

July 10, 2025, 1:00PM ET

Join part two of a three-part webinar series that explores how to design and deliver effective public health communications campaigns related to addressing substance use disorders and overdose, drawing directly from the experiences of the HEALing Communities Study (HCS), a multi-state, community-driven effort to reduce overdose deaths in 66 communities across Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio. The goals of the campaign were to: 1) increase acceptability and demand for evidence-based practices (EBPs) to treat opioid misuse, opioid use disorder (OUD), and opioid overdose death; and 2) decrease stigma toward people who use opioids, OUD, and EBPs, especially the use of medications for OUD. HCS coalitions successfully implemented four main distinct campaigns tailored to local needs, which included campaigns that focused on: 1) Obtaining and carrying naloxone; 2) Decreasing MOUD stigma; 3) Raising awareness of MOUD treatment; and 4) Staying in MOUD treatment. Based on lessons learned from the HCS, each session will offer practical guidance, real-world case studies, and actionable tools to help attendees prepare, plan, and sustain communications efforts in their community. Attendees will hear from HCS communications leaders about implementing the campaigns in the field and lessons learned along the way. In this webinar, presenters will focus on implementing communication campaigns with strategies for tailoring materials for distinct communities and audiences. They will showcase a suite of print and digital materials used by HCS that feature non-stigmatizing imagery and language, along with strategies for tailoring materials to local “faces and places” for cultural relevance and authenticity. Attendees will gain insights into grassroots dissemination strategies across various community settings and best practices for engaging audiences, building trust, and fostering community ownership of campaign messages. **(Dr. T. John Winhusen, HEALing Communities Study Co-Principal Investigator for Ohio and CAR Director)**

National News

Alcohol use disorder harms the brain's immune system earlier in women

The immune system is the body's protector. Following the detection of a potential threat, such as a bacterial or viral infection, a healthy immune system will attack the foreign invader. What many people don't realize is that our brains have their own unique immune system, made up of cells called microglia that play an essential role in maintaining brain function. Previous research has demonstrated that alcohol consumption signals a potential threat to the brain's immune system and activates microglia to initiate repair functions. Now, a new Yale-led study published in *Biological Psychiatry* reveals a surprising finding: Women with...

Surprising drug combination cuts alcohol use and lessens nausea in clinical trial

Two existing medications—one used for smoking cessation and the other for depression—appear to work effectively together in treating alcohol use disorder. The combination reduces alcohol cravings, lowers consumption, and may decrease the risk of nausea. These findings come from a new study led by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Alcohol use disorder is a serious condition that can shorten the lives of those with severe forms of the disorder by 25 years or more. Yet, existing treatments are effective for only a small subset of patients. The results are published in *The Lancet Regional Health—Europe*. The study, "Efficacy and...

Alcohol-linked liver deaths rising in women and young adults, finds study

Alcohol-related liver disease deaths are increasing—and they're rising faster in some groups, including women, young adults and Indigenous people, new research shows. Between 2018 and 2022, deaths from alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) rose nearly 9% a year, compared to 3.5% annually between 2006 and 2018, according to a study published June 11 in *JAMA Network Open*. Experts say the rise likely owes to higher drinking during the COVID-19 pandemic—as well as other long-term health problems like obesity and high blood pressure. "It puts numbers to what we're seeing in the hospital, in the clinic," said Dr. Brian Lee, a...

Cheers or cheers-ious consequences? How older couples' drinking habits affect health

Older couples may want to take a closer look at their drinking habits together. While most research focuses on how your drinking affects your health, a University of Michigan study shows that a partner's drinking habits matter, too. It underscores that it's not just how much alcohol is consumed, but how couples drink—similarly or differently—that can shape health outcomes over time. The study, published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, finds that although older different-sex couples who both consume light to moderate amounts of alcohol may initially report better self-rated health, they could face sharper declines in...

'Age matters': Doctor offers revealing look at cannabis' impact on young brains

Marijuana has become a booming business in some states that have legalized it. But there is growing evidence that some young people are becoming seriously ill, both mentally and physically, from using this drug. That it is happening to cannabis users at a young age isn't a surprise to Dr. Staci Gruber, a leading expert on marijuana and its impact on the brain. "Age matters," said Gruber. "We know that individuals who are using it at younger ages are more likely to have challenges or more pronounced changes." Gruber, director of Marijuana Investigations for Neuroscientific Discovery at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, said...

Cannabis-CVD Link Holds Strong Amid Changing Drug Laws, User Habits

With newer data, clear lines could still be drawn between cannabis use and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE), a meta-analysis confirmed. Based on two dozen pharmacoepidemiological studies published from 2016 to 2023, excess cardiovascular risks were apparent in self-reported ever-users and those detected from drug screens in the real world: Acute coronary syndrome: RR 1.29, 95% CI 1.05-1.59, Stroke: RR 1.20, 95% CI 1.13-1.26, Cardiovascular death: RR 2.10, 95% CI 1.29-3.42. "These findings should encourage investigating cannabis use in all patients presenting with serious cardiovascular disorders,"...

More smokers quit after big hike in California tobacco tax

Researchers from the University of California San Diego and UC San Francisco have found that Proposition 56, a major tobacco tax increase that was overwhelmingly approved by California voters in 2016, was associated with a significant increase in smoking cessation over the next three years. The study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, also reported significant differences in state tobacco spending and the proportion of people smoking daily. "California's tax increase was over 200%, and tobacco companies largely passed the increase on to their customers," said Shu-Hong Zhu, Ph.D., a professor at the...

Advancing Recovery Research

In a recent commentary in The New England Journal of Medicine, my colleagues John Kelly, Howard Koh, and I likened the addicted brain to a house on fire—a crisis requiring urgent efforts to contain the damage and preserve life.¹ The drug crisis in America has demanded a sustained focus to extinguish those fires by expanding treatment access and overdose prevention and reversal strategies—and encouragingly, data show that overdose fatalities have been declining since 2023. However, a house that has had its addiction fire extinguished still smolders and can readily burst into flames again. After an initial remission of substance...

Purdue Pharma, Sacklers reach new \$7.4 billion opioid settlement

All 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and U.S. territories have approved a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma, maker of Oxycontin, over the company's improper marketing of opioids. The deal was filed with a federal bankruptcy court by Purdue Pharma officials in March after negotiations with state attorneys general and other stakeholders. If this plan is finalized, payouts will occur over the next 15 years. In a statement, New York's Attorney General Letitia James said the plan will "hold the Sackler family accountable" for what she described as their "leading role in fueling the epidemic of opioid addiction and..."

Study finds treatment among women with drug use disorder increases with access to social safety net programs

Women with drug use disorder (DUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) are more likely to receive treatment when enrolled in Medicaid alongside other government

assistance programs such as childcare, employment services, and SNAP benefits. According to new research from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, these combined social safety net supports are significantly associated with increased receipt of drug treatment and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, the study sheds light on how overlapping safety net services can help address...

New opioid testing techniques could lead to better therapies

As the opioid epidemic persists across the United States, a team of researchers from Brown University has developed new diagnostic techniques for detecting opioid compounds in adults with opioid use disorder and infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome. The new techniques, described in two recently published research studies, could equip health care workers with powerful new tools for more effectively treating conditions related to opioid exposure, the researchers say. In a study published in Scientific Reports, the researchers describe a method that can rapidly detect six different opioid compounds from a tiny...

House passes bill to combat fentanyl trafficking, sending it to Trump's desk

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation Thursday that would solidify federal policies cracking down on the synthetic opioid fentanyl and its analogs in a bid by lawmakers to combat the nation's opioid epidemic. The HALT Fentanyl Act makes permanent a 2018 emergency rule that classifies knockoffs of fentanyl as Schedule I controlled substances, which results in harsher sentences for possession of the drug. The bill passed the House 321-104 and now heads to President Donald Trump for his signature. The legislation, which applies to what are known as known as "fentanyl-related substances," ...

Reducing Personal Shame and Stigma Helps With Recovery

People addicted to drugs or alcohol are stigmatized in our society, which can impede their recovery. We cannot readily understand how they are thinking and why they are making the unhealthy choices they make. Alcoholics Anonymous advises us to separate the person from the disease. We might "hate the sin" or disapprove of harmful, self-defeating, and destructive drug use. But we love the sinner, maintain compassion and empathy, and want to help. Stigma originates from outdated beliefs viewing addiction as a moral failing rather than an acquired, chronic, relapsing brain disease that is treatable. Often, society's negative...

Science Shattered

The National Institutes of Health is responsible for more than 80% of the world's grant investment in biomedical research. Its funding has sparked countless medical breakthroughs — on cancer, diabetes, strokes — and plays a fundamental role in the development of pharmaceutical drugs. Scientists compete vigorously for a slice of the more than \$30 billion that the agency doles out annually; they can spend years assembling grant applications that stretch thousands of pages in hopes of

convincing peer reviewers of the promise of their projects. Only 1 in 5 gets chosen. The NIH has rarely revoked funding once it has been...

How Trump's travel ban could disrupt the way knowledge about health is shared

Abdul-Rahman Edward Koroma was supposed to be in New York last week. For months, the disability rights activist from Sierra Leone had been looking forward to his trip to the United Nations session. He had a busy schedule of meetings and official events talking about the challenges of living with a disability in his country, including showcasing a documentary about how the disability community is especially vulnerable to flooding and landslides associated with climate change. But on June 5, he learned he couldn't come. Sierra Leone was one of 19 countries where President Trump had banned or restricted the ability to...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-OD-25-124](#)

[Notice of Rescission of Civil Rights Term and Condition of Award](#)

[NOT-OD-25-121](#)

[Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH Pathway to Independence Award \(K99/R00\)](#)

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