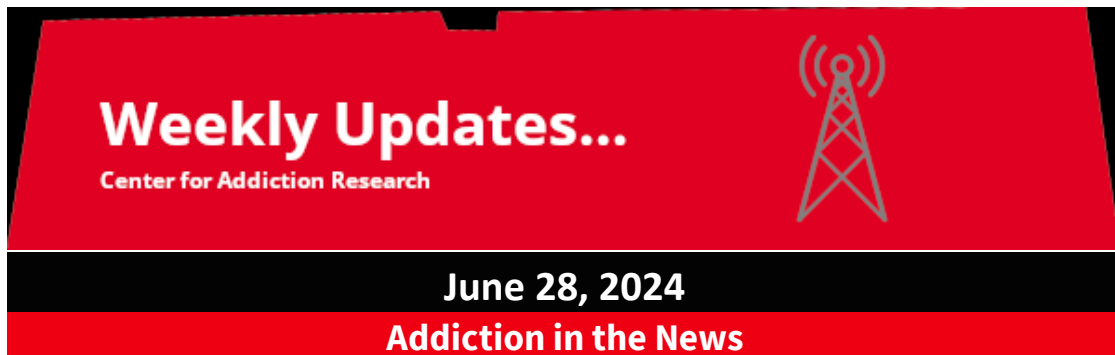


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. **Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be published Friday, July 12.** 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

Center for Addiction Research Upcoming 2024 Summer Speaker Series

Back by popular demand, the Center for Addiction Research will hold its second 2024 virtual Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, July 10 at 12pm on "A Unique, Co-Designed Family-Based Therapy for Marginalized Women with Opioid Use Disorder and Justice-Involvement" with presenter, **Aaron Murnan, PhD, LMFT, CAR member**, and Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, College of Nursing. The series is sponsored by Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training. All presentations will be held virtually and are free and open to the public.

[\(PDF event flyer attached\)](#)

>> [Register for any of the presentations](#)

Over \$12M awarded to Kentucky organizations for addiction programs

LEXINGTON, Ky. (LEX 18) — 51 organizations across Kentucky were awarded a total of \$12,029,053 in grant funding from the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission to bolster prevention, treatment and enforcement efforts, according to Attorney General Russell Coleman. The Commission is responsible for distributing the Commonwealth's share of nearly \$900 million recovered in opioid settlements. "This is blood money," said Coleman. Coleman emphasized the importance of remembering the pain, heartache, and devastation the money represents. So, he believes it's critical to do good with this cash. "We must be stewards of this money," said Coleman. "We're honoring those we lost by our..."

Why Some Northeast Ohio Communities are Banning Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries, and Why Others Are Buying In

It's possible to say that Brian Adams' journey into the world of cannabis activism began with a film canister. It was March 11, 2006, and Adams was an introverted 22-year-old working at a restaurant in Bedford. As an east side teenager, Adams had indulged in marijuana but was certainly not immersed in the world. Regardless, a dishwasher gifted him a film container's worth of bud as Adams was ending his shift for the night. Outside in the parking lot he was met by two police cruisers. He was arrested, and later convicted of "drug abuse" in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and fined \$255. Because possession of marijuana—a Schedule I narcotic at time—was classified as a fourth-degree misdemeanor, Adams...

Revolutionary Kentucky-based opioid use disorder treatment device receives FDA approval

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) - It's a revolutionary device in the world of addiction recovery. "This can have a profound impact in our state. No question about it," said Isaiah House's Mike Cox. The video above shows the NET Device. It's an opioid use disorder treatment found exclusively at Isaiah House facilities. The neurostimulation therapy reduces opioid withdrawal symptoms within 24 hours. "Adhesive electrodes are placed behind the ears. Through a carefully programmed series of tiny electrical pulses, it restimulates the production of the body's own natural production of endorphins in the brain." For...

Floyd County to receive millions from opioid settlements in never-ending battle with drug addiction

NEW ALBANY, Ind. (WDRB) -- Floyd County judges said 90% of the people who appear in their courtrooms are facing drug charges. Sheriff Steve Bush said the top three offenses in his jail are drug related. Now, they're trying to attack the problem. Over the next 14 years, Floyd County will receive nearly \$7 million as part of the National Opioid Settlement. County leaders will use the money to establish the Floyd County Drug Interdiction Task Force, allowing recovery and treatment centers and law enforcement to collaborate. "I don't think any one of us has not had a friend or a family member who is affected by this crisis," Floyd County Commissioner Jason Sharp said Wednesday. "It has ripped children away from...

National News

2.6 million die annually due to alcohol: WHO

Alcohol kills nearly three million people annually, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday, adding that while the death rate had dropped slightly in recent years it remained "unacceptably high". The United Nations health agency's latest report on alcohol and health said alcohol causes nearly one in 20 deaths globally each year, through drink driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders. The report said 2.6 million deaths were

attributed to alcohol consumption in 2019—the latest available statistics—accounting for 4.7 percent of all deaths worldwide that year. Nearly three...

People with severe alcohol use disorder may form and recall social memories differently

In new research, people with severe alcohol use disorder tended to have greater difficulty forming new social memories. And, while they had better immediate recall of positive than negative social cues, for longer-term memories, they tended to remember more negative experiences than positive ones. These findings of a study published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research* provide insight into how people with severe alcohol use disorder process social-emotional information, which may help clinicians better target therapeutic treatments. The study is the first to formally investigate social episodic memory in...

Clinical Trial on Semaglutide Shows Promise for Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder, Warrants Further Trials

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Christian Hendershot, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Clinical and Translational Addiction Research Program at the UNC School of Medicine, recently presented early findings from the first completed randomized controlled trial of semaglutide in participants with alcohol use disorder (AUD). The preliminary and unpublished findings, which were presented at the Research Society on Alcohol's Annual Meeting, showed a reduction in heavy drinking and drinking quantity among those who were given semaglutide versus the placebo group. "We believe these findings are promising..."

Certain early drinking experiences in teens and young adults may predict more rapid development of alcohol use disorder

Teens and young adults who experience social problems related to alcohol may be at risk of relatively rapid development of alcohol use disorder (AUD), a new study suggests. Other behaviors that meet certain diagnostic criteria may also warn of the potential for an accelerated transition from a first drink to the disorder. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5), a clinical guide to psychiatric disorders, outlines 11 criteria for AUD. Anyone meeting two or more of the criteria qualifies for an AUD diagnosis. Emerging adulthood is a critical period for the development of AUD, and understanding the transition from early...

Young adults' reasons not to drink point to potential for more effective prevention, treatment interventions

Young adults (aged 18–25) who use alcohol have varying personal reasons for not drinking on some days—reasons that could be harnessed to improve the effectiveness of programs preventing and treating alcohol use disorder (AUD), a new study suggests. Although alcohol use is declining among young adults, rates of hazardous drinking and its harmful consequences remain high. In this age group, daily drinking patterns fluctuate. The bulk of relevant research has focused on

motivations for drinking, with scant attention to motivations for not drinking. In addition, previous studies have not represented both...

Gut microbiome linked to brain structure and symptom severity in people who drink heavily

Gut bacteria may be associated with differences in brain structure and clinical symptom severity in people with alcohol use disorder. An exploratory study published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research* found that the presence and number of certain bacteria found in the large intestine were associated with the volume and thickness of certain regions of the brain as well as clinical symptoms such as sleep quality, craving for alcohol, and anxiety or depression in subjects when they were undergoing inpatient treatment for alcohol use disorder. The study supports the development of future research into the role...

A new threat to cannabis users: Smuggled Chinese pesticides

In coordinated raids last September, multiple California agencies stormed a network of illegal cannabis-growing warehouses across Oakland while state cannabis regulators singled out a salmon-colored warehouse complex surrounded by 7,000-volt security fencing. The warehouse building—home to two licensed cannabis operations—was "highly-likely" the conduit that illegal growers used to ship their product into the legal market, a state agent told a judge. Inside the rooms, inspectors found 43,000 plants growing beneath high-intensity lights. None had the tracking tags required to be placed on legal plants. But the surprise...

Cannabis Use Tied to Increased Risk of Severe COVID

Cannabis use was significantly associated with a greater risk of severe outcomes following a COVID-19 infection, according to a retrospective study that spanned the first 2 years of the pandemic. Among more than 70,000 patients with a documented case of COVID at a large medical center in the Midwest, use of cannabis was linked with an 80% greater risk of hospitalization and a 27% higher risk for intensive care unit (ICU) admission after an infection, but no difference in all-cause mortality: Hospitalization: OR 1.80 (95% CI 1.68-1.93), ICU admission: OR 1.27 (95% CI 1.14-1.41), or Mortality: OR 0.97 (95% CI 0.82-1.14). The...

FDA's move to OK first menthol vapes is big mistake, health advocates say

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's decision to authorize the first menthol-flavored e-cigarettes has drawn the ire of health advocates who say the decision undermines efforts to end the youth vaping epidemic in America. In its approval of four flavored vaping products made by Njoy, the agency defended its decision. "Based upon our rigorous scientific review, in this instance, the strength of evidence of benefits to adult smokers from completely switching to a less harmful product was sufficient to outweigh the risks to youth," Matthew Farrelly, director of the Office of Science in the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, said...

No more recreational vaping for Australians—from October, vapes will be sold over the counter at pharmacies

The Australian Senate is set to pass a bill that will see the end of all vape sales—regardless of nicotine content—from general retailers. From July 1, non-nicotine vapes will no longer be permitted for sale outside of pharmacies. But late amendments to the bill, negotiated by the Greens, change how people will be able to access vapes in the future. When the bill is passed—and for the first three months—people will need a prescription from a medical practitioner to access vapes from their local pharmacy. Then, from October 1, 2024, people who wish to use a vape for therapeutic purposes will no longer require a...

The Supreme Court rejects a nationwide opioid settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a nationwide settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma that would have shielded members of the Sackler family who own the company from civil lawsuits over the toll of opioids but also would have provided billions of dollars to combat the opioid epidemic. The decision also could affect other major bankruptcies, including the \$2.4 billion bankruptcy plan for the Boy Scouts of America that has been approved by a federal judge, lawyers said. After deliberating more than six months, the justices in a 5-4 vote blocked an agreement hammered out with state...

Women may face unique obstacles while seeking treatment for opioid use

Women experiencing opioid-use disorders may face unique challenges accessing treatment, according to a new study led by Penn State researchers. The study—published in the journal *Women's Health*—provides new insight into how pregnancy and parenting can make getting medications for these disorders particularly difficult. The researchers found that among pregnant women, common barriers to receiving medication treatment included doctors' hesitance to prescribe these medications to pregnant patients; limited access to resources in rural areas; and difficulty navigating complex, decentralized health systems. For women...

Treatment model in France shows better access to methadone in US could save lives

In France, the majority of people with an opioid use disorder—87%—receive access to medication designed to treat it. In the United States, where more than 100,000 people are dying annually from drug overdoses, less than 20% of people with opioid use disorder receive methadone or buprenorphine. A new study published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy* highlights differences between the two countries—and a prime opportunity for the U.S. to better address an opioid epidemic that continues to ravage American families and communities. "Americans are dying at persistently unacceptable, unthinkable rates..."

Naloxone, witnessed overdoses could reduce opioid-related deaths

Opioid-related drug overdoses cause 130 deaths per day in the U.S. Access to treatment and prevention programs are key to addressing the opioid crisis, as is access to overdose reversal drugs like naloxone, which has emerged as one of the most effective tools for saving the lives of people struggling with opioid addiction. Increasing the availability of naloxone through community-based distribution can prevent fatal overdoses, but since naloxone must be administered by another person, a major challenge to its effectiveness is the prevalence of solitary drug use. A new study from the University of Minnesota School of Public...

Exploitation of supply chain monitoring loopholes fueled US opioid epidemic, study finds

New research from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business explains how pharmaceutical companies were able to saturate the country with massive quantities of opioids, despite efforts by the Drug Enforcement Administration to regulate their supply. The research identifies a loophole in the DEA's monitoring system exploited by some pharmaceutical companies, leading to an oversupply of opioid drugs in communities. The hallmark of this activity was high supply chain complexity, such as pharmacies with dozens of distributors across the country. The paper, "Hiding Behind Complexity: Supply Chain..."

Study reveals evolution of human cold and menthol sensing protein, offers hope for future non-addictive pain therapies

Chronic pain affects millions worldwide, and current treatments often rely on opioids, which carry risks of addiction and overdose. Non-addictive alternatives could revolutionize pain management, and new research targeting the human protein which regulates cold sensations, brings scientists closer to developing pain medications that don't affect body temperature and don't carry the risks of addiction. Research published in Science Advances on June 21, led by Wade Van Horn, professor in Arizona State University's School of Molecular Sciences and Biodesign Center for Personalized Diagnostics, has uncovered new...

Magic mushrooms are the most-used psychedelic drug

Psilocybin mushrooms are the psychedelic substance most often used in the U.S., with its popularity outpacing other psychedelic drugs such as MDMA (known as ecstasy), according to a new RAND report. Based on a new national survey, researchers found that about 12% of respondents reported using psilocybin at some point within their lives and 3.1% reported using the substance over the past year. An estimated 8 million American adults used psilocybin in 2023. Psychedelic substances such as psilocybin mushrooms and MDMA have long been touted as holding promise for treating various mental health conditions...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-044](#)

[Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-045](#)

[Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-NS-24-106](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\) on the Helping to End Addiction Long-term\(HEAL\) Initiative](#)

[RFA-NS-24-035](#)

[Novel Preclinical Models of NeuroHIV in the cART Era \(R61/R33 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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