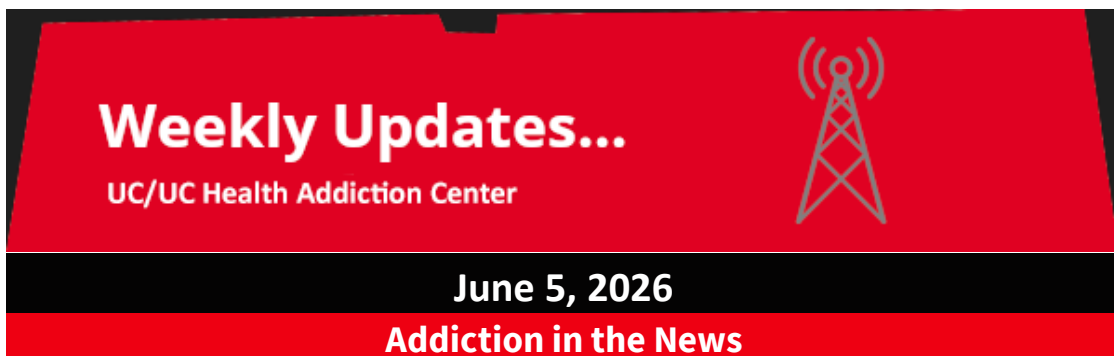


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email 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

#### **University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center upcoming 2026 Summer Speaker Series Event**

Join us for the first of three-monthly virtual Summer Speaker Series events, Wednesday, June 10 at 12pm on "Beyond Daily Dosing: Comparing Extended-Release and Sublingual Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy and Postpartum—Research Evidence and Lived Experience." The session will be presented by **T. John Winhusen, PhD, UCAC Director**, with co-presenter **Kelsie Buchanan, Recovery Advocate and trial participant**. Dr. Winhusen will discuss recently published study results, and attendees will also have the unique opportunity to hear firsthand from a trial participant. All presentations will be held virtually and are free and open to the public. **(PDF event flyer attached)**

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

#### **Beshear signs executive order clarifying qualifying conditions for medical cannabis**

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order on Tuesday providing further guidance on which medical conditions qualify for medical cannabis in the commonwealth. The following conditions were added to the list: Terminal illness, Sickle cell anemia, ALS, Parkinson's disease, HIV, AIDS, Huntington's disease, Muscular dystrophy, Cachexia or wasting syndrome, Crohn's disease, Ulcerative colitis, Neuropathies, Severe arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Glaucoma. The list for the

Kentucky Medical Cannabis program already includes conditions such as chronic pain, cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder. The...

### **Coroner: Daviess County sees sharp decline in overdose deaths as Kentucky reports third straight annual decrease**

Local officials say Daviess County is experiencing a significant decline in overdose deaths, mirroring a statewide trend highlighted in a recent report from Gov. Andy Beshear's administration. According to Daviess County Coroner Jeff Jones, the county recorded 30 overdose deaths in 2022, the highest annual total during his tenure. That number dropped to 20 in both 2023 and 2024 before falling to 12 in 2025. Through the first part of 2026, the county has recorded just two overdose deaths, Jones said. Jones cautioned that overdose statistics can be complex and should not be confused with the number of deceased...

### **'There's always hope': Thousands gather at Louisville's Recovery on the River event**

Thousands of people gathered along Louisville's waterfront Saturday for Recovery on the River, an annual event focused on healing, hope and support for individuals and families impacted by substance use and mental health challenges. Hosted by Helping Evolve Recovery, the third annual event featured recovery organizations, community resources, live music, food vendors and family-friendly activities along the Walking Bridge. This year's theme, "This is Recovery. Real. Raw. Resilient.," highlighted both the struggles and successes of recovery journeys, with organizers emphasizing that help and hope are...

### **Indiana Attorney General Joins Lawsuit Challenging Medical Cannabis Rescheduling, Raising Patient Access Concerns**

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita (R-Indiana) has joined a lawsuit seeking to prevent the rescheduling of state-licensed medical cannabis, a move that has prompted concern among Hoosiers who rely on the substance for pain management. The legal action has raised questions about potential limitations on patient access to the drug. Melissa Morris, a 46-year-old patient, expressed apprehension regarding the Attorney General's stance. Morris, who has managed Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) and associated arthritis pain with medical cannabis for 16 years, stated, "I don't want to have to worry about..."

## **National News**

### **New post-liver transplant protocol results in 0% heavy alcohol relapse rate**

In a study published in the Liver Transplantation journal, Mayo Clinic researchers have found that a new proactive treatment protocol for alcohol use disorder after liver transplant resulted in a 0% heavy alcohol relapse rate among patients who followed the protocol, compared with a historical relapse rate of approximately 25%. "The results were greater than we expected," says Channa Jayasekera, M.D., Mayo Clinic transplant hepatologist and senior author of the study. "Among the 21

patients in the study, none relapsed to heavy alcohol use within one year. Although this was a small cohort, having no relapses is incredibly...

### **US adult cigarette smoking rate hits another all-time low**

NEW YORK (AP) — The cigarette smoking rate among U.S. adults dropped to another all-time low last year, with 1 in 11 adults saying they were current smokers, according to government survey data released this week. Cigarette smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease and stroke, and it's long been considered the leading cause of preventable death. The preliminary findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were based on survey responses from more than 24,200 adults. In the survey, CDC officials defined current cigarette smoking as smoking at least 100 cigarettes in a lifetime and now smoking every...

### **WHO urges governments to protect young people from addiction to tobacco and nicotine products**

Worldwide, at least 40 million children aged 13–15 use tobacco products, and young people's use of e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches continues to rise. In advance of World No Tobacco Day – 31 May – the World Health Organization (WHO) urges governments around the world to protect a new generation from becoming addicted to tobacco and nicotine products. WHO warns that tobacco and nicotine companies are deliberately engineering their products to make them more appealing, easier to use and harder to quit, particularly for adolescents and young people. "Even as tobacco continues to kill millions of people, major tobacco...

### **Naloxone use during cardiac arrest linked to improved survival**

A new study by emergency medicine researchers at UC Davis Health set out to assess the effects of naloxone administration by first responders treating patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OA-OHCA). The study, published in JAMA Network Open, found naloxone administration during resuscitation by emergency medical service (EMS) personnel was associated with improved outcomes in patients with suspected OA-OHCA. For this retrospective cohort study (looking back at existing patient records), researchers collected data from the California Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium between 2021 and 2022. In...

### **Q&A: High-value strategies for communities on the front lines of the opioid crisis**

A collaborative study out of Mass General Brigham and RTI International has examined which opioid crisis-fighting strategies help communities achieve the highest return on investment in terms of lives saved. Jagpreet Chhatwal, Ph.D., and Mert Sahinkoc, Ph.D., of the Center for Health Technology Assessment (CHTA) within Mass General Brigham, are the co-lead authors of a paper published in The Lancet Regional Health–Americas titled "Cost-effectiveness of community-based interventions for reducing opioid overdose and non-overdose deaths: simulation modeling of HEALing Communities Study." Amy Knudsen, Ph.D., also of the...

### **Understanding the complex relationship between opioids and suicidal ideation in spinal cord injury survivors**

For the roughly 300,000 Americans living with a spinal cord injury (SCI), chronic pain is often a part of daily life, and—for many—opioids are prescribed to combat it. In addition to the serious physical considerations, mental health concerns are prevalent in this population. Depression is common among individuals with SCIs, whose risk is three times higher than that of the general population. In a recent study published in *Spinal Cord*, a team of researchers at MUSC and elsewhere sought to untangle the complex relationship between prescription opioid use and misuse and suicidal ideation in SCI patients. The team was...

### **Psilocybin May Aid in the Treatment of Cocaine Addiction**

Cocaine use reached record worldwide highs in 2023, and an estimated 25 million people used cocaine in the past year. In its various forms, including crack, cocaine is more likely to facilitate addiction than other substances, and cocaine-related fatal overdoses in the U.S. rose sharply after 2019 before declining in 2024. Cocaine use disorder (CUD) is extremely difficult to treat. Currently, there are no FDA-approved medications for addiction to cocaine (and other stimulants, including meth), which means treatment options are more limited than for other forms of substance addiction. The search for medications that can assist...

### **Study links childhood trauma and simultaneous substance use to higher rates of depression in college students**

A new study from the Texas A&M University School of Public Health at Texas A&M Health found that childhood trauma, such as abuse, neglect or household instability, and using multiple substances at the same time — particularly cannabis and stimulants — are strongly linked to experiencing depressive symptoms among college students. “We found that these issues are not separate, but may be deeply connected,” said health behavior expert Benjamin N. Montemayor, who led the study. “Many of today’s students are navigating the double burden of past trauma and current mental health struggles, all while adjusting to the...

### **Popular GLP-1 weight-loss drugs linked to lower risks of addiction and overdose**

Popular GLP-1 drugs including Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound have already transformed the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity. Now, new research suggests these medications may also help prevent and treat addiction across a broad range of substances. Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis found that GLP-1 medications were associated with lower risks of developing substance use disorders involving alcohol, nicotine, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other substances. The drugs were also linked to fewer overdoses, hospitalizations, and drug-related deaths among people...

### **1 in 4 U.S. Adults Don't Recognize Addiction as a Health Condition**

Findings from a nationally representative study show that nearly 1 in 4 U.S. adults (23%) either disagree or do not know that addiction is a health condition. Individuals who did not recognize addiction as a health condition were significantly less likely to believe substance use disorders (SUDs) are treatable by healthcare professionals, that early intervention works, or that medications are effective treatments to treat addiction. They were also less likely to indicate that they would help a loved one with addiction. The Addiction Policy Forum and Gallup partnered to conduct this nationally representative study, with researchers from...

### **Brain cells fine-tuned to disappointment may inspire new therapies for depression and addiction**

University of Oregon neuroscientists have identified a group of brain cells that essentially act as a "disappointment meter," announcing when reality is falling short of expectations. In a study published in *Current Biology*, the researchers describe a specific group of neurons in the mouse brain that become active when the animal anticipates a reward but earns less than expected, or nothing at all. The findings reveal that feeling let down is something that particular cells in the brain are designed to detect and record. Mapping the cell types that show sensitivity to disappointment might someday lead to a new class of medications...

## **Funding Opportunities**



### **GRANTS & FUNDING**

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

#### **RFA-DA-27-016**

HEAL Initiative: Translating Addiction Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Research into Practice (R61/R33 - Clinical Trial Optional)

#### **UC Foundation Funding Opportunity**

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

#### **Gilead Health Equity Grants Support Programs that Uplift Vulnerable Groups**

Deadline: Rolling

The Gilead Sciences Foundation supports community-informed and data-driven programs that strengthen healthcare infrastructures and provide education and

financial support to the most vulnerable communities around the world. Corporate giving programs focus support where the need is greatest. Applications that demonstrate a strong capability to deliver specific outcomes the grant would support are prioritized. Grant amounts vary. Eligible institutions include U.S.-based nonprofit organizations, universities and healthcare institutions engaged in community-facing health interventions. The foundation's strategic initiative is to reach the communities most in need of improved access to care. These projects enhance education, prevention, disease screening, access to treatment and reduction of stigma and discrimination across HIV, breast cancer, hepatitis, lung cancer and beyond.

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