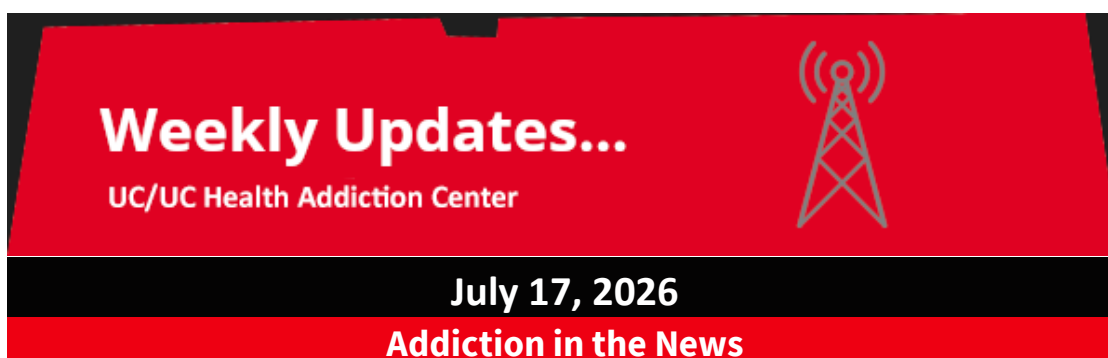


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email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

Cincinnati mayor outlines new plan to help those experiencing homelessness, addiction or mental health issues

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval revealed details Monday afternoon of a plan to develop a day center that would serve as a one-stop shop for services people experiencing homelessness need. The mayor's office called the Center of Care Partnership a "major advancement" of an initiative to improve access to essential support services for people without a home and those experiencing substance abuse and behavioral health issues. "The partnership announced today shows the strength of our community aligned around a commitment to do better for our residents that are most in need," Pureval said. "We..."

Ohio orgs to distribute fewer fentanyl test strips amid federal funding rollback

The vending machine outside Caracole, an HIV/AIDS prevention organization in Cincinnati, isn't for a midday snack. Instead of chips or soda, it holds what director of prevention Suzanne Bachmeyer believes is an assortment of life-saving supplies. "These are our test strips," she said as she opened up the vending machine's door on a summer day. "We do them kind of a la carte, so if people want them they can just vend a pack." Three years ago, the state of Ohio decriminalized these testing strips that can detect the presence of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid. That move led to wider distribution in the state, and...

'We owe it to families': How Kentucky plans to spend \$1B in funds from opioid settlement

INDEPENDENCE, Ky. (WKRC) - Kentucky communities are beginning to put opioid settlement dollars to work, even as early spending totals on a new state tracking website suggest much of the money initially sat unused. Kentucky is in line to receive more than \$1 billion over the next two decades from a \$50 billion settlement with drug and pharmacy companies tied to the opioid epidemic. Attorney General Russell Coleman has launched a new online dashboard that tracks where the money is going and how it is being spent. The dashboard indicates Northern Kentucky's three largest counties received \$7.5 million in fiscal year...

National News

Study finds smokers are unlikely to smoke more when switching to low-nicotine cigarettes

People who switch to cigarettes with dramatically reduced nicotine levels are unlikely to smoke more cigarettes or inhale more smoke to compensate for the lower nicotine content, according to a new study led by researchers at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and published in JAMA Network Open. The systematic review examined 17 randomized clinical trials involving more than 5,500 adolescents and adults. Researchers found little evidence that smokers compensated for reduced nicotine by increasing their smoking behavior. In fact, most study participants smoked fewer cigarettes after switching to low-nicotine...

RFK Jr's advisory panel overhaul stalled update on helping kids quit tobacco

The overhaul by the health secretary, Robert F Kennedy Jr, of an influential federal advisory group has stalled an update that would have highlighted "encouraging" new evidence on helping children quit tobacco, according to a recently departed member of the group. The Trump administration has postponed or canceled all meetings of the US preventive services taskforce since March 2025, effectively preventing taskforce members from issuing binding recommendations for more than a year. As a result, 14 topics under consideration have been stalled – including on cervical cancer screening, perinatal depression and autism...

Public health groups sue FDA over policy allowing marketing of unauthorized e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches

A coalition of public health organizations, pediatricians and parents has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Food and Drug Administration's new enforcement policy that allows e-cigarette and nicotine pouch products to be marketed and sold without the scientific review and marketing authorization required by federal law. The lawsuit asserts that the FDA's enforcement guidance, issued in May 2026, violates federal law by permitting the marketing of unauthorized tobacco products—including products the FDA itself has repeatedly found pose a substantial risk to youth. "The Guidance permits potentially thousands of...

Researchers find doctors played a critical role in the nation's opioid crisis

The official sum of opioid-related settlements between U.S. state and local governments and major pharmaceutical opioid manufacturers, marketers, distributors and retailers recently reached \$58.58 billion. Stark statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also indicate that since 1999, approximately 860,000 people have died from an opioid overdose, with nearly 318,000 of those deaths attributable to prescription opioids. In 2024, 73.4% of drug overdose deaths were attributable to opioids, with 65.1% of those deaths from illegally made fentanyl, according to the CDC. While much of the focus of...

Economic evaluation supports prophylactic naldemedine for opioid-induced constipation in cancer palliative care

Although opioids remain indispensable for pain relief in patients with advanced cancer, their use frequently results in OIC, which can substantially reduce quality of life and, in some cases, compromise the continuation of optimal pain management. Naldemedine, a peripherally acting μ -opioid receptor antagonist, is used to treat OIC by preserving physiological bowel motility without interfering with central analgesia. Previous research has demonstrated that prophylactic administration of naldemedine at the start of opioid therapy can prevent constipation, improve constipation-related quality of life, and reduce associated...

HHS & VA Announce Bold, Comprehensive Partnership to Advance Rapid-Acting Mental Health Treatments for Veterans

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen collaboration on the research, clinical development, and responsible deployment to veterans suffering from serious mental health conditions of potential future rapid-acting psychedelic drug products if approved by the Food & Drug Administration. "America owes every veteran the best care our nation can provide," said HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "We're not going to wait while promising treatments sit on the sidelines. Thanks to...

Comments Are Closed on OMB's Grantmaking Proposed Rule. Now What?

Last night, comments closed on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s proposed rule that would require political appointees to review federal grants and halt those that don't align with Trump administration objectives. As of the 11:59 p.m. deadline, nearly 500,000 comments were submitted, many in response to campaigns from several science organizations that hoped to drown the agency with work to vet those comments in an effort to delay the rule. Only about 10% of those have been posted publicly. As of July 9, of the 51,047 comments that were posted, 94% were opposed to the rule. That's according to...

Bipartisan bill to eliminate hepatitis C unveiled in House

A bipartisan pair of House members is introducing legislation aimed at treating millions of Americans of a deadly-but-curable liver disease, the culmination of a yearslong push from public health advocates. The bill, sponsored by Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa and Diana DeGette, D-Colo., would create a national hepatitis C elimination program to expand testing and treatment especially for people least likely to access it, including those who are incarcerated, uninsured, low-income, or receiving care through the Indian Health Service. The legislation would also direct the federal government to enter into five-year...

Funding Opportunities



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

New Publications from UCAC Faculty

Rapid HIV anti-retroviral therapy (ART) medication start among a sample of emergency department HIV screening programs

Moschella, Phillip; Kitzmiller, Katie; Braun, Robert; Oluwasanmi, Mofetoluwa; Freiermuth, Caroline E; Faryar, Kiran

The American Journal of Emergency Medicine

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajem.2026.07.012>

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