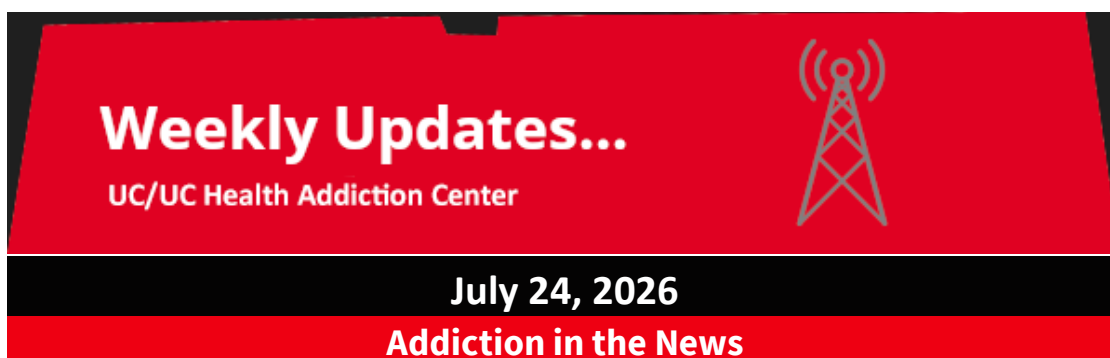


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email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

CoM Office of Research Gallery of Awardees

Recognizing the challenges of competing for funding to support faculty research programs, the College of Medicine Office of Research celebrates researchers in the Gallery of Awardees. The gallery honors those faculty members who have been awarded external grants of \$100,000 per year or more direct costs.

Congratulations to the recently featured UCAC Director and UCAC Researcher!

T. John Winhusen, PhD, Vice Chair of Addiction Sciences, Donald C. Harrison Endowed Chair in Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Award: National Institute on Drug Abuse CTN-0080-A-2 (PRoMOTE Study)

Project Title: Promoting Research with Mothers Receiving OUD Treatment; A Focus on Equity

Project Period: 3/1/2024–2/28/2026

Summary: PRoMOTE aims to explore and address barriers to research participation among pregnant women in treatment for opioid use disorder, with an emphasis.

Joel Sprunger, PhD, Associate Professor, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Award: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism R34

Project Title: Developing and Evaluating a Firefighter Self-Administered Neurostimulation Intervention for Traumatic Stress to Reduce Alcohol Use

Project Period: 5/1/2026–4/30/2029

Summary: Firefighters frequently experience traumatic events that contribute to post-traumatic stress symptoms and heavy alcohol use, yet effective treatments targeting both conditions are limited. This project will test a wearable neurostimulation device that stimulates the vagus nerve as a potential way to reduce trauma-related symptoms and drinking among firefighters with alcohol use disorder. If feasible and effective, the approach could support a larger clinical trial and provide a new treatment option for this high-risk population. Collaborators include Kate M. Chard, PhD, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.

Reports of addiction, death continue to emerge as DEA cracks down on 'monster' drug 7-OH

TOLEDO, Ohio (WKRC) - Reports of addiction and deaths continue to emerge as state and federal officials crack down on synthetic kratom products, including 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). According to WTOL, 7-OH products, known to be sold in some smoke shops, gas stations and vape stores, continue to draw growing concern from federal regulators, toxicologists and addiction specialists. A naturally occurring alkaloid in the kratom plant, 7-OH has been synthesized and concentrated by manufacturers into highly potent pills, gummies and liquid shots. Experts have warned consumers that highly concentrated...

Use of opioid settlement funding in Grant County

Since 2021, massive amounts of opioid settlement funding dollars have been distributed throughout the United States. The settlements are the result of lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies manufacturing opioids. The lawsuits arose from exorbitant production, sale and abuse of opioids that led more and more frequently to overdose deaths. States went to court against the companies that produce and distribute the extremely addictive drugs. The legal settlement monies are now being distributed to local governments to be used to provide for relief for those trapped in the opioid addiction cycle and...

Gov. Beshear: Meade, Pike, Wolfe Counties Certified as Recovery Ready Communities

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 16, 2026) – To continue the work that has led to Kentucky's four straight years of declines in overdose deaths, Gov. Andy Beshear announced today that Meade, Pike and Wolfe counties are now certified as Recovery Ready Communities. With the addition of these counties, more than 2.2 million Kentuckians have access to enhanced addiction treatment and recovery services across the 42 counties certified as Recovery Ready. "There is no limit to the generosity and selflessness of Kentuckians and that's seen through the hard work being done to ensure less of our people face the pain of addiction," Gov....

National News

Newer obesity drugs linked to fewer alcohol-related hospitalizations for people with alcohol dependence

Use of newer GLP-1 receptor agonists (semaglutide or tirzepatide) for obesity or diabetes by people with alcohol-use disorder was associated with a reduction in alcohol-related admissions to hospital, finds a study published online in the open access journal BMJ Open. The findings suggest a potential role for the drugs semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro) in the treatment of alcohol-use disorder. While GLP-1 receptor agonists are used primarily for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity, there have been reports of reduced alcohol consumption among patients taking the drugs, prompting...

Examining the consequences of discontinuing GLP-1 medications on addiction-related hospitalizations

GLP-1 receptor agonists are among the active ingredients in so-called weight-loss injections. Originally developed to treat type 2 diabetes, they are now also used to treat severe obesity. In recent years, studies have provided evidence that they may also reduce the consumption of alcohol and other substances. However, it has not been clear whether these potential effects persist after the medication is discontinued. According to a large Swedish registry study involving the Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH), people with type 2 diabetes were hospitalized less frequently for alcohol or substance use disorders while...

Antismoking efforts stall

The administration has taken several steps to unravel federal antismoking initiatives and delivered significant policy wins to tobacco companies. The details: As part of its government downsizing efforts last year, the administration laid off Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) staff, and the Office has now been shut down for more than a year. OSH managed the Tips From Former Smokers Campaign and worked with states on smoking cessation measures. OSH sent most of its \$240 million budget to states each year, but shortly after laying off the staff, CDC notified states that their...

The Truth About “Tobacco-Free” Pouches and Vapes: Why They’re Still Addictive and Risky

Tobacco companies are constantly shifting their tactics to keep profits high and customers addicted and dependent on tobacco products. The gaining popularity of nicotine pouches and vapes that claim to be “tobacco-free” is their latest gambit, and it seems to be fooling even the U.S. Food and Drug Administration who this year issued new guidance relaxing regulations on nicotine pouches and vapes. What consumers fail to realize is that tobacco-free products are far from safe. Studies show that by marketing a product as “tobacco-free,” youth are much more likely to pick it up because they no longer perceive the product...

ER opioid prescriptions unlikely to be significant drivers of future substance use among adolescents

The pendulum may have swung too far in the direction of caution when it comes to limiting opioids for adolescents who are in pain, according to new research from a University of Alberta emergency medicine team published in *Pediatrics*. The investigators examined a long-held belief by clinicians and parents that an opioid prescription for pain from a torn muscle or broken limb could put a teenager at higher risk for future opioid-related harms such as overdose or addiction. "You feel this hesitancy about prescribing opioids because it's been drilled into us from the media that opioid prescriptions are why we have the opioid..."

Study links prenatal opioid exposure to long-term challenges in children's vision and behavior

Children exposed to opioids before birth may face increased risks of difficulties with vision, attention, behavior and learning during their school years, according to a new study. The research—led by the University of Glasgow in collaboration with the University of Dundee and published in *Addiction*—highlights the need for ongoing support for children exposed to opioids in the womb. The study, a systematic review that looked at findings from the past decade, provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of how prenatal opioid exposure affects children ages 5 to 18. By analyzing 27 research papers involving more...

Severe flooding linked to increased deaths from opioid use in rural Appalachia

Severe flooding may contribute to higher mortality rates from opioid use in rural Appalachia, according to a study by researchers at Penn State. The findings—published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*—are particularly relevant as severe floods are increasing in prevalence and severity because of climate change, said Kristina Brant, assistant professor of rural sociology and co-lead author of the paper. The study, which examined the effects of severe floods in counties across Appalachia, found that overdose deaths significantly increased in the one to two years following a severe flood and...

Agencies in New York and beyond pass the buck on opioid cash oversight

Companies accused of recklessly marketing and distributing prescription opioid painkillers are paying roughly \$58 billion to settle lawsuits over their role in fueling the addiction crisis. It's a pot of gold eyed by addiction treatment providers, companies creating the latest opioid-related products and government officials struggling to balance budgets. Nearly half of that money is going to local governments, to be distributed by county commissioners and city councilors. The idea is that local leaders know their communities best and can do justice to these payouts, often described as "blood money" by people who've lost loved ones to...

Adolescent substance use continues to rise through mid-teens, national study finds

As substance use continues to be a major public health concern among adolescents, researchers from the University of California San Diego analyzed the latest data from one of the nation's largest longitudinal studies of youth to better understand when substance use begins, how it changes during adolescence and which substances are most commonly used together. The study, published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*, examined substance use among 11,880 participants in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, which has followed children across the United States since...

American Indian and Alaska Native adults in California struggle with chronic disease and substance use, study finds

Although American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) adults make up 5% of California's adult population, they shoulder a disproportionate burden of chronic disease and substance use, according to a new study from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR). Yet these rates vary widely within the AIAN population when examined by education level, household income, sexual identity and gender identity, according to data from the 2020–2024 California Health Interview Surveys (CHIS). Researchers say the results demonstrate how state population averages can mask important disparities and may interfere with the...

Q&A: Psychedelics, cannabis, GLP-1s and drug policy changes

From headlines and social media, psychedelic therapies, cannabis use and GLP-1 medications have seemingly become commonplace overnight, but the science underlying these treatments and the pathway to drug approval are often more nuanced than the headlines suggest. In the following Q&A, Penn State researchers discussed the safety and availability of popularized drugs, what it takes for a new drug to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and what changes in drug policy mean for everyday Americans. Q: With hearings by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on the proposed rescheduling of...

House Energy and Commerce Committee Advances Legislation to Address Addiction and Overdose Prevention

On July 21st, the House Energy and Commerce Committee marked up a series of bipartisan bills aimed at combating the overdose crisis, preventing the spread of adulterated substances in the drug supply, and expanding overdose prevention efforts. The Committee approved nine bills, which will now advance to the House floor for consideration. The bills include efforts to permanently schedule xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary sedative that is not approved for human use and is increasingly found as an adulterant in the illicit drug supply, under Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act, as well as nitazenes, a class of...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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

UC Foundation Funding Opportunity

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or russeccg@foundation.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.

PCORI Ponders Funding Inquiries for Broad Pragmatic Studies in Multiple Areas

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is taking letters of inquiry for large comparative clinical effectiveness studies in several areas that address patient-centered outcomes. Eligible organizations include nonprofit universities, health systems, and research institutions capable of conducting large-scale patient-centered research. Brief Summaries are below.

- Addressing substance use: This program considers projects with budgets up to \$12 million in direct costs. The opportunity supports patient-centered comparative effectiveness research related to substance use disorders, overdose prevention, treatment strategies, and health-disparity populations. Deadline: September 9.
- Implementation of findings from PCORI research investments: Funding is available for projects of up to about \$1.8 million. This initiative supports implementation and dissemination of evidence into real-world practice settings. Projects should promote uptake of evidence-based interventions and improve healthcare outcomes. Deadline: September 9.
- Improving methods for clinical effectiveness research: Projects may request up to \$750,000 in direct costs over three years. This opportunity funds methodological innovations that improve comparative clinical effectiveness research. Examples include AI applications, real-world data methods, and patient-centered measurement approaches. Deadline: September 9 for letters of inquiry.
- Engagement Award in capacity building: Award levels vary by mechanism and support efforts to increase stakeholder involvement, partnership development, and research readiness. PCORI's Engagement Awards help organizations strengthen patient, caregiver, and community participation in research. Deadline: October 1.

