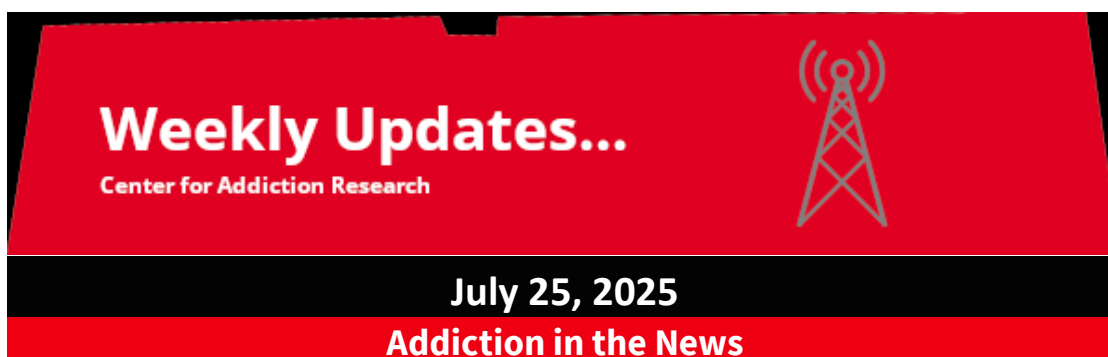


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Emergency department visits for e-cigarette, nicotine use increase

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – A new report from the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) reveals a sharp increase in emergency department (ED) visits related to e-cigarette dependence and nicotine toxicity among Kentucky residents between 2018 and 2024, with some of the steepest rises occurring among youth and young adults. The analysis, conducted by KIPRC epidemiologists Mira Mirzaian, MPH, and Lara Daniels, MPH, used data from the Kentucky Outpatient Services Database, maintained by the Office of Data Analytics within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "This database captures emergency department encounters across the state and serves as a key source for monitoring substance...

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National News

Alcohol withdrawal syndrome is a hidden surgery risk, study finds

Alcohol withdrawal syndrome (AWS) is a potentially life-threatening condition that may complicate patients' recovery after surgery. About 28.9 million people age 12 and older in the United States have alcohol use disorder (AUD), according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Previous studies have estimated that up

to 50% of hospitalized patients with AUD will develop some degree of AWS. Up to 7% of these patients may progress to severe withdrawal, including delirium tremens (DT) that can range in severity from irritability and confusion to tremors, nausea, vomiting and seizures. A new study by surgeons at The...

Japanese drinkers' response to alcohol can be divided into three distinct clusters

Researchers from the RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences in Japan and collaborators have used genetic analysis and experiments to discover that the subjective responses of Japanese people to alcohol can be divided into three clear clusters. This research, published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*, could help identify people at risk for alcohol-related disorders. It is well known that East Asian populations, including Japanese, have certain genetic variations that influence their response to alcohol. These involve two major genes that affect how we metabolize it—ADH1B, which is involved in the changing...

Summer drinking poses unique and sobering risks

Lift a toast to summer fun but don't let risky drinking ruin the party. Too much alcohol can be deadly in the summer heat, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism warns. And one in six Americans is a binge drinker. "Think before you drink," the institute urges. "Avoiding beverages containing alcohol while piloting a boat, driving a car, exploring the wilderness, and swimming or surfing can also help keep you and your loved ones safe." The risks are sobering: 31% of U.S. drowning deaths involve blood alcohol levels of 0.10% or higher. A boater with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08%—legally drunk in all 50 states...

First detection of cannabis in breath from edibles

Cannabis has gained increased use in the United States, outpacing alcohol as Americans' daily recreational drug of choice. Nearly 20% of cannabis users have admitted to driving after using the drug. However, unlike for alcohol, reliable roadside tests for cannabis don't exist. Even blood tests can't determine when a person used cannabis, leaving law enforcement without a way to determine a person's recent use, much less how intoxicated they are. To make things more complicated, there are multiple ways to consume cannabis, such as smoking, vaping, ingestion and dabbing (inhaling a concentrated form of cannabis...

People with eating disorders say cannabis and psychedelics help more than antidepressants

A pioneering international survey of people living with eating disorders has found that cannabis and psychedelics, such as 'magic mushrooms' or LSD, were best rated as alleviating symptoms by respondents who self-medicated with the non-prescribed drugs. The worst-rated drugs were alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and cocaine. Prescribed drugs, such as antidepressants, were generally not well rated for treating eating-disorder symptoms but were positively rated for effects on

general mental health. The research, led by PhD student Sarah-Catherine Rodan at the University of Sydney's Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid...

US adolescents with cannabis use disorder failing to complete rehabilitation

Cannabis use disorder in adolescents in the United States remains a growing threat despite declines in cannabis use. Many adolescents begin using cannabis before high school, during crucial stages of brain development, which may pose short- and long-term risks for cognitive, academic and social challenges. Although behavioral therapies show promise, there is still limited understanding of what truly drives recovery in teens. With treatment often sought only after serious problems emerge, identifying who succeeds—and why—is essential to developing more effective and targeted interventions. Researchers at Florida Atlantic...

Cannabis use disorder may up risk of benign salivary gland tumors

Cannabis use disorder (CUD) is associated with increased risk of benign salivary gland tumors, according to a research letter published online July 17 in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. Tyler J. Gallagher, M.D., M.P.H., from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort study using deidentified data from the TriNetX U.S. Collaborative Network to examine the association between cannabis use and benign salivary gland tumors. Two cohorts of adults age 18 years or older were created: one had a diagnosis of cannabis-related disorder...

Adolescent tobacco and e-cigarette use tied to increased depression and anxiety, especially with dual use

Adolescents who use either e-cigarettes or conventional tobacco products (CTP)—like cigarettes, cigars, hookah and pipes—are significantly more likely to report symptoms of depression and anxiety than teens who don't use tobacco products at all, according to a study published in PLOS Mental Health by Noor Abdulhay of West Virginia University, U.S., and colleagues. Tobacco use and mental health challenges are known to have a complex, bidirectional relationship. Understanding the interplay between adolescent tobacco use and mental health is particularly important, since adolescence is a critical developmental...

Study highlights potentially dangerous e-cigarette modifications by youth, adults

A new study led by Georgia State University researchers has found that more than 84% of youth and young adults who use e-cigarettes have modified their device, often in potentially dangerous ways. A team of researchers led by Lucy Popova, an associate professor in the School of Public Health, conducted a national survey of nearly 2,000 youth and adult users of electronic nicotine delivery systems, commonly known as e-cigarettes or vapes. Their findings, published this month in the journal Scientific Reports, provide the first national-level data on the prevalence of vape modifications among different user groups. "Many...

Popular vape flavors found to boost nicotine reward in adolescent mice

A new study led by researchers at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine reveals that flavor additives commonly used in e-cigarettes may increase the likelihood of vaping behavior in adolescents—even in the absence of nicotine. Published earlier this month in the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, the preclinical study found that certain popular flavorings, including vanilla and cherry, can drive reinforcement-related behaviors similar to those associated with nicotine exposure, particularly in adolescents. Researchers tested the effects of flavored vapor—including combinations with and...

White House says U.S. fentanyl overdose programs will be funded 'in increments'

The White House says a key national fentanyl overdose prevention grant program, currently underfunded by roughly \$140 million, will eventually be fully paid for, but with a catch. A protestor is holding a sign that says, "End overdose deaths now." There are very tall buildings on both sides of her and blue skies behind her. The federal money allocated by Congress will now be given out "in increments" rather than a single annual payment. Administration officials issued a statement about the future of the Overdose Data To Action or OD2A program, run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after NPR reported on...

GOP tax law will increase overdose deaths by 1,000 each year, analysis finds

The Republican tax bill signed into law earlier this month could result in a significant death toll for people seeking treatment for opioid addiction, according to a group of health economics researchers. Specifically, cuts to Medicaid could result in large numbers of the program's beneficiaries losing access to medications for opioid use disorder, per the new estimate, which was published by researchers at Boston University and the University of Pennsylvania. "We estimate that the bill will cause approximately 156,000 people to lose access to treatment for opioid use disorder and that the overdose rate among that..."

One in Four U.S. Jails Offer All FDA-Approved Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder, According to JCOIN's National Survey of Treatment Services in Jails

In a new article published in *JAMA*, JCOIN researchers found that 27.6% of United States jails offer all three FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)—methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone—to select individuals, and 16.9% offer them to anyone with opioid use disorder (OUD). Providing MOUD during incarceration creates an opportunity to initiate care and supports continuity of treatment as individuals transition back into the community (Cates & Brown, 2023). The study authors reported that even within jails that offer some form of MOUD, many people do not receive recommended care while detained due to...

Study Cites Urgent Care Clinics for Inappropriate Prescribing

Urgent care clinics often inappropriately prescribed antibiotics, glucocorticoids, and opioids for common conditions, found a cross-sectional study involving more than 22 million U.S. patient visits from 2018 to 2022. For antibiotics, there were high rates of prescribing for "never appropriate" indications such as otitis media (31%), genitourinary signs and symptoms (46%), and acute bronchitis (15%), reported Shirley Cohen-Mekelburg, MD, of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and co-authors in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Glucocorticoid prescriptions were generally inappropriate for visits related to upper...

Regular opioid use may increase dementia risk

In a study published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, a team led by Dr. Sha Feng from the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences—collaborating with Dr. Jed A. Barash from the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea and Prof. W. Andrew Kofke from the University of Pennsylvania—has found that regular opioid use is associated with an increased risk of dementia, particularly vascular dementia. Chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) is defined as any painful condition that persists for more than three months and is unrelated to malignancy. Opioid use for CNCP became widespread in the...

Tiny brain circuit linked to cocaine withdrawal discomfort and relapse risk

Why do so many people relapse after quitting cocaine? A new study from The Hebrew University reveals that a specific "anti-reward" brain circuit becomes hyperactive during withdrawal—driving discomfort and pushing users back toward the drug. Surprisingly, this circuit may also serve as a built-in protective mechanism, offering new hope for addiction treatment. Cocaine addiction has long been understood as a tug-of-war between reward and restraint. The rush of dopamine keeps users hooked, while withdrawal triggers anxiety, depression, and despair. But a new study by researchers at The Hebrew University of...

People with substance use disorder 24% more likely to require hospital readmission within 30 days of discharge

People with any type of substance use disorder (SUD) stand a 24% higher risk of having an unplanned hospital readmission within 30 days of a previous discharge compared with those without the disorder, new UCLA-led research finds. The findings were published in *Addiction*. People with opioid use disorder had the highest 30-day readmission rates, at nearly 40%, the researchers found. Overall, people with SUDs comprise a disproportionate share of patients with multiple unplanned readmissions. The higher risk was true only for people with substance use disorders who were discharged to homes without having been...

Study finds health care provider stigma toward substance use disorder varies sharply by condition and provider

A new national study from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, with colleagues at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, and Emory University finds that stigma toward patients with substance use disorders (SUD) remains widespread among U.S. health care providers—and varies significantly across types of substances. The findings are published in the journal *Addiction*. The study is the first national analysis to compare provider stigma across opioid (OUD), stimulant, and alcohol use disorders (AUD) with other chronic but often-stigmatized...

LLMs found using stigmatizing language about individuals with alcohol and substance use disorders

As artificial intelligence is rapidly developing and becoming a growing presence in health care communication, a new study addresses a concern that large language models (LLMs) can reinforce harmful stereotypes by using stigmatizing language. The study from researchers at Mass General Brigham found that more than 35% of responses in answers related to alcohol- and substance use-related conditions contained stigmatizing language. But the researchers also highlight that targeted prompts can be used to substantially reduce stigmatizing language in the LLMs' answers. Results are published in *The Journal of Addiction*...

House CJS Appropriations Proposal Sustains Key Substance Use and Justice Programs in FY2026

On July 11, 2025, the House Appropriations Committee released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill, which includes funding levels for key federal programs addressing substance use and the opioid epidemic. The proposal reflects continued bipartisan support for community-based prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts, with modest increases to select programs. The bill increases funding for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) by \$2 million, raising its total from \$418 million in FY2025 to \$420 million in FY2026. CARA supports a wide array of...

Monoclonal Antibodies May Stop Vertical HIV Transmission From Mom to Baby

Two monoclonal antibodies appeared safe and tolerable when administered alone or in combination to newborns exposed to HIV, according to a proof-of-concept study presented at the International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Kigali, Rwanda. Over 28 days of safety observation, infants who received either or both antibodies CAP256V2LS or VRC07-523LS experienced only grade 1-2 adverse events (AEs), except for five grade 3 AEs and two grade 4 AEs that resolved on their own, reported Gabriella Scarlatti, MD, PhD, of I.R.C.C.S. Ospedale San Raffaele in Milan. The four serious AEs that occurred were unrelated to the...

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.

NFL, FanDuel Fund Agility Grant Initiative in Problem Gambling

Deadline: August 20, 2025

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) invites applications for its Agility Grant initiative, funded by the NFL via the NFL Foundation with additional support from FanDuel. Grant awards range from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The initiative provides funds to U.S. nonprofits to implement and expand problem gambling prevention programs. Grants should focus on two strategic priorities: prevention innovation and prevention amplification. Prevention innovation focuses on development, deployment, research, and evaluation of problem gambling prevention programs and curricula. Prevention amplification aims to promote new thought leaders and platforms to educate communities about problem gambling, with priority on youth and leaders of color. Proposals should target projects reaching populations at higher risk of developing a gambling problem, including middle school, high school, and college students and athletes; Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, and other communities of color; and communities disproportionately affected by problem gambling. To be eligible, applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Newly designated 501(c)(3) organizations will be considered as long as they have documentation showing their accepted 501(c)(3) status. NCPG membership is not required to submit an application. NCPG is the only national nonprofit organization that seeks to minimize the economic and social costs associated with gambling addiction.

CAR Member New Publications

Protocol Commentary for the SUCCESS (Successful Recruitment and Retention in a Randomized Controlled Trial of Pregnant Participants with Opioid Use Disorder) Study

Ashley M Snyder, Sanila Math, Kristine Campbell, Davida M Schiff, Alexindra Wheeler, Kristi Carlston, Adam J Gordon, T John Winhusen, Gerald Cochran, Marcela C Smid

Substance Use and Addiction Journal

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/29767342251334490>

ABSTRACT

Opioid use disorder (OUD) and resulting opioid-related overdoses are significant contributors to maternal morbidity and mortality. Yet very few clinical trials focus on evaluating the efficacy of medications for OUD among pregnant populations. Understanding challenges to the recruitment and retention of pregnant participants with OUD in clinical trials and identifying effective strategies to overcome these barriers are urgently needed to help improve outcomes. The SUCCESSful recruitment and retention in a randomized controlled trial of pregnant participants with opioid use disorder (SUCCESS) study was conceptualized and designed by researchers from the Medication treatment for Opioid use disorder in expectant Mothers (MOMs) trial (NIH NIDA NCT03918850). The objective of the SUCCESS study is to identify strategies, facilitators, and barriers to recruiting and retaining pregnant and postpartum participants with OUD in the MOMs trial. The SUCCESS study entails (1) semi-structured interviews with researchers from all 13 MOMs sites, (2) focus groups with MOMs trial participants, and (3) a modified Delphi process to develop data-driven guidance for future clinical trials. This commentary describes the motivation to conduct this study, presents our conceptual framework and critical decision points in protocol development, and describes the proposed product of this study.

Keywords: clinical trial protocol; opioid use disorder; pregnancy.

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