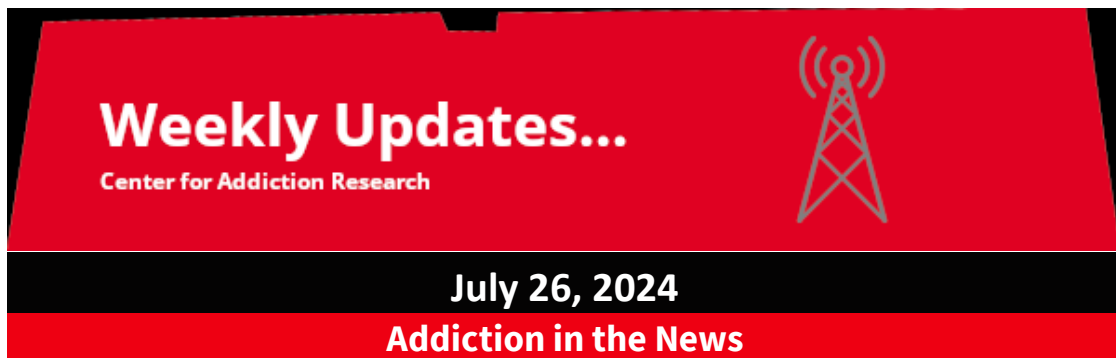


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

'Even worse than fentanyl': Dangerous new drug takes lives in Cincinnati and beyond

Tasha Turner-Bicknell wants residents in Greater Cincinnati to know that the illicit drug market is an increasingly dangerous threat to public health. "Nitazenes are what we are seeing on the increase now, but over the last few years we have seen a number of dangerous adulterants in the illicit drug supply," explains Turner-Bicknell, associate professor in the UC College of Nursing. "It's important that the public is aware of what's out there. Information from drug seizures can be an important tool in protecting public health." Nitazenes are strong synthetic opioids that were developed by researchers about 60 years ago as an alternative to morphine, but never released to the public because of their high potential for...

There's a drug and mental health crisis in Boone County. Police social workers are now 'navigating' to fix it.

BURLINGTON, Ky. — Chelsea Chorley is still settling into her new job. When telling us her official title, she answered with some hesitation — police navigator? police social worker? Whatever her title may be, Chorley is confident in one thing: she has the chance to make a difference. "I think it's the (Boone County Sheriff's Office's) willingness to be open to the social work end of things and acknowledging that mental health is a concern that needs treatment, that substance misuse is something that needs treatment and isn't always necessarily about the criminal end of things," she said. Chorley is one of three new hires at the Boone County Sheriff's Office. They're called police navigators/social workers...

Your questions about Ohio's opioid settlement money, answered

Last year, 3,651 Ohioans died because of an opioid overdose. The year before, that number was even higher. Since the opioid epidemic began with doctors over-prescribing pain medication in the '90s, Ohio has been one of the states hardest hit. The high rates of addiction, overdoses and deaths not only shattered people's lives here, they also put a significant burden on the health care, criminal justice and social services systems. In response to that burden, attorney generals across the country, including Ohio's, and some local governments independently, sued pharmaceutical companies for their role in making and distributing the drugs. Rather than go to court to prove they weren't aware that...

National News

'Holiday heart syndrome': Researchers explore binge drinking and arrhythmia link at times of celebration

Binge drinking (five drinks within two hours for men and four drinks within two hours for women) is common around the world. Recent research has also found the incidence of atrial fibrillation (AFib), the most common type of irregular heart rhythm or arrhythmia, continues to rise, according to the study. "Around the holidays, opportunities for celebration—often accompanied by heavy drinking—occur during a brief period of time. Unfortunately, this sometimes sends revelers, even those with no previous heart condition, to the hospital with a racing or abnormally beating heart," said Saugat Khanal, Ph.D. Khanal is a post-doctoral...

Psilocybin reduces alcohol use by altering gene expression in brain's reward center

New research has found that psilocybin reduces alcohol consumption in rats by altering specific brain pathways, particularly in the left nucleus accumbens. This suggests that psilocybin could potentially be a useful treatment for reducing alcohol use, but more research is needed to confirm its effectiveness in humans. The study has been published in the journal *Brain*. Alcohol use disorder is a chronic condition characterized by an inability to control or stop drinking despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences. This disorder ranges in severity and can lead to significant disability and increased...

Bipolar disorder and alcohol: It's not as simple as 'self-medication,' says study

Bipolar disorder and alcohol problems seem to go hand-in-hand, leading to a widespread belief that drinking acts as a kind of "self-medication" to ease bipolar's life-altering symptoms of mania, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances and more. But a new study suggests a much more complex interaction between the two. Using ten years of data from nearly 600 people with bipolar disorder who volunteered for a long-term University of Michigan study, researchers show that even short-term increases in drinking can have lasting effects, even among those who drink fewer drinks than experts consider...

Cannabis Use in Pregnancy May Mean Worse Outcomes for Moms

Prenatal cannabis use was associated with a slew of serious adverse maternal health outcomes later in pregnancy, according to a large cohort study. Compared with non-use, prenatal cannabis use was associated with increased risks of: Placental abruption (adjusted risk ratio [aRR] 1.19, 95% CI 1.05-1.36), Gestational hypertension (aRR 1.17, 95% CI 1.13-1.21), Weight gain greater than guidelines (aRR 1.09, 95% CI 1.08-1.10), Preeclampsia (aRR 1.08, 95% CI 1.01-1.15), Weight gain less than guidelines (aRR 1.05, 95% CI 1.01-1.08). A dose-response association was also found with regard to risk of gestational hypertension, with those...

New Study Reveals Greater Health Risks of Adolescent Cannabis Use Compared to Adults

A new study shows that adolescents are more prone to cannabis use disorder and its adverse effects than adults. Led by Dr. Rachel Lees at the University of Bath, the study showed that despite similar usage patterns, adolescents scored consistently higher on measures of cannabis use disorder, which includes symptoms such as failed attempts to quit, interference with daily life, and mental health deterioration. Notably, 70% of adolescents reported that cannabis hindered their daily responsibilities, compared to 20% of adults. Experts believe adolescents exhibit heightened susceptibility to cannabis use disorder due to their...

Digital games on vaping devices could lure more youth to nicotine addiction

In an "Industry Watch" research paper in the journal Tobacco Control, two scientists at the University of California, Riverside, raise the alarm on new electronic cigarette products equipped with touch screens, animated displays, and built-in games. Because the products are user-friendly and attractive to youth, they may couple nicotine addiction with gaming disorder, the researchers caution. Of particular concern to the researchers is that coupling nicotine to existing youth behaviors, such as video gaming and screen time use, could broaden the smart electronic cigarette market to include youth with no prior interest...

FDA Allows Marketing of Vuse Tobacco-Flavored Vapes

FRIDAY, July 19, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday authorized the sale of the country's best-selling e-cigarette. The agency's decision only applies to several tobacco-flavored versions of the reusable product, sold as Vuse. In January 2023, the FDA rejected R.J. Reynold's application for its more popular menthol flavor, but the company has challenged that ruling in court. Last month, the FDA granted competitor Njoy the first authorization for a menthol-flavored e-cigarette. That vaping brand is controlled by tobacco giant Altria. Despite the Vuse authorization, the FDA stressed that...

In the fentanyl crisis, infants and toddlers become unsuspecting victims

As the fentanyl crisis ravages communities across the country, toddlers and infants increasingly are becoming unsuspecting victims of an opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin. Adults make up the vast number of fentanyl-related deaths, but public health experts say they are alarmed that more children below the age of 5 are dying or arriving in emergency rooms testing positive for the drug. The number of drug overdoses nationwide has fallen for the first time in years, but the incidences of children overdosing has surged, doctors say, as they are exposed to opioids and drug paraphernalia at home or by...

Enhancing a strategy to reduce opioid overdose deaths

In a study published in Harm Reduction Journal, a team led by CUNY SPH researchers examined why Connecticut's good Samaritan laws aren't working as intended to reduce opioid deaths. Opioid overdose deaths have been rising nationally, with over 644,000 deaths since 1999, and a 61% increase in opioid-related deaths between 2019 and 2021. Connecticut has a notably high rate of drug-induced mortality, significantly above the national average, with a high proportion of these deaths involving opioids. Good Samaritan laws are a harm reduction policy intended to facilitate a reduction in fatal opioid overdoses by...

Improving care for opioid use disorder through research into injection-related infections

Deaths from injection-related infections like endocarditis have increased among young people, likely due to the growth of injection drug use and stronger, shorter-acting fentanyl. While medications for opioid use disorder reduce the risk of death, initiating and retaining patients on these life-saving treatments is difficult. Researchers at Boston Medical Center (BMC) recently discovered that medications for opioid use disorder following hospitalizations for injection-related infections are still underused in Massachusetts even though they improve outcomes. The findings were published in JAMA Network Open on July...

Montana's Plan To Curb Opioid Overdoses Includes Vending Machines

Before she stopped using drugs for good, Cierra Coon estimates that she overdosed eight times in a span of two weeks in the fall of 2022. One of those times, the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone helped save her life. She was riding in a car on the back roads of the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana when she lost consciousness. Someone in the car grabbed a small bottle of naloxone, sprayed it up her nose, and performed CPR until she came to. Coon said having quick access to the overdose reversal agent, also known by the brand name Narcan, was incredibly lucky. "The times I wasn't administered naloxone, it's...

Study looks at co-use of CYP2D6-metabolizing opioids, antidepressants in seniors

For older nursing home (NH) residents, use of CYP2D6-metabolized opioids concomitantly with CYP2D6-inhibiting antidepressants is associated with worsening pain and increased risk of opioid-related adverse events (ORAEs), according to a study published online July 23 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Yu-Jung Jenny Wei, Ph.D., from the College of Pharmacy at The Ohio State University in Columbus, and colleagues examined the associations of concomitant use of CYP2D6-metabolized opioids and antidepressants with clinical outcomes and ORAEs in a retrospective cohort study using a target trial emulation...

Big Drop in U.S. Kids, Teens Misusing Prescription Meds

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- Misuse of illicit prescription drugs is falling dramatically among U.S. high school students, a new study says. The percentage of seniors who say they've misused prescription drugs in the past year has dropped to 2% in 2022, down from 11% back in 2009, researchers reported July 24 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "To put these findings in context, the reduction over the past decade was like going from 1 in every 9 high school students using prescription drugs non-medically down to 1 in every 40 high school students," said researcher Sean Esteban McCabe, director of...

Social vulnerability linked with mental health and substance use disorders

A study published in *JAMA Psychiatry* uncovers significant associations between social vulnerability—a measurement that aggregates social determinants of health like socioeconomic status, housing type, education and insurance coverage—and the prevalence and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders in the United States. The results have the potential to reshape public health policies to better serve systemically disadvantaged populations. "We're continually learning that so much of health care—both mental health and physical health—is impacted by the environment within which...

Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$45.1 Million to Expand Mental Health and Substance Use Services Across the Lifespan

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced grant awards totaling \$45.1 million, of which \$15.3 million will fund services specifically for children and youth. This funding highlights the Biden-Harris Administration's continued commitment to address the mental health and overdose crises – two key pillars of the President's Unity Agenda for the Nation. Youth wellness continues to be a key focus area for HHS and SAMHSA, and \$15.3 million of these funding awards will go specifically to serve children, through...

As Canadian drug deaths rise, programs to keep users safe face backlash

TORONTO, July 24 (Reuters) - Years into a drug overdose crisis, Canada is facing backlash against government-sanctioned programs such as legal injection sites designed to keep users alive without curtailing drug use. The British Columbia government has walked back a pilot project to decriminalize small quantities of illicit drugs in public places in the province. Police there also are prosecuting activists seeking to make safe drugs available. And the man who may become Canada's next prime minister, Conservative Pierre Poilievre, has said he wants to shut down some sites where users can legally consume illicit drugs under...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-037](#)

[Translating Socioenvironmental Influences on Neurocognitive Development and Addiction Risk \(TranSINDA\) \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-038](#)

[Translating Socioenvironmental Influences on Neurocognitive Development and Addiction Risk \(TranSINDA\) \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-24-225](#)

[Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-24-226](#)

[Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 - Independent Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PAR-24-227](#)

[Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 - Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required \(BESH\)\)](#)

Other Funding Opportunity:

Community-Based Maternal Behavioral Health Services Program

Deadline: August 26, 2024

The purpose of this program is to improve access to evidence-based, timely, and culturally relevant maternal mental health and substance use (behavioral health) intervention and treatment by strengthening community referral pathways. Recipients will be expected to collaborate with pregnancy and postpartum healthcare organizations, refer individuals in need of behavioral health care to the appropriate entities, and provide short-term mental health and substance use services to individuals who cannot access care.

Eligible applicants are State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, nonprofit community-based entities, and primary care and behavioral health organizations to address community behavioral health needs worsened by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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