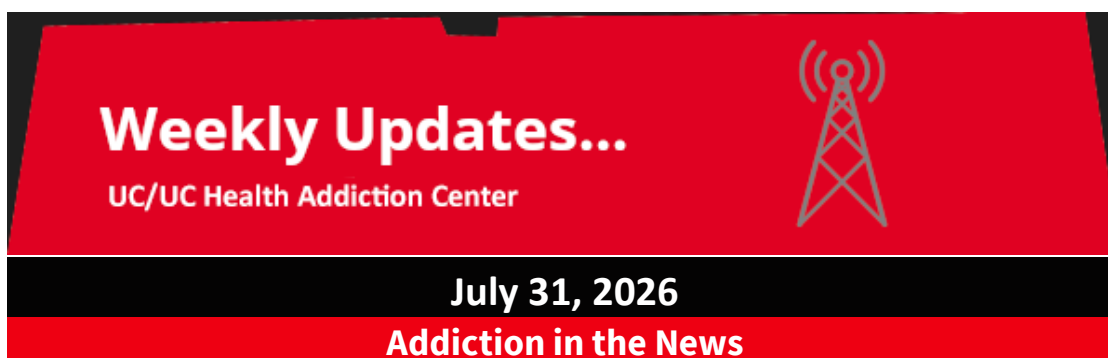


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email 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 Third and Final 2026 Summer Speaker Series Event

Join us for the third and final virtual Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, August 12 at 12pm on "Towards Personalized Medicine for Opioid Use Disorder: Analyses of Data from the Veterans Health Administration." The session will be presented by Corey J. Hayes, PharmD, PhD, MPH, with co-presenter Daniel Bebo, MD, UCAC. Daniel Bebo, MD. Dr. Hayes will present findings from a recent population-level analysis of the largest provider of substance use disorder care in the United States—the Veterans Health Administration—while Dr. Bebo will discuss the implications for clinical practice. This presentation will be held virtually and is free and open to the public. **(PDF event flyer attached)**

>> Register for this presentation

UofL, Norton led study helps opioid-exposed newborns recover sooner

A major new study shows that individualized treatment for babies born with opioid withdrawal can speed recovery and reduce time spent in the hospital. The clinical trial led by Lori A. Devlin, professor in the University of Louisville School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and neonatologist with Norton Children's, found a customized approach to treating babies with opioid withdrawal helps them recover faster than current standardized practices. The findings were recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), one of the nation's leading medical journals. More than 100...

Addiction Recovery Care agrees to pay \$16M to resolve Medicaid fraud allegations

KENTUCKY (WKYT) - Addiction Recovery Care, also known as ARC, has agreed to pay more than \$16 million to resolve Medicaid fraud allegations, the Department of Justice announced on Monday. ARC operates residential and outpatient drug rehabilitation facilities across Kentucky. It announced a settlement with the DOJ and in a separate case last week. In April 2023, current and former ARC employees filed a complaint against the company, alleging ARC was submitting false claims for payment for services, according to the DOJ. Under the agreement, the government alleged ARC misrepresented the qualifications of some of...

National News

New study finds upward trend in alcohol use during pregnancy in the U.S.

Prenatal alcohol exposure—a contributor to adverse pregnancy outcomes and the leading preventable cause of neurodevelopmental disability worldwide—has increased in the United States over the past decade. The new paper by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health is published in JAMA. While estimates of alcohol use during pregnancy had remained relatively stable since the 1990s, national data have not been updated beyond 2020. The new findings suggest that alcohol use during pregnancy, including high-risk drinking patterns, increased from 2011 through 2024. "Alcohol consumption in...

Study demonstrates the positive impact of expanding mobile addiction clinics

A study co-led by investigators at Mass General Brigham shows that mobile addiction services can be implemented across multiple organizations and communities to bring addiction treatment, harm reduction services and basic health care directly to people who use drugs, especially those disconnected from traditional care. The findings are published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. "Our model proved highly adaptable across different regions, and the successful deployment of new mobile teams demonstrated that street-based mobile addiction services can be effectively...

SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Today, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the results of the 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the nation's primary source of data on how people living in the United States report their experience with mental health conditions, substance use and addiction, pursuit of treatment and recovery status. This year's survey provides five years of data to examine trends among key substance use and mental health outcomes. "Today's release represents the earliest release of NSDUH to the public in the survey's history, reflecting SAMHSA's commitment to advancing...

Controlled breathing may reduce drug cravings, new study finds

Controlled breathing interventions can reduce cravings in people who use substances, including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, according to a new review published in the scientific journal *Addiction*. The review combined results from 20 studies (1,249 participants overall) that looked at how controlled breathing can help people using substances to reduce craving, withdrawal symptoms, or dependence. The breathing-based interventions included several types of controlled breathing: heart rate variability biofeedback (HRVB), resonant breathing, yogic breathing, rhemercise, mimicking smoking, and three-part...

NIH to Host Discussion on Unified Funding Strategy

Friday, August 14, 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET

The NIH is inviting the research community to join a virtual conversation focused on its Unified Funding Strategy, an approach intended to support more informed, transparent, and flexible funding decisions across NIH Institutes and Centers. During the event, NIH leadership will explain the rationale behind the strategy, discuss its implementation across the agency, address common misconceptions, and answer questions from the research community. First announced by NIH Director Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya in 2025, the Unified Funding Strategy allows NIH to consider multiple factors when making funding decisions, including peer review assessments, institute priorities, scientific opportunity, program balance, geographic distribution, and workforce needs. NIH emphasizes that peer review remains central to evaluating scientific and technical merit, while the new framework provides additional flexibility to consider the full context of reviewer feedback. Researchers interested in learning more about how funding decisions are made under this approach are encouraged to attend.

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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

New Publications from UCAC Faculty

Effect of a disincentive manipulation on drinking behavior in simulated and virtual reality drinking environments

Victor J. Schneider II, Nicholas J. Bush, Michael E. Robinson, Jeff Boissoneault

Drug and Alcohol Dependence

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2026.113288>

ABSTRACT

Background: Recent work has established the validity of assessing drinking topography using a virtual reality (VR) bar environment compared to a more traditional simulated bar environment. Here, we test the sensitivity of the VR paradigm in detecting the impact of a previously validated experimental manipulation on drinking topography compared with an identical simulated bar environment.

Methods: We assessed the drinking topography (DT) of participants ($N = 21$) exceeding moderate drinking guidelines across four counterbalanced testing sessions: two used the simulated bar and two used the virtual bar. In this secondary analysis, we compared participant responses to an experimental manipulation that provided disincentives for excessive drinking in both bar environments.

Results: Participants reported increased sip interval during their disincentive manipulation sessions ($t = 3.024$, $p = .003$, $\beta = 27.323$), such that participants drank more slowly (~27 additional seconds per sip). However, as expected, the bar environment did not significantly moderate this effect ($t = -1.353$, $p = .176$, $\beta = -8.110$). Results also found a significant main effect of manipulation on sip volume: participants reported decreased sip volume during their disincentive manipulation sessions ($t = -3.055$, $p = .002$, $\beta = -4.051$), such that participants had smaller sips (~4 fewer grams per sip). Again, no significant interactive effects ($t = .538$, $p = .591$, $\beta = .473$) were found.

Conclusions: This study found the effect of a disincentive-based experimental manipulation on drinking topography does not differ significantly between a simulated physical bar and a VR bar. Combined with evidence that drinking topography measures are highly consistent between environments, results suggest that VR bar environments are well-suited to study biospsychosocial influences on self-paced drinking behavior.

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