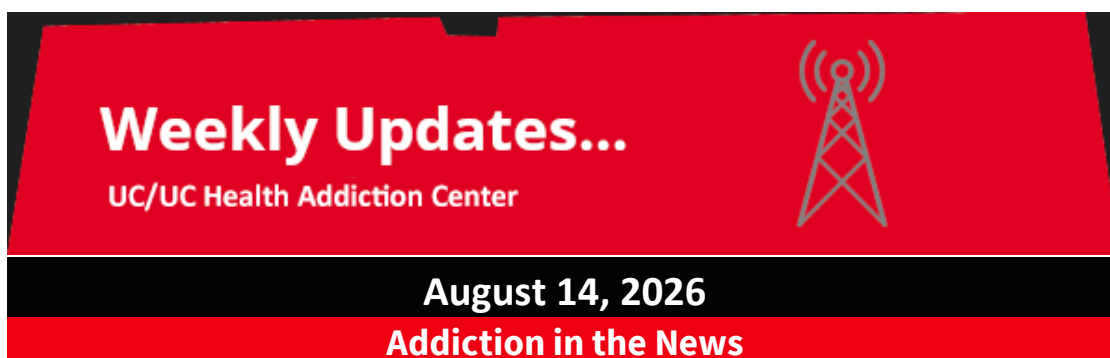


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email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

OVERDOSE AWARENESS WEEK

When: Monday, August 24 - Friday, August 28 | 10:30am – 1:30pm

Where: University Hospital Cafeteria

Join the UC Early Intervention Program (EIP) on Monday, August 24 - Friday, August 28, from 10:30am – 1:30pm, in the University Hospital Cafeteria for on-site Overdose Awareness Week activities. [See attached event flyer.](#)

Additionally, UC EIP will be participating in the Overdose Awareness Day event on Friday, August 28, from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Washington Park. The event is hosted by Addiction Services Council and the African American Engagement Workgroup.

2026 Annual Overdose Awareness Day Event

Date: Friday, August 28, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM (concert immediately following)

Location: Washington Park in Cincinnati

The Addiction Services Council and the African American Engagement Workgroup are proud to host the 2026 Overdose Awareness Day event. This community-wide event is dedicated to remembering those we have lost to overdose, supporting families and loved ones impacted by substance use, and bringing hope, healing, education, and resources to our community. The event will feature inspirational speakers, free picnic food, snow cones, popcorn, family-friendly activities, a petting zoo, pony rides, bounce houses, wellness resources, and counselors available on

site for anyone seeking support. Everything is provided at no cost to attendees and their families. Everyone is welcome!

Gov. DeWine signs executive order to increase oversight of drug use treatment facilities

Executive Order 2026-03D was signed by gov. Mike DeWine on Aug. 10, hoping to expand the oversight of drug use treatment facilities. The order gives the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) the ability to create a statewide certification program for recovery housing operators. The goal is to rid treatment facilities of potential fraud, waste and abuse. It also works to reduce the stigma associated with seeking treatment. "Recovery housing provides hope, stability, and a pathway to long-term recovery for thousands of Ohioans," said Governor DeWine. "As Ohio continues to invest in behavioral health and recovery services, we...

'Union County' review: Ohio-made docudrama finds the humanity behind the opioid epidemic

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- There's a scene in "Union County" that sticks with you long after the credits roll. The protagonist Cody (Will Poulter), a recovering opioid addict in rural Ohio, is on the verge of relapsing after a devastating loss. Blaming himself, he calls Annette (Annette Deao), his court-appointed counselor. "One of the things I've learned over the years doing this is that it's never really anyone's fault," she reassures him, offering to stay on the line for as long as he needs. It's the kind of nonjudgmental compassion often missing from narratives surrounding the opioid epidemic in this part of the country. Then again, "Union County"...

National News

U.S. Sees Big Jump in Nausea Cases Among Frequent Marijuana Users in the Hospital

In the past year, the U.S. has seen a jump in frequent marijuana users going to the hospital with a nausea and vomiting condition, according to a report released Thursday. "The abruptness and sustained magnitude of the increase" is largely due to the condition getting its own diagnosis code last fall, which is providing a more accurate picture of what was an underrecognized problem, the authors of the CDC report wrote. Hospital emergency department (ED) diagnoses of the condition, cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, rose 16% from last October to May of this year, federal researchers found. The syndrome -- seen in...

A Federal Policy Is Complicating How Organizations Battle the Opioid Crisis

Last year, Baltimore had three mass overdose incidents in the span of 3 months in its Penn North neighborhood. In one incident, more than two dozen people were hospitalized after many were found unresponsive, lying in the streets or on sidewalks. No one died, but some came close. Follow-up testing found that the street drugs contained high levels of N-Methylclonazepam, a benzodiazepine that operates similarly to alprazolam (Xanax) or diazepam (Valium). Like opioids,

benzodiazepines suppress breathing. When they're combined, the risk of overdose goes up. And benzodiazepines don't respond to opioid...

Mental health workers may hold negative beliefs about people who misuse opioids

A new study from the University of Georgia suggests that mental health workers may hold the harshest views toward the very patient population they're supposed to help: people with opioid addiction. The researchers found that health care workers in the mental health field, including those providing mental health treatment, support services and more, had higher levels of stigmatizing views toward people with opioid addictions than the general population. In 2024, more than 82,000 people died of an opioid overdose. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that millions more Americans have...

Budget Battle Erupts in Nation's Capital Over Opioid Settlement Money

For years, Washington, D.C., has paid for Medicaid — the state-federal health insurance program for low-income people — out of its general budget. But next year, the city is shifting part of that recurring multimillion-dollar cost to a new funding source: opioid settlement dollars. That's raising red flags for addiction recovery advocates, people directly affected by the crisis, and the commission in charge of recommending how the city uses its share of the settlement money. The opioid payouts come from a host of companies that made or distributed prescription painkillers and were accused of fueling the overdose crisis. State...

Study finds many Colorado jails still lack public opioid treatment policies despite state mandate

Four years after Colorado passed a law requiring county jails to provide medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and to publish their policies for MOUD care, researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz have found that many jails still lack publicly available policies explaining how they provide this lifesaving treatment. The study, published in *Health & Justice*, reviewed opioid treatment policies from all 46 county jails in Colorado. Researchers found that nearly 40% of jails had no publicly available policies related to opioid use disorder (OUD). Among those that did provide policies, fewer than half indicated they offered all...

Ozempic may have revealed the brain's hidden "craving center"

For many people, the thought of a tasty burger or a cold pint of beer conjures up a vivid mental image and drives behavior. This link between thinking and doing serves a clear function – it motivates us to get the necessities for life. But for some, this process can malfunction. Preoccupation with these rewarding stimuli can lead to disorders of substance overuse, including overeating to the point of obesity and alcohol abuse. Studies going back to the 1970s have linked vivid mental imagery with drug abuse. Understanding this link between craving and consuming is central to understanding addiction. This has eluded neuroscience...

HHS, ONDCP, and HUD Launch First-Ever ‘Treatment First’ Toolkit to Combat Homelessness and Addiction

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Sara Carter, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner today announced the Best Practices Toolkit: Addressing Homelessness and Addiction Through Treatment First [PDF, 2.14 MB]. This first-of-its kind resource provides communities with practical and proven strategies to help Americans transition from homelessness and addiction to recovery and self-sufficiency. This toolkit advances a “Treatment First” model that prioritizes coordinated and accountability...

Experts Establish Pillars of Care for Older Adults With HIV

Faced with an aging population with HIV, clinicians will need to help these older patients navigate a healthy route from antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation through complex comorbidities to an increased focus on maintaining function toward the end of life, according to a new report. The Lancet HIV Commission report on aging and HIV outlines a three-phase approach to managing affected patients: Establishing a therapeutic alliance with patients, Maintaining health despite increasingly complex conditions and Focusing on patients' priorities for preserving cognitive and physical capacities. "Public...

Gambling Linked To Mental Health Problems Among College Students

Gambling is a powerful temptation for today's college students, and those hooked have a greater risk of deeper mental health issues, a new study says. Student gambling frequently occurs alongside depression, anxiety and substance use, researchers reported recently in the International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction. "What's interesting about this study is even though mental health concerns were very prominent, students who tended to gamble more were more likely to be experiencing greater levels of problems among a sample that was already experiencing plenty," said lead researcher Nicholas McAfee, director...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-26-014](#)

[Request for Information: Inviting Input on NIDAs Strategic Plan for 2027-2031](#)

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