

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

Center for Addiction Research Final 2024 Summer Speaker Series Event

The Center for Addiction Research will hold its final 2024 virtual Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, August 14 at 12pm on "Social and Psychosocial Determinants of Treatment Response and Recovery Among Black Adults Who Use Substances" with presenter, **Kathy Burlew, PhD**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences and Simeon Goodwin, PhD, Outreach and Prevention Specialist, The Crossroads Center. The series is sponsored by Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training. This presentation will be held virtually, is free and open to the public. [\(PDF event flyer attached\)](#)

[>> Register for this presentation](#)

Health effects of secondhand marijuana smoke

As more states, including Ohio, legalize recreational marijuana, there is still little research into its health effects. This includes a lack of research around secondhand marijuana smoke, according to University of Cincinnati researcher LaTrice Montgomery, PhD. "A lot of the studies that are out now sort of draw from the tobacco industry," Montgomery, adjunct associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience in UC's College of Medicine and a licensed clinical psychologist, told Local 12. The problem, Montgomery said, is that since marijuana and tobacco are different it is not known if it has the same risks on the heart and lungs that secondhand tobacco smoke does. Montgomery... [\(featuring CAR Member, Dr. LaTrice Montgomery\)](#)

Vaping and smoking together increases lung cancer risk fourfold

People who both vape and smoke are four times more likely to develop lung cancer than people who just smoke, according to new study published by The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC—James) and College of Public Health. These findings were consistent across gender and race. This is the first study to provide evidence that smoking in combination with vaping increases the risk for cancer compared to smoking alone. Researchers reported their findings in the *Journal of Oncology Research and Therapy*. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, resulting in 1.8 million...

Olympic sports betting could outpace Super Bowl, according to gambling addition experts

The 2024 summer Olympics are finally here and who among us isn't ready to watch hours of sports and passionately root for our favorite team, players and nation? And in many states, including Ohio, you might be placing your first legal bets on the Olympic games. The law, now only over a year old, makes Ohio one of 38 states that offer legal sports betting. Yet with 1.8 million adult residents in Ohio categorized as at risk for problem gambling, advocates like Executive Director of Problem Gambling Network of Ohio, Derek Longmeier, are concerned for an uptick in problem gambling during the Olympic games. "We won't really know what the impact is since this is kind of our first go around but that's where it's really kind of..."

National News

Teen alcohol exposure impairs behavioral flexibility and learning, shows persistent effects on brain chemistry

Rats with alcohol exposure in adolescence are less able as adults to adapt their behavior in changing circumstances, according to a study that highlights the possible brain mechanisms involved. The findings may help us better understand ways that alcohol use during the teen years can lead to long-lasting cognitive and behavioral impairments. Adolescence is a period of rapid brain development, and commonly—in humans—for initiating alcohol use, including binge drinking. For the study published in *Alcohol: Clinical & Experimental Research*, investigators used rats to explore the mechanisms by which early alcohol exposure may...

Study finds larger warning labels with pictures linked to lower desire to consume alcohol products

Young adult men who viewed alcohol warning labels experienced a lower activation of the reward circuits in their brains when the warnings were larger and involved pictures, compared to more familiar small-text warnings. These findings could inform more effective messaging on alcohol-containing beverages and advertisements. Despite recommendations from the World Health Organization and European Commission that warning labels be included on alcoholic products,

few countries have implemented alcohol warning policies comparable to their approach to tobacco. Alcohol warnings are typically small, text-only...

Antidepressants may increase risk of relapse in some people with alcohol use disorder

According to a new study, antidepressants may reduce the risk of relapse in people with alcohol use disorder—but only if the antidepressants are effective in reducing their depression symptoms. People whose depression symptoms do not improve with antidepressant treatment may have an increased risk for relapse into problem alcohol use. The authors of the study, published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, urge clinicians treating people with alcohol use disorder to vigilantly monitor depression symptoms when prescribing antidepressants. Alcohol use disorder and major...

Semaglutide May Help Smokers Quit, Study Suggests

Among patients with type 2 diabetes and tobacco use disorder (TUD), use of the GLP-1 receptor agonist semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy) was associated with a reduced risk of medical encounters for TUD compared with other diabetes medications, according to an emulation target trial. Using a nationwide population-based database of electronic health records, the strongest association with a reduced risk of medical encounters for TUD diagnosis, smoking cessation medication prescriptions, and smoking cessation counseling was observed when semaglutide was compared with insulins (HR 0.68, 95%...

Study finds that despite wanting to quit, only 8.8 percent quit smoking in 2022

Although about two-thirds of U.S. adults who smoked wanted to quit, only 8.8 percent of smokers quit in 2022, according to research published in the July 25 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Brenna VanFrank, M.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues used 2022 National Health Interview Survey data to examine national estimates of cigarette smoking cessation indicators among U.S. adults. The researchers found that 67.7 percent of the 28.8 million U.S. adults who smoked wanted to quit in 2022; 53.3 percent made a quit attempt, but only 8.8 percent quit...

EVape helps improve consumer safety in the e-cigarette segment

Electronic cigarettes, or vapes, are commonly viewed as less harmful to people's health than tobacco cigarettes. And yet, they are not without health drawbacks. For many ingredients, it is unknown how they will behave when heated. Since the temperatures inside e-cigarettes vary widely, different products can be released during thermal decomposition. This makes it more difficult to gauge the potential risks of these tobacco alternatives. Until now, there has been no testing system that could be used to test the ingredients used across the entire relevant temperature range. Now, with EVape, the Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology...

To address the fentanyl crisis, greater access to methadone is needed

Over the past several years, the increasing prevalence of fentanyl in the drug supply has created an unprecedented overdose death rate and other devastating consequences. People with an opioid use disorder (OUD) urgently need treatment not just to protect them from overdosing but also to help them achieve recovery, but highly effective medications like buprenorphine and methadone remain underused. Amid this crisis, it is critical that methadone, in particular, be made more accessible, as it may hold unique clinical advantages in the age of fentanyl. Growing evidence suggests that methadone is as safe and effective...

Inpatient addiction services help continue lifesaving medication for opioid use disorder treatment after discharge

Previous research has found that over 80% of people with opioid-use disorder (OUD) do not receive evidence-based lifesaving medications. While access to these medications is better in New York City than elsewhere in the United States, numerous structural and social barriers impede access to treatment, and more than 100,000 people in the U.S. continue to die from drug overdoses each year. To help close this alarming treatment gap, researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine partnered with the New York City public hospital system to investigate if a program offering addiction care to patients with substance-use disorder...

Biden administration should push for addiction medication in recovery houses, groups say

The Biden administration isn't doing enough to ensure people living in recovery housing have access to gold-standard addiction medications like methadone and buprenorphine, according to a coalition of health care, harm reduction, and addiction recovery groups. The discrimination that people often face when seeking treatment using methadone or buprenorphine, the groups say, is especially pronounced within recovery housing facilities, which typically offer lodging coupled with counseling and other social services. Many facilities have historically refused to admit people taking addiction medications...

Illicit fentanyl use linked to increased risk of hepatitis C among people who use drugs

An international team of researchers from University of California San Diego and el Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Mexico have revealed a significant association between the use of illicit fentanyl and the transmission of hepatitis C virus (HCV) among people who inject drugs in San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico. The findings, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, suggest that illicit fentanyl use could be driving recent increases in HCV incidence. "Our study provides the first evidence that illicit fentanyl use is linked to an increased risk of acquiring hepatitis C infection, which disproportionately affects people who inject drugs," said Steffanie Strathdee, Ph.D., senior author and professor of medicine at UC...

Report suggests fake oxycontin pills widespread and potentially deadly

The rate at which young Americans are ending up in hospital ICUs after using fake Oxycontin pills spiked with fentanyl is soaring, especially in the U.S. West, a new report warns. Medical toxicology data from one unnamed hospital in the western U.S. found the number of cases involving overdoses involving fake "M-30" Oxycontin pills rose from just three in 2017 to 209 during 2022, according to a team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most patients (81%) required hospital care and more than two-thirds of those patients spent time in the ICU. Two patients died while hospitalized, the report found. Young men were...

Fatal opioid overdoses reduce US life expectancy by nearly a year

In the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, opioid-related deaths cut the nation's average life expectancy at birth by eight months, according to new research published in *The Lancet Regional Health–Americas*. The findings also suggest that young minorities bore the brunt of this crisis, with overdose deaths nearly doubling for Blacks, Hispanics, and American Indian/Alaska Natives in the past few years. Alison Hill, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, and postdoctoral researcher Anne H. Hébert said the study provides important insights into how the opioid epidemic has evolved since...

SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the results of the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), which shows how people living in United States reported their experience with mental health conditions, substance use and pursuit of treatment. The 2023 NSDUH report includes selected estimates by race, ethnicity and age group. The report is accompanied by two infographics offering visually packaged highlight data as well as visual data by race and ethnicity. "Each year, data from the annual...

Supervised inhalation is a necessary intervention in the drug poisoning crisis

All safe consumption sites should receive government funding for supervised inhalation. This way, the growing number of people who inhale substances will be closer to the help they need in case of drug poisoning. They'll also have access to detox, treatment and other health care and social resources. Canada is experiencing a toxic drug poisoning crisis, exacerbated by simultaneous mental health and housing crises. Numbers of fatal drug poisonings have increased dramatically since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 alone, Canada saw more than 8,000 opioid toxicity deaths. The instability of the street...

Study finds increased substance use with direct, indirect exposure to mass terrorism

For adults, increased substance use (ISU) is seen in populations with direct, indirect, and media exposure to mass terrorism, according to a study published

online July 24 in JAMA Network Open. Roi Eliashar, from the Israel Center on Addiction in Netanya, and colleagues examined which factors are associated with reporting ISU in a population affected by mass terrorism and examined whether psychological distress mediated the association between trauma exposure and reporting ISU. The study was a partially representative cross-sectional survey of the adult Jewish population in Israel (aged 18 to 70 years) conducted four...

Funding Opportunities



UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@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.

Funder Supports Projects that Demonstrate the Value of Psychoanalytic Principles

Deadline: [August 31, 2024](#)

The American Psychological Foundation invites applications for its Division 39 Marsha D. McCary Fund Grant for Psychoanalysis, which was established to increase public awareness of the benefits of psychoanalytic principles and treatments, and the applicability of psychoanalytic thought to clinical, organizational, and social problems. Through its annual grant program, the fund recognizes and promotes the contributions of psychoanalysis to psychology as a science and profession. It encourages and supports programs in education, research, and service that will advance the profession and keep the psychological community and the public informed of developments in psychoanalytic scholarship, research, and practice. Grants of \$10,000 will be awarded. Eligible applicants must have a demonstrated knowledge of psychoanalytic principles and may be practicing psychoanalytic therapists, although this is not required. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the American Psychological Foundation website.

