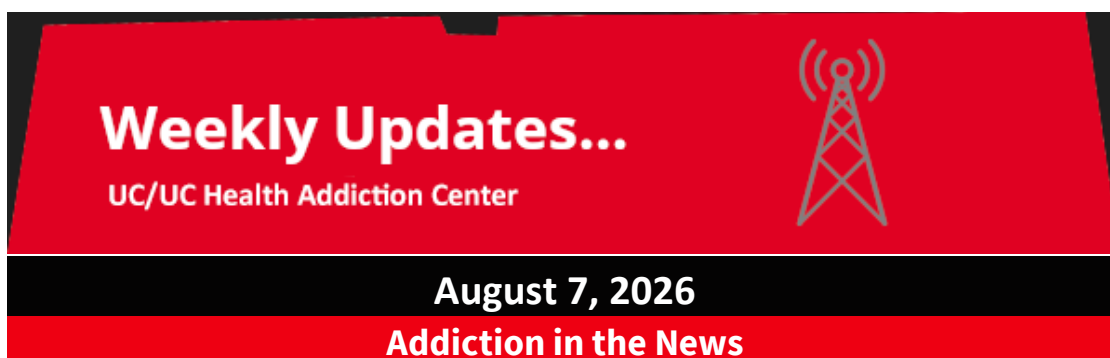


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the University of Cincinnati/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC)! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from UCAC researchers. Please email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

Early Return to Drinking After Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis Remains Common Despite Recovery

New research from Cleveland Clinic has identified risk factors for recurrent alcohol use among patients recovering from alcohol-associated hepatitis (AH). The findings also indicate that patients with alcohol-associated hepatitis, regardless of severity, may benefit from earlier alcohol use disorder (AUD) interventions. The research, which was published in Alcohol, Clinical and Experimental Research, centers around two concurrent studies: a randomized controlled trial (RCT) and an

observational (OBS) cohort in patients with AH. Through both studies, the research group looked at alcohol use among AH survivors and...

National News

VA to run trial of GLP-1 drug to treat alcohol abuse

The Department of Veterans Affairs on Thursday announced a clinical trial to test whether injectable semaglutide, a GLP-1 drug widely prescribed for diabetes and weight loss can also treat alcohol abuse, a longstanding problem in the military and veteran community. Excessive drinking has steadily plagued military culture, and in some instances, it has been tolerated or normalized. GLP-1s can dampen cravings and early research suggests they might help with alcoholism and even other substance abuse issues, at least in the short term. But research has been limited and is still in the early stages of understanding the full extent...

Rare chromosomal differences found in children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

One in four children diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder was found to have rare chromosomal differences at considerably higher rates than the general population, according to a study published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research. Half of those differences were associated with harmful or potentially harmful genetic variations. The study's authors recommend high-resolution genetic testing whenever fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is diagnosed to provide a more complete clinical diagnosis and identify opportunities for improved medical management. Prenatal alcohol exposure can, but does not always, lead...

Nicotine levels are rising among teens who vape, new study warns

Vape devices are flooding teens' bodies with increasingly heavy doses of addictive nicotine, a new study finds. Average urine levels of a key nicotine metabolite, cotinine, nearly tripled among teenagers over a period of a few months in late 2024, researchers report in JAMA Psychiatry. Teens' cotinine levels appeared to rise along with the evolution of e-cigarettes. As the researchers explained, newer pod-based vape devices carry higher-concentration nicotine salts, while disposable devices feature larger-capacity tanks. "This finding suggests new exposures among this population to products with higher nicotine concentrations...

FDA authorization of flavored nicotine pouches threatens to sustain youth nicotine use

DALLAS, August 4, 2026 — The American Heart Association, a relentless force changing the future of health for everyone everywhere, issued the following statement in response to the Food and Drug Administration's announcement authorizing four flavored on! nicotine pouches from Helix Innovations. The authorization applies to products in Rich Berry, Cappuccino and Autumn Spice flavors. "The American Heart Association is deeply concerned by the FDA's decision

today to authorize four new flavored on! nicotine pouch products manufactured by Helix Innovations. Nicotine pouches are already the second most...

How vaping disrupts daily life for young people

A new study published today unveils the daily reality of vaping addiction among younger Australians, showing how the products disrupt lives and are even relied on for stress relief. The research comes as nicotine industry advocates renew lobbying for the highly addictive products to be more freely available. Health experts say the findings demonstrate how people's lives and mental health are influenced by nicotine addiction, as well as highlighting the need for more tailored support programs for those already addicted. The study, led by the University of Melbourne and published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of...

Kratom's new federal rules, marijuana passes cigarettes and the truth about tanning beds

CLEVELAND — A federal ban on concentrated 7-OH kratom extracts could take effect as soon as today, but Ohio regulators outlawed the same products back in May. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration filed notice in July of its intent to temporarily place highly concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine, known as 7-OH, and three synthetic derivatives into Schedule I — the same category as heroin. By law, that order cannot take effect before today, August 5, and as of this week it had not yet formally published. Once it does, the classification lasts two years, with the option to extend a third. The DEA's action targets high-...

The value of a refusal: Research targets engagement gaps in opioid overdose care

The most important people in a clinical trial may be the ones who never join it. Every "no" in a clinical trial is usually treated as the end of a conversation, but a new MUSC study suggests it might be the beginning of an important one. The study is published in the Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment. While recruiting for a parent study, researchers at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) were surprised to discover that patients with college experience were three times more likely to decline participation in an overdose prevention research study than those without a high school diploma. This finding...

Mindfulness-based therapy for opioid misuse can offer massive return on investment

A new economic evaluation from the University of California San Diego School of Medicine has revealed that Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE)—an innovative, evidence-based, neuroscience-informed therapy for opioid misuse and chronic pain—provides \$12 in cost savings for every dollar spent, between two and six times as cost-effective as other addiction treatments such as residential or intensive outpatient treatment. Over the course of a patient's life, the analysis

found that these savings totaled more than \$324,000 per patient. The results suggest that, if widely implemented, MORE could...

About a Quarter of Buprenorphine Prescriptions for OUD Abandoned

The proportion of new buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid use disorder (OUD) that were never dispensed or filled increased from 2020 to 2024, according to a retrospective cohort study. Among over 1,400 patients with commercial insurance or Medicare Advantage plans, 25.8% had abandoned buprenorphine prescriptions, defined as those not filled by patients or rejected by insurers or pharmacies, reported Xinyi Jiang, PhD, of the CDC's Division of Overdose Prevention, and co-authors in a research letter in JAMA Network Open. The proportion of first prescriptions being abandoned increased from 19% in 2020 to 37%...

Opioids for Routine Hysterectomies Really Necessary?

Managing pain with non-opioid options was just as effective as routine pain management with opioids after minimally invasive hysterectomy, a randomized trial showed. Mean pain scores measured using the 11-point Numeric Rating Scale (NRS-11) were 4.0 and 2.1 on postoperative days 1 and 7 for patients taking non-opioids versus 5.0 and 3.1 for those taking opioids, which met the criteria for noninferiority, reported Mostafa Borahay, MD, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and colleagues. Importantly, patients in both groups had high satisfaction with their pain control, with 91% of the non-opioid group and 90%...

Researchers call for urgent overhaul of pain care amid opioid crisis

A new position paper from researchers at the University of Aberdeen warns that opioid use disorder in the U.K. is a "large and probably underestimated" problem, and that without urgent action, opioid addiction and opioid-related deaths will continue to rise. The authors argue that pain medicine must be redefined as a front-line tool in preventing and treating opioid addiction. They suggest that people prescribed opioids and those using illicit opioids need more support from health care providers. The paper, published recently in the European Journal of Pain, calls for tighter limits on opioid dose and duration, reduced...

Rising deaths in LA County Jail are tied to longer stays, study shows

The effects of stress, depression and inadequate health care in the Los Angeles County Jail—a blanket term widely used for the county's eight facilities—build up into lethal risk, a new study led by UCLA researchers has found. The researchers discovered that most deaths in the Los Angeles County Jail occur after a person has been in jail for several weeks. This contradicts a common belief that most jail deaths occur shortly after a jail stay begins and are the result of a sudden overdose around the time of arrest or withdrawal from prescribed medications or illicit drugs. The new research, which was published in the journal PLOS...

Once-Weekly Drug Combo for Controlled HIV Matches Standard Daily Regimens

Switching to a weekly oral investigational regimen of islatravir and lenacapavir was just as effective as daily oral standard-of-care regimens in patients with virologically suppressed HIV, according to two phase III trials. In the double-blind ISLEND-1 trial, 93.4% of patients who switched from once-daily, single-tablet bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide (Biktarvy) to once-weekly, single-tablet islatravir and lenacapavir had HIV-1 RNA levels less than 50 copies/mL by week 48 versus 92.4% of those who continued to take the daily regimen. No patients in the weekly group had HIV-1 RNA levels of 50 copies/mL or...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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

Other Funding Opportunity...

PCORI Upcoming Funding Opportunity: Addressing Substance Use

PCORI's upcoming Addressing Substance Use funding opportunity seeks to support high-impact, patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research focused on substance use/misuse and substance use disorders. This PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA) includes four Special Areas of Emphasis:

1. Evidence-Based Strategies To Advance Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders
2. Evidence-Based Interventions for Overdose Prevention
3. Strategies To Reduce Nicotine and Tobacco Use
4. Treatment Strategies Addressing the Intersection of Poor Sleep and Substance Misuse/Substance Use Disorder

To help potential applicants learn more about this PFA and PCORI's application process, PCORI is hosting an [Applicant Town Hall](#) August 18 at noon (ET).

**ADDICTION
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