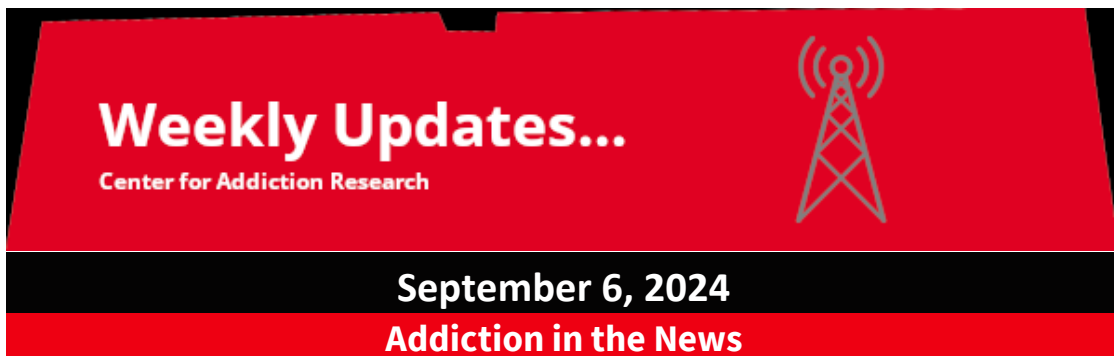


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. **Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be published Friday, September 20.** 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

UC expert discusses recent FDA decision with WVXU's Cincinnati Edition

Earlier this month, the Food and Drug Administration declined to approve MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD. The University of Cincinnati's Stephen Rush, MD, joined WVXU's Cincinnati Edition to discuss the decision and the future of MDMA and other psychedelic psychiatric treatments. Rush said there have been allegations of unethical conduct in the trial submitted to the FDA for review, including allegations of sexual abuse. While the official reasoning behind the FDA's decision has not been released, he said additional concerns over bias and insufficient blinding most likely caused the denial. "Typically, we want to have research studies that are double blind, which means that neither the scientist or researcher...

Governor DeWine launches Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace program

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Friday announced the launch of the Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace program. Led by the Governor's RecoveryOhio initiative, the new program is designed to create job opportunities for people in recovery from a substance use disorder or mental health condition, combat stigma surrounding addiction and mental illness in the workplace and provide a boost to Ohio businesses. Companies that implement recovery-friendly practices as part of their everyday operations and core values will be able to earn the official designation as an Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace. "The new Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace program has the power to transform lives by offering meaningful...

Recovery Friendly Career Fair (flyer attached)

September 18, 2024, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Recovery Friendly Hamilton County has partnered with OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati - Hamilton County to create the Recovery Friendly Career Fair! Research reveals that people in recovery are an asset to their organizations because of their drive to have a better life, increased commitment to the job, and abilities to maintain engagement, performance, and productivity.

Local, State Agencies Given Millions in Grants to Combat Drug Addiction

Nearly \$5.5 million in grant funding has been awarded to reduce the impact of opioids, stimulants and other illegal substances in Ohio's communities, according to a press release shared by the Office of Criminal Justice Services on Aug. 28. The funding for these grants comes from the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), which will "provide resources supporting the development, expansion, or enhancement of substance use deflection and pre-arrest diversion programs." Numerous organizations in Hamilton County and the surrounding area received grants, including Amberley Village, Hamilton County – \$376,443.60, Middletown Division of Police, Butler County...

Council considers restrictions on medical cannabis businesses

The Fort Wright City Council in Kentucky has floated the idea of restrictions on potential medical cannabis businesses, LINK nky reported. Council members in the suburb of Cincinnati are concerned about the effects that cannabis odor will have on neighboring businesses. They've considered requiring any potential medical cannabis business to be in stand-alone buildings, rather than a strip mall. "Similar proposals have definitely been floated in several counties across the country but often they don't survive," said Keshar Ghimire, PhD, an associate professor of economics at the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College. "Such restrictions may go against the spirit of the state law that seeks to allow easy access..."

Is marijuana addictive? Experts weigh in

With recreational cannabis sales launching in Ohio last month, cannabis professionals and behavioral health experts both have reported that they are fielding more questions about cannabis use and addiction. So, can cannabis be addictive? The short answer is "yes." Some experts believe that many people can use cannabis without significant negative consequences — not unlike enjoying occasional alcoholic drinks. But Montgomery County Prevention Coalition manager Colleen Oakes said the idea that cannabis can't be addictive is a myth. "Cannabis use disorder is a real substance use challenge that we need to take seriously," Oakes said. "When we say it's not addicting, we're discounting people..."

Northern Kentucky health officials host 'Tobacco Free Tailgate' to stop teen vaping

FORT MITCHELL, Ky. — Friday Night Lights turned on at Beechwood High School with a Tobacco Free Tailgate experience. The event was part of an effort by northern Kentucky health officials to keep kids from getting into vaping. Health officials say one in five Ohio and Kentucky high school students vape. It's why they are visiting high school football games this fall, hoping to help kids kick the habit. Casey Baker with the Northern Kentucky Health Department said education is key. She is heading the four-county effort to curb teenage vaping. "We're just trying to make sure our parents know that we want to try to start talking about this problem as young as possible," Baker said. From nicotine addiction to...

Ohio offers Voluntary Exclusion List for problem gamblers as calls to helpline rise

The legalization of casinos and sports betting is a financial boost for Ohio, but it also poses great temptation for those dealing with gambling addiction as calls to the state's helpline are on the rise. The Ohio Casino Control Commission has a "Voluntary Exclusion List" for those needing an extra tool in their struggle, part of the "Time Out Ohio" program. Those with gambling issues can ban themselves from Ohio's casinos, racinos and sports gaming for one year, five years or a lifetime. "We launched it just prior to sports betting becoming legal," said Jessica Franks, the commission's director of communications. "We felt it was important that they had the ability to sign up." The state offered a previous version of an exclusion list...

National News

Greater alcohol intake tied to higher gout risk

Higher consumption of alcoholic beverages is associated with a higher risk for gout among both sexes, according to a study published online Aug. 28 in JAMA Network Open. Jie-Qiong Lyu, from Suzhou Medical College of Soochow University in China, and colleagues evaluated the consumption of total and specific alcoholic beverages in association with incident gout in men and women. The analysis included data from 401,128 participants in the U.K. Biobank (aged 37 to 73 years and free of gout at baseline in 2006 to 2010), who were followed through 2021. The researchers found that current drinkers had a higher risk for gout than...

A decision on a major policy shift on marijuana won't come until after the presidential election

WASHINGTON (AP) — A decision on whether to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug in the U.S. won't come until after the November presidential election, a timeline that raises the chances it could be a potent political issue in the closely contested race. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration last week set a hearing date to take comment on the proposed historic change in federal drug policy for Dec. 2. The hearing date means a final decision could well come in the

next administration. While it's possible it could precede the end of President Joe Biden's term, issuing it before Inauguration Day "would be pretty expedited,"...

Plastic surgery patients who use marijuana also have elevated nicotine levels

Marijuana use is common among patients considering plastic surgery and is associated with elevated nicotine levels on laboratory tests, reports a paper in the September issue of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. "We found that patients who report marijuana use also have elevated urine nicotine and cotinine levels—even those who don't smoke or use other nicotine-containing products" comments ASPS Member Surgeon Joseph A. Ricci of Hofstra University School of Medicine, Great Neck, NY. "This raises concerns that unsuspected nicotine exposure might lead to an increased risk of postoperative complications." The...

Review reveals top three effective ways to stop smoking

A major new review of evidence by a team of scientists, including a University of Massachusetts Amherst public health researcher, has identified the three best strategies for quitting smoking: Varenicline—a prescription drug sold under the brand names Chantix and Champix, among others. Cytisine—a plant-based compound not widely available in the U.S. but sold as an over-the-counter natural health product (Crawv) in Canada and throughout Central and Eastern Europe, and available under prescription in the United Kingdom. Nicotine e-cigarettes. The review, published Sept. 4 in the journal Addiction, was...

Buying Smokes? Everyone Under 30 Now Must Show ID

FRIDAY, Aug. 30, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- A new, tougher rule on the sale of tobacco products will require retailers to check the IDs of any buyers under the age of 30, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday. The final rule, which will go into effect Sept. 30, also restricts tobacco vending machine sales to spaces that are limited to people aged 21 and older. "Today's rule is another key step towards protecting our nation's youth from the health risks of tobacco products," Dr. Brian King, head of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, said in an agency news release on the rule. "Decades of science has shown that keeping...

Survey finds just 1 in 4 could identify nicotine pouches if they saw them, but they are skyrocketing in popularity

About half of adults can identify cigarettes and e-cigarettes, but just one in four would recognize oral nicotine pouches, and these easily available products are growing increasingly popular among teens and young adults, according to a recent study commissioned by The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—Arthur G. James Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC—James). Oral nicotine pouches are small packets filled with a flavored powder containing nicotine and other chemicals that are tucked between the lip and gums. Researchers at the OSUCCC—James Center for Tobacco Research are...

Study finds depressed adolescents twice as likely to vape

A study on vaping behavior among Australian high school students has found those who reported severe depressive symptoms were over twice as likely to have tried e-cigarettes, compared to those reporting no depressive symptoms. Data showed overall higher e-cigarette use among those with poorer mental health, including severe depressive symptoms, moderate and high stress, and low well-being. The findings show a critical need for effective mental health support at the same time as vaping prevention during early adolescence—when these issues first emerge. The researchers surveyed over 5,000 Year 7 and 8...

Pharmacy naloxone standing order distribution may have reduced opioid fatality rates in Massachusetts

Expanding access to naloxone is a key component of the national strategy to end the opioid crisis in America, and community pharmacies play a central role in distributing this overdose-reversing medication. Prior to naloxone receiving federal approval for over-the-counter availability as Narcan nasal spray in 2023, almost all US states allowed individuals to obtain the life-saving drug at community pharmacies without a prescription through a state authorization known as a standing order. But there remains a limited understanding of whether pharmacy naloxone distribution has had any effect on reducing opioid...

Public health researchers find decriminalization of drug possession was not associated with Oregon overdose spike

When overdose rates spiked in Oregon in 2021 after the state decriminalized low-level drug possession, blame quickly turned to the new state law. But a new study by researchers at the Brown University School of Public Health implicates another factor: the introduction of fentanyl into Oregon's unregulated drug market. "What's compelling about this analysis is that it follows the path of fentanyl across the country and offers testament to the destruction wreaked by this highly potent drug," said study author Brandon del Pozo, an assistant professor of medicine (research) and health services, policy and practice (research)...

Machine learning predicts which patients will continue taking opioids after hand surgery

A machine learning algorithm performs well in predicting the risk of persistent opioid use after hand surgery, reports a study in the August issue of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. "We found that a machine learning model performs well in identifying hand surgery patients who are more likely to become persistent opioid users," comments ASPS Member Surgeon Kevin C. Chung, MD, MS, of University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. "This may provide a more efficient strategy to identify high-risk patients and implement measures to prevent opioid addiction. Similarly, the use of artificial intelligence can facilitate a more personalized...

Fentanyl vaccine heads for clinical trials, with goal of saving lives

A fentanyl vaccine developed by researchers at the University of Houston is expected to head to clinical trials sometime in the middle of next year, with the hope of being a groundbreaking solution to a deadly crisis. The vaccine, which has shown success in animal studies, is designed to stop the highly addictive opioid from entering the brain and causing an overdose. Biopharmaceutical startup Ovax acquired the license to produce and test the vaccine in November 2023 and raised over \$10 million toward that effort by June. "We're all incredibly excited," said Collin Gage, the start-up's co-founder and chief executive officer. He...

Insights on brain-spinal communication in opioid withdrawal lead to a clinical trial

A deeper understanding of the communication inside the body when someone is going through opioid withdrawal has led to a new clinical trial at the University of Calgary. "I don't think I've had a day in the clinic in the last five years where I haven't had a patient tell me they want to reduce the opioids they are taking," says Dr. Lori Montgomery, MD, pain clinician and clinical lead for an opioid tapering study. "The problem is there are limited options to support them, and the withdrawal symptoms can be crippling." Montgomery, an associate professor at the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM), is recruiting people for a clinical trial using...

UK government moves to ban 'zombie drug' xylazine

The British government announced legislation on Wednesday to ban the so-called "zombie drug" xylazine and 21 other drugs to tackle deaths and crack down on criminal gangs. The high-strength animal sedative, also known as "tranq", often leaves long-term users in an unresponsive state and with non-healing skin lesions. It has increasingly been used in combination with opioids such as heroin, with traces found in cannabis vapes as well, according to the UK Home Office. Researchers at King's College London said the drug was "widespread" in the UK's illicit drug market. Other drugs to be banned will include...

Has Quebec entered a new era of drug-related deaths?

For the last decade, people who use drugs in Quebec have been partially sheltered from Canada's drug overdose epidemics. But since 2020, the picture has changed. The contamination of the drug market is now present in Quebec, and what happened in British Columbia and Ontario is now happening here, says expert Sarah Larney. In a recent study published in *Drug and Alcohol Review*, the Université de Montréal researcher analyzed datasets of accidental deaths between 2012 and 2021 that were determined by the coroner to be due to opioids or stimulants. And what she found is worrying: the drug-related...

Increasing risk of synthetic opioid drug overdoses in Australia

A study appearing in *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy* has uncovered alarming insights into the dangers posed by fentanyl-contaminated drug supplies

in Australia, including a heightened risk of lethal overdose. The study, titled "The gear could be cut with fentanyl which is starting to happen more in Australia': Exploring Overdose Survivors' Perspectives on Toxic Supply and Safe Consumption," aimed to explore the role of synthetic opioids in overdoses among Queenslanders. Led by Griffith University's Dr. Timothy Piatkowski, Emma Kill and Steph Reeve, in partnership with the Queensland Injectors...

Mechanisms of how morphine relieves pain mapped out

In a study published in Science, researchers at Karolinska Institutet describe the neural processes behind how morphine relieves pain. This is valuable knowledge because the drug has such serious side effects. Morphine is a powerful painkiller that belongs to the group of opioids. It blocks signals in the pain pathways and also increases feelings of pleasure. Morphine acts on several central and peripheral pain pathways in the body, but the neural processes behind the pain relief have not previously been fully understood. Researchers have now investigated how morphine relieves pain using several new experimental...

Webinar - CTN Youth SIG: Falling Through the Cracks: The Struggle of Adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder in the Face of Limited Treatment Options Friday, September 20th, 2024 (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET)

In this presentation, Dr. Sivabalaji Kaliyamurthy MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Howard University, Director, Addiction Program at Children's National, Washington, DC will examine a case involving an adolescent who sought treatment within a pediatric health care system for fentanyl use. The focus will be on the challenges identified in delivering care to adolescents with opioid use disorder. He will also highlight barriers to treatment that must be overcome to deliver the minimum necessary care to ensure engagement in medication treatment for opioid use disorder and reducing overdose risk.

Non-substance-related mental health disorders commonly seen in overdose decedents

More than one in five people who died of drug overdose in 2022 (21.9%) had a reported non-substance-related mental health disorder (MHD), according to research published in the Aug. 29 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Amanda T. Dinwiddie, M.P.H., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues used data from the CDC State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System to describe characteristics of persons in 43 states and the District of Columbia who died of unintentional or undetermined-intent drug overdose and had any MHD. The researchers found...

Most Australians support supervised injecting facilities, study finds

New research examining changes in public opinion over time reveals most Australians support supervised injecting facilities, with opposition to the facilities having steadily declined during the past 20 years. The findings are published in the

journal Drug and Alcohol Review. Supervised injecting facilities reduce overdose deaths and harms related to injecting drug use. These services allow individuals to inject pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of trained professionals in a way that minimizes harm. Australia currently has two supervised injecting facilities, one in Melbourne and one in Sydney, where staff provide clean...

Problem gambling may be on the rise among monthly gamblers in Massachusetts, online surveys suggest

In the latest of three online gambling surveys conducted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, monthly gamblers in Massachusetts reported an increase in gambling intensity and gambling harms. In addition, their attitudes toward gambling have grown more negative. The online surveys—conducted in 2014, 2022 and 2023—can't be generalized to the overall population but give the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) research team a picture of changing behaviors and attitudes over time among regular gamblers, defined as those who gamble monthly or more frequently. Gambling behavior...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-AT-25-001](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Pain Research Enhancement Program \(PREP\) \(R15 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-26-002](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Model-informed Drug Development \(MIDD\) Approaches to Facilitate the Development of Therapeutics for Substance Use Disorders](#)

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