

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

Cincinnati.com: Not just fentanyl. Animal tranquilizer xylazine is embedded in Ohio's drug supply

The Greater Cincinnati region finds itself on the forefront of another dangerous drug trend. Healthcare providers are reporting an increase in cases of the opioid drug fentanyl being tainted with xylazine, an animal sedative. Often called tranq dope, it's the newest challenge in the opioid epidemic. The drug is cheap and easy to get, so sellers add it to their fentanyl supplies to multiply their profits. It is said to lengthen the euphoria effects for people who use drugs but causes chaotic health conditions. In a story published by Cincinnati.com, several local experts were interviewed, including Richard Ryan, MD, of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UC College of Medicine. He said the emergency...

More young children are getting sick from vape liquid; they don't even have to smoke it

With the arrival of the respiratory virus season, a time when viruses that cause respiratory disease circulate more heavily within communities, the state's top health official is raising the alarm for new a risk associated with vaping: the ingestion of e-cigarette liquid by very young children. During a press conference Thursday, Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff warned of the rising danger of children being poisoned by the liquid used in e-cigarettes and vapes. The number of e-cigarette exposures reported to the state's poison centers has nearly tripled over the past seven years from 130 in 2015 to 360 in 2022. So far this year, 328 exposures have been recorded, signaling another...

Ohio expands naloxone overdose reversal program to private colleges, universities

(The Center Square) Ohio plans to expand a program to provide emergency naloxone access to private colleges and universities around the state. The state established a program in 2020 to provide naloxone cabinets to public colleges and universities. Now, private institutions that want them will get the availability along with fentanyl testing strips. “Expanding access to these valuable, lifesaving tools allows every life saved another opportunity to experience recovery,” said Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. “Protecting students from potentially deadly drug overdoses is an important part of our commitment to safer college and university campuses.” A request for taxpayer costs to expand the program was not...

National News

Young people lead acceptance of marijuana over alcohol when it comes to health concerns, polling shows

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Most Americans now believe marijuana is less harmful than alcohol, Gallup polling suggests, driven largely by the feelings of young adults. Younger people — such as those who may see ads for Cheech and Chong “Cruise Chews” edibles in their Facebook feeds — are more accepting of marijuana, and more wary of alcohol, according to data from Gallup Consumption Habits poll taken this summer. In fact, the percentage of young people who think moderate drinking is bad for health has increased significantly since 2018, Gallup said. Older folks — who remember the days of boozy business...

Contaminants in cannabis and hemp flowers create potential for health risks

Cannabis use, even for medical purposes, could make some people sick due to harmful fungi that contaminate the plants. That is the finding of a recently published peer-reviewed journal article, whose authors recommend further study and consideration of changes to regulations to protect consumers, especially those who are immunocompromised. They examined data, previous studies, and U.S. and international regulations related to the cannabis and hemp industry. The article was published in *Frontiers in Microbiology*. It was researched and written by Kimberly Gwinn, professor of entomology and plant pathology...

Georgia to be first state to let pharmacies sell low-dose cannabis

Four years after the state of Georgia approved the distribution of low-dose THC, medical marijuana may be sold at local pharmacies. That will make Georgia the first U.S. state where pharmacies sell medical cannabis, CNN reported. By year's end, patients who meet a very narrow criteria for medical cannabis use under Georgia's law will be able to buy low-dose THC products at their local pharmacy. What that won't mean is joints being sold at pharmacies, said Gary Long, CEO of the medical cannabis production company Botanical Sciences, one of two licensed distributors in Georgia, CNN...

Q&A: New research gains ground in detecting recent cannabis use

Whether people use cannabis to induce sleep, relieve symptoms or relax during downtime, a vehicle crash or accident at work could leave them in jail or the unemployment line. Frequent users can lose their jobs or face criminal charges, even if their last puff or gummy was days or weeks prior to an incident. Drug tests commonly used today cannot reliably detect how recently someone used cannabis or even whether they were impaired when an accident occurred. Blood tests used by law enforcement typically measure THC (Delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the chief psychoactive component of...

Drug-Linked Disciplinary Actions by Schools Spiked After Oregon Legalized Marijuana

MONDAY, Oct. 23, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- New research suggests a link between middle school students being disciplined for marijuana use and legalization of recreational weed, particularly when schools are close to dispensaries that sell the drug. Researchers studied this in Oregon, where recreational marijuana became legal for adults back in 2015. They found that middle school students received office discipline referrals for substance use offenses that were not related to alcohol or tobacco about 30% more often after marijuana legalization, compared to schools in other states over the same...

Restricting Access to Vapes Might Drive People to Cigarettes

MONDAY, Oct. 23, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- While U.S. policymakers have restricted flavored vapes to make e-cigarettes less appealing to young people, that plan may be backfiring. A new study found that for every 0.7 milliliters of "e-liquid" for e-cigarettes that isn't sold because of flavor restrictions, an additional 15 traditional cigarettes were sold. The study, supported by U.S. National Institutes of Health, uncovered evidence that these extra cigarettes were being sold in brands that are popular with people 20 and younger. Flavor restriction policies may actually magnify the harms of nicotine rather...

Communities can't recycle or trash disposable e-cigarettes. So what happens to them?

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the growing popularity of disposable e-cigarettes, communities across the U.S. are confronting a new vaping problem: how to safely get rid of millions of small, battery-powered devices that are considered hazardous waste. For years, the debate surrounding vaping largely centered on its risks for high school and middle school students enticed by flavors like gummy bear, lemonade and watermelon. But the recent shift toward e-cigarettes that can't be refilled has created a new environmental dilemma. The devices, which contain nicotine, lithium and other metals, cannot be...

Study finds most young people have been exposed to vaping ads, despite restrictions

Three quarters of young Australians who are aware of vaping have seen e-cigarette advertising, according to a new study by The George Institute for Global Health. The research findings were published in the journal Tobacco Induced Diseases. An international study of more than 4,000 people aged 15–30 showed that the most common real-life settings where the 1,006 Australian respondents saw advertising were vape shops (45%), tobacconists (35%) and general retailers like supermarkets, corner shops and petrol stations (23%). But perhaps more concerning is the role social media is playing in the...

Optimizing Dosing of Medications for OUD in the Era of Fentanyl

The patient calling the Rhode Island Buprenorphine Hotline this Saturday morning is a mom. She has been stable on buprenorphine for some time but missed her last appointment because her kids were sick, and her provider will not refill her buprenorphine prescription without a urine drug screen. So, despite having an established provider, she called the hotline -- a state-funded, 24/7, on-demand, free, phone-based telehealth service -- for help with a bridge prescription until she can be seen in the office. Over the phone, she tells me about her history of fentanyl use and that her provider will only prescribe...

How Native communities in Washington state are fighting the fentanyl crisis

Practitioners burning sacred herbs for patients seeking addiction treatment. Tribal sweat lodges where Native Americans can meditate and purify their bodies. Gardens where rehab residents can grow their own medicinal plants. Down the Pacific Coast, along the Salish Sea and across the inland Northwest, tribes and Native health providers say they have historically found success integrating cultural resources and traditions with Western medicines to treat substance use disorders. Studies, while limited, have found positive effects from culture-based interventions for addiction treatment. But fentanyl, a synthetic...

White House presses for money to prevent opioid deaths as congressional dysfunction stymies aid

The White House on Wednesday requested \$1.55 billion from Congress to address illicit fentanyl driving overdose deaths across the country as part of a broader funding package. The funds sought by the Biden administration would be included alongside money for grants to states, territories and tribes through a Department of Health and Human Services program that aims to help strengthen addiction treatment, overdose prevention measures and recovery support services. "As we continue to lose an American life to drug overdose every five minutes around the clock, Congress must come together and..."

Feds try to head off growing problem of overdoses among expectant mothers

When Andria Peterson began working as a clinical pharmacist in the pediatric and neonatal intensive care units at St. Rose Dominican Hospital in Henderson, Nevada, in 2009, she witnessed the devastating effects the opioid crisis had on the hospital's youngest patients. She recalled vividly one baby who stayed in the NICU for 90 days with neonatal abstinence syndrome, a form of withdrawal, because his mother had used substances while pregnant. The mother came in every day, Peterson said. She took three buses to get to the hospital to see her baby. Peterson watched her sing to him some days and...

Perception--but not expectation--of reward is altered in people with cocaine addiction

Researchers report October 25 in the journal *Neuron* that cocaine addiction disrupts the dopamine neurons that govern how we perceive and learn from rewards. Though people with cocaine addiction have similar expectations of rewards compared to controls, their dopamine neurons send out much weaker signals when these rewards are actually received. This dysregulation could make it more difficult for people with cocaine addiction to learn from their experiences and change addictive behavior. "Our results support the medical model of addiction as a disorder of the brain that deserves treatment," says...

Brazil scientists developing new 'vaccine' for cocaine addiction

Scientists in Brazil, the world's second-biggest consumer of cocaine, have announced the development of an innovative new treatment for addiction to the drug and its powerful derivative crack: a vaccine. Dubbed "Calixcoca," the test vaccine, which has shown promising results in trials on animals, triggers an immune response that blocks cocaine and crack from reaching the brain, which researchers hope will help users break the cycle of addiction. Put simply, addicts would no longer get high from the drug. If the treatment gets regulatory approval, it would be the first time cocaine addiction is treated...

Crack vaccine research on rats could help babies of mothers who use cocaine—and reduce addiction

The most recent statistics put the number of regular cocaine or crack cocaine users in the world at 20 million. Of these, one in four will become addicted or develop use disorders. Among the addicts, many are women who, when they become pregnant, can bring risks to themselves and their children. Cocaine use during pregnancy is associated with serious conditions for pregnant women (such as severe pre-eclampsia or miscarriage) and babies (premature birth with complications, low birth weight, malformations and withdrawal syndrome in the newborn). A study carried out by a research...

Treating amphetamine use disorder with stimulants: An encouraging new approach

A new study has found that it may be possible to use stimulants to treat stimulant use disorder. People with amphetamine-type stimulant use disorder who are treated with prescription psychostimulants such as methylphenidate and dextroamphetamine (commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)) may lower both their craving and stimulant use, especially if such treatments are administered at high doses. This study, published in *Addiction*, was led by Dr. Jutras-Aswad, a researcher at the CHUM Research Centre and a professor of psychiatry and addictology at...

Canada Will Legalize Medically Assisted Dying For People Addicted to Drugs

Canada will legalize medically assisted dying for people who are addicted to drugs next spring, in a move some drug users and activists are calling “eugenics.” The country’s medical assistance in dying (MAID) law, which first came into effect in 2016, will be expanded next March to give access to people whose sole medical condition is mental illness, which can include substance use disorders. Before the changes take place, however, a special parliamentary committee on MAID will regroup to scrutinize the rollout of the new regulations, according to the *Toronto Star*. Currently, people...

How ‘recovery doulas’ are helping Montanans navigate addiction and parenthood

When Megan Dobbs began planning how she wanted her upcoming birth to go, two goals rose to the top of her list. She wanted to be fully present and remember every moment. And she didn’t want anything to compromise her sobriety. Dobbs, 30, has a wide smile and is quick to cry, especially when she talks about motherhood and her prolonged battle with addiction. Years ago, she agreed to terminate her parental rights to her firstborn daughter after a period of drug use she couldn’t kick. Her second child lives in Florida, the state Dobbs left behind last November as part of her journey to sobriety. She...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-051](#)

[Tools for Decentralized Clinical Trials for Substance Use Disorder \(R41/R42 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-052](#)

[Tools for decentralized clinical trials for substance use disorder \(R43/R44 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-044](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Chemical Countermeasures Research Program \(CCRP\) Initiative: Additional Research Areas of Interest focusing on Ultra-Potent Synthetic \(UPS\) Opioids](#)

[NOT-DA-23-038](#)

[Notice of Joint NSF/NIDA Initiative to Support Research in the Incorporating Human Behavior into Epidemiological Models Program](#)

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