

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. **The next weekly newsletter will be distributed on 1/5/2024 - we at CAR wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!** 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

OneOhio Recovery Foundation closes out a productive year at its December public meeting

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization charged with statewide distribution of more than \$800 million for addiction prevention, treatment and recovery efforts, held its public meeting Dec. 13 at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce offices in Columbus. "This meeting closes the Foundation's first full calendar year, one that was filled with months of diligent work by board members, Executive Director Nelson and the overall Foundation team to solidify the organizational structure and begin distributing settlement dollars for prevention, treatment and recovery across the state," said Board Vice Chair Don Mason. "I know that everyone involved can look back to all we've... **(CAR member, Dr. Christine Wilder, appointed to OneOhio Recovery Foundation's Expert Panel)**

Department of Health reports on overdoses, deaths in Ohio

DAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) — The Ohio Department of Health just released a report on 2022 unintentional overdoses, revealing deaths fell by 5% last year. Ohio reported a total 4,915 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2022, following a record total of 5,174 in 2021. "While the numbers headed in the right direction last year, they are no cause for celebration," said ODH Director Bruce Vanderhoff. "Tragically, thousands of Ohioans are still dying from substance use disorders. I urge Ohioans to do what they can to prevent these deaths, from learning how to use naloxone to

knowing where to turn for help for you or a loved one in need.” Unsurprisingly, fentanyl or fentanyl analogs were involved in...

National News

Automated insomnia intervention found to improve both sleep and hazardous alcohol use

An online treatment for insomnia may improve both sleep and problem drinking patterns in people who drink heavily, according to a study in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*. Researchers found that heavy drinkers who received web-based cognitive behavioral therapy designed to treat their insomnia had greater improvement in sleep and drinking behaviors compared to people who were given access to online education to improve their sleep. This is the first study to show that cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia can lead to significant reductions in alcohol consumption...

Q&A: Digital interventions for binge drinking

Brian Suffoletto, MD, associate professor of emergency medicine, views interactions with patients in the Emergency Department as valuable opportunities to identify specific risks and then facilitate positive behavior changes post-ED discharge using digital devices. He has spent more than 10 years developing digital behavioral interventions for various medical risks from young adult binge drinking to distracted driving. In this Q&A, we asked Suffoletto about his work and research into digital tools that can both recognize and address the negative impact alcohol use can have on a person's health. Many of your...

Review highlights rise in psychiatric disorders linked to increased cannabis use

The widespread use of cannabis (marijuana) and its increased potency are associated with a rise in cannabis-related psychiatric conditions, according to a new University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) review article that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It highlights the urgent need for doctors to screen for and treat patients who are experiencing symptoms of cannabis use disorder, which means they are experiencing significant problems from their use of the drug. Nearly one in five Americans ages 12 and older used cannabis in 2021, according to the article, and more...

New study explores how young people with early-onset psychosis view substance use and interventions

A new study led by SMU medical and psychological anthropologist Neely Myers indicates that while young people diagnosed with early psychosis understand the importance of discontinuing the use of substances like cannabis, many are ambivalent about stopping. Myers, who leads SMU's Mental Health Equity Lab, focuses on helping people with psychosis because it's the least understood and most stigmatized among mental health disorders. Psychosis is a collection of

symptoms that affect the mind, in which there has been some break with consensus reality. The condition often begins in...

E-cigarette use is rising among pregnant adolescents, study finds

The increased use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) among adolescents is a relatively recent phenomenon; not surprisingly, University at Buffalo researchers have now determined that e-cigarette use is also rising among pregnant adolescents, according to their study published Dec. 13 in JAMA Network Open. The researchers were interested in e-cigarette use among pregnant adolescents since more adolescents in general use e-cigarettes than use combustible cigarettes. "We know that there has been a rapid increase in e-cigarettes among adolescents in recent years," says Xiaozhong Wen, Ph.D., first and...

Ban flavoured vapes, WHO says, urging tobacco-style controls

LONDON, Dec 14 (Reuters) - The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday urged governments to treat e-cigarettes similarly to tobacco and ban all flavours, threatening cigarette companies' bets on smoking alternatives. Some researchers, campaigners and governments see e-cigarettes, or vapes, as a key tool in reducing the death and disease caused by smoking. But the U.N. agency said "urgent measures" were needed to control them. Citing studies, it said there was insufficient evidence that vapes helped smokers quit, that they were harmful to health and that they could drive nicotine...

School counselors report prevalence of vaping, gaming issues among adolescents

Addictive behaviors often develop during adolescence and can lead to issues with mental and physical health. Despite these consequences, most high school counselors, who are positioned to address these issues, report a lack of formalized training in two addictive behaviors—vaping and internet gaming, according to a new study by the University of Georgia, published in the International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling. "School counselors are aware this is an issue, but it doesn't seem like we're providing the training as a profession so that they can address it," said Amanda Giordano...

Want to keep Gen Z off vaping? Teach them about the industry's marketing tactics, study says

Young adults who are more familiar with e-cigarette marketing practices are more likely to have attitudes against vaping than those unaware of the industry's marketing, according to a study led by Drexel University public health researchers published this month in the journal Tobacco Control. Expanding on ways cigarettes were marketed in the 1970s, such as using models and hosting smoking events, e-cigarette marketing includes more modern tactics, like paying social media influencers to promote vaping. The findings, from researchers at Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health and The National Institute...

FDA approves safety labeling changes for opioid pain medicines

Today, FDA is announcing final approval and implementation of required labeling updates to continue efforts to address the evolving opioid crisis, and to urge health care professionals to take a more patient-centered approach when prescribing opioid analgesic products. In April 2023, FDA notified application holders of New Drug Applications (NDAs) and Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) of required safety labeling updates needed for immediate-release (IR) and extended-release/long-acting (ER/LA) opioid analgesics. The required safety labeling updates, originally listed in an April 2023 Drug Safety Communication...

UAMS to study PTSD treatment for prisoners fighting opioid addiction

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – A team of Arkansas researchers are working to see if treatments used to help patients and veterans cope with trauma may also help inmates working to free themselves from the grip of addiction. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences team will study if the techniques used to treat those with PTSD could help prisoners who have become opioid-addicted. The study will determine approaches to post-traumatic stress disorder screening and treatment among prisoners who qualify for opioid use disorder (OUD). Researchers said it is a first-of-its-kind study to couple PTSD and...

US FDA approves first test to identify opioid use addiction risk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Tuesday it has approved the first test to assess if there is a risk of opioid use addiction in certain individuals. The test, AvertD, is developed by privately held SOLVD Health. The FDA granted the approval to AutoGenomics, a unit that SOLVD acquired in 2019. AvertD is intended to be used before the first use of oral opioid painkillers in those who are being considered for a 4 to 30 days prescription for the treatment of acute pain, such as in patients scheduled to undergo a planned surgical procedure. It is a prescription-use only genetic laboratory test for...

Treating opioid disorder without meds is more harmful than no treatment at all, finds study

In cases of opioid use disorder, short-term medically managed withdrawal (commonly known as detox) and long-term rehabilitation treatments that don't incorporate continued use of buprenorphine or methadone are no more effective at preventing overdose deaths than no treatment at all, a new Yale-led study reveals. The findings, the researchers say, emphasize the importance of ongoing medication treatment for opioid use disorder and should inform how opioid settlement funds earmarked for addressing the crisis are spent. The study was published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence. The opioid...

‘They See a Cash Cow’: Corporations Could Consume \$50 Billion of Opioid Settlements

The marketing pitches are bold and arriving fast: Invest opioid settlement dollars in a lasso-like device to help police detain people without Tasers or pepper spray. Pour money into psychedelics, electrical stimulation devices, and other experimental treatments for addiction. Fund research into new, supposedly abuse-deterrent opioids and splurge on expensive, brand-name naloxone. These pitches land daily in the inboxes of state and local officials in charge of distributing more than \$50 billion from settlements in opioid lawsuits. The money is coming from an array of companies that made, sold, or...

Experts Highlight Drug Overdose Deaths Among Seniors During Senate Hearing

Among other solutions, educational campaigns along with expanding access to residential rehab programs to Medicare beneficiaries could mitigate the growing trend of drug overdose deaths in seniors, experts said during a hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging on Thursday. Overdose deaths among seniors quadrupled from 2002 to 2021, said Keith Humphreys, PhD, of Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, citing a research letter he co-authored in JAMA Psychiatry. Looking at the broader picture, one in approximately 370 deaths among older adults was the result of...

Substance-abuse stigma impedes treatment in various ways, scientists say

Addiction is one of society's most misunderstood and rebuked health conditions. That stigma discourages many people from seeking treatment for substance dependence, according to a new report published in Psychological Science in the Public Interest. Research on stigma toward people with substance use disorder (SUD) is relatively sparse, the report adds. "Characterizing the nature and etiology of SUD stigma is critical for developing tailored and effective interventions to combat it," wrote psychological scientist Anne C. Krendl and sociologist Brea L. Perry of Indiana University, Bloomington...

New York’s Good Samaritan Law Reveals Structural Racism in its Drug Policy

If you’ve been paying attention, you know that the United States is in the midst of a devastating overdose crisis – one that has been going on for the last two decades, and that only seems to get worse each year. Since 1999, more than 1,000,000 people have died of drug overdose in the United States and the vast majority of those deaths involved opioids, such as prescription painkillers, heroin, and more recently, the synthetic opioid, fentanyl. Like many of you, when I was first introduced to the overdose crisis, it was largely through discussions of the “new face of addiction.” The prescription opioid epidemic was...

Giving video games this Christmas? New research underlines need to be aware of loot box risks

Recent controversy has surrounded the concept of loot boxes—the purchasable video game features that offer randomized rewards but are not governed by gambling laws. Now research led by the University of Plymouth has shown that at-risk individuals, such as those with known gaming and gambling problems, are more likely to engage with loot boxes than those without. The study is one of the largest, most complex and robustly designed surveys yet conducted on loot boxes, and has prompted experts to reiterate the call for stricter enforcement around them. Existing studies have shown that the...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-028](#)

[Development of Clinical Outcome Assessments as New FDA-Qualified Drug Development Tools to Accelerate Therapeutics Development for Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

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