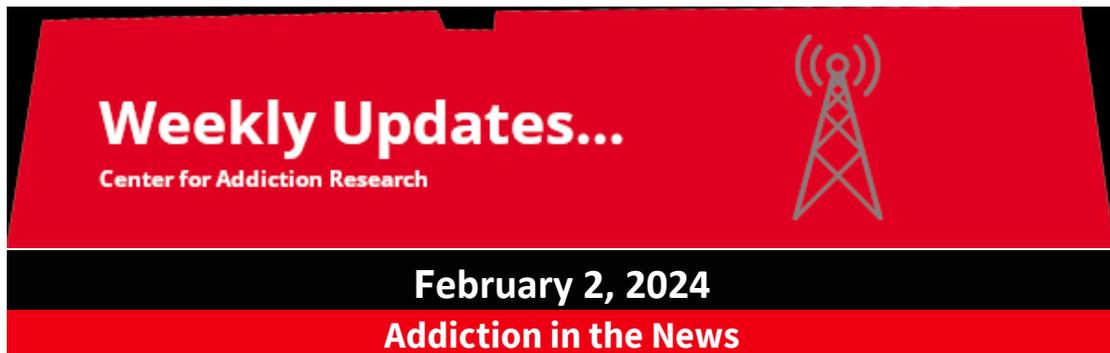


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) 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

Webinar: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care (ORCCA) TODAY February 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM EST

Please join the webinar on key recommendations to reduce overdose fatalities from the Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA).

Developed through the HEALing Communities Study, the ORCCA framework can help communities implement system- and practice-level changes to reduce opioid overdose deaths. The HEALing Communities Study, a multi-site research study, tested the impact of an integrated set of evidence-based practices across healthcare, behavioral health, justice, and other community-based settings. HEALing Communities is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative®. **(see related local success story below)**

Speakers will provide an overview of the evidence-based practices and accompanying implementation strategies compiled in the ORCCA. The framework was designed as a menu of options for communities to reduce opioid overdose deaths. The science and evidence behind the framework were published in the Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence and outlined 3 recommended menus of evidence-based practices: overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND), medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), and prescription opioid safety. This webinar will highlight how partners in Massachusetts, Kentucky, New York, and Ohio implemented the ORCCA, including 19 implementation strategies to reduce

opioid overdose deaths. This webinar is sponsored by HEAL Connections; an initiative funded by the NIH HEAL Initiative.

This webinar is sponsored by HEAL Connections; an initiative funded by the NIH HEAL Initiative.

Speakers:

- Dr. Redonna Chandler, Director, HEALing Communities Study, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Office of the Director
- Dr. Timothy Hunt, Associate Research Scientist and Associate Director, Columbia University School of Social Work's Social Intervention Group
- **Dr. T. John Winhusen, Director, Center for Addiction Research, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and HEALing Communities Study, Ohio co-Principal Investigator**
- Dr. Alexander Walley, MSc, Professor of Medicine, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine
- Dr. Patricia Freeman, Earl Platt Slone Endowed Professor in Pharmacy Practice and Science and University Research Professor, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy
- Jessica Hulsey, Founder & CEO, Addiction Policy Forum (Webinar Moderator)

Hamilton County, OH Advances Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Jail

In Hamilton County, Ohio, 76% of the people who overdosed in 2021 had a history of incarceration at the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC), the county jail. In response to this, the HCJC launched a medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) program, with input from the HCS Intervention Design Team, technical experts, and input from other jurisdictions with MOUD programs, including Kenton County, KY jail and Cuyahoga County, OH jail. Research shows that starting medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) prior to release and continuing them during reentry reduces the risk of overdose death by 75%. The HCJC model includes induction of MOUD for individuals with an opioid use... **(Dr. T. John Winhusen, Director, Center for Addiction Research, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and HEALing Communities Study, Ohio co-Principal Investigator)**

Research Rainmakers: The UC Office of Research celebrates its outstanding researchers.

On January 25th, the UC Office of Research celebrated the outstanding achievements of faculty in the area of sponsored research in fiscal year 2023. Those recognized are in the top 25% in the categories of the arts, humanities, social sciences, technology, science, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. Additionally, the UC Office of Research also recognized the top collaborative research awards from across the university.

Congratulations to **Dr. T. John Winhusen, CAR Director**, for being recognized the eighth time for this accomplishment since fiscal year 2016.

Johnson highlights bill to require education on substance abuse

State Senator Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) this week announced the introduction and first hearing of Senate Bill 205, which will help combat Ohio's continuing drug epidemic by requiring annual, age-appropriate instruction to children in Ohio's public schools regarding the harms of illicit substances such as marijuana, methamphetamines, opioids, alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes. Senator Johnson introduced this bill in December, drawing from his extensive experience as a physician in the field of addiction medicine, and provided sponsor testimony on Tuesday in the Senate Education Committee. "Despite hundreds of millions of dollars spent by the state on treatment and prevention, thousands...

KY communities address ACEs to prevent substance-use disorders

Communities across the Commonwealth want to minimize traumatic experiences for the state's youngest residents - as a way to help stem the drug epidemic, and prevent future generations from struggling with substance-use disorders. According to Kentucky Youth Advocates, at least one in five Kentucky kids has had at least two Adverse Childhood Experiences or 'ACEs.' These include physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, having family members with a substance-use disorder, witnessing domestic violence, and parental incarceration. Dr. Connie White, deputy commissioner for clinical affairs with the Kentucky Department for Public Health, said research shows ACEs can increase...

National News

Signs of accelerated aging found in brains of individuals with alcohol use disorder

The brains and blood of people with a history of excessive drinking show cellular evidence of premature aging. In a new study published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, DNA taken from people with alcohol use disorder showed signs of changes in genetic regions indicative of increased biological age. Accelerated biological aging may help explain why excessive alcohol use has been shown to be a significant risk factor for premature death and neurodegenerative diseases. Scientists extracted DNA from the brains of 144 deceased individuals with alcohol use disorder as well as from blood samples...

Sacramento study finds that after seven years, alcohol control program still reduces child abuse

A neighborhood alcohol control project in Sacramento that reduced cases of child abuse and neglect soon after implementation still had a positive impact seven years later, a new study found. The study was published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Review*. Results showed that, in one of the neighborhoods where the program was put into place, total entries into foster care were reduced by 11.8% and alcohol-related foster care entries were reduced by 11.2% a full seven years

after implementation. These new results were not as strong as those found right after the project was implemented, and there are other caveats...

High school students who report using alcohol, cannabis or nicotine at higher risk for suicidal thoughts and other mental health disorders

Newswise — BOSTON –High school students who reported using cannabis, alcohol, or nicotine were more likely to have thoughts about suicide, feel depressed or anxious, have unusual experiences, and exhibit inattention or hyperactivity, according to recent survey-based study conducted by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and the University of Minnesota. The study, which is published in JAMA Pediatrics, included 2022–2023 survey results from more than 15,000 high school students across Massachusetts. “We sought to determine whether substance use was dose-dependently...

Targeted anti-smoking messages for LGBTQ+ young women

In the U.S., young women who identify as LGBTQ+ are up 4.8 times more likely to smoke cigarettes than their heterosexual peers. "This places them at significantly higher risks of smoking-related illnesses including cancers and heart disease," says Professor Andy Tan, director of Health Communication & Equity Lab at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. As part of Project Resist, a study to test health messaging approaches to increase resistance to tobacco marketing among young adult sexual minority women, Tan and colleagues recently published a new paper on...

Researchers decode the link between smoking and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis risk

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neurodegenerative disorder, is a significant global health issue, affecting the voluntary motor nervous system in affected individuals. It is further compounded by a lack of effective treatment options. This treatment gap highlights the need to identify risk factors, particularly modifiable ones, that could potentially prevent the onset of ALS. While smoking has been considered a significant risk, studies have yielded inconclusive results, failing to pinpoint the exact association. Investigating this link is crucial to understanding preventive strategies and advancing our...

Efficacy of electronic cigarettes found to be noninferior to varenicline

For smokers who are motivated to quit, the quit rate is noninferior for electronic cigarettes (ECs) versus varenicline and is higher for ECs than nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) in the form of nicotine gum, according to a study published online Jan. 29 in JAMA Internal Medicine. Hao-Xing Lin, Dr. P.H., from Peking University in Beijing, and colleagues conducted a randomized clinical trial at seven sites involving participants who were smoking at least 10 cigarettes per day and were motivated to quit. A cartridge-based EC, varenicline, and 2 or 4mg nicotine chewing gum were provided for 12 weeks and...

Study finds recipients of e-cigarette coupons 1.5 times more likely to begin using, less likely to quit

A new study led by a researcher in the Georgia State University School of Public Health finds that people who receive coupons for e-cigarettes are more than 1.5 times more likely to begin using them and less likely to quit. "Our study found that when people were exposed to more waves of e-cigarette coupon advertising, they were more likely to initiate e-cigarette use and it was more challenging for them to quit," said Zongshuan Duan, assistant professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences. "The effect sizes were actually quite large and meaningful given the number of people who might be exposed to..."

Schools are using surveillance tech to catch students vaping, snaring some with harsh punishments

When Aaliyah Iglesias was caught vaping at a Texas high school, she didn't realize how much could be taken from her. Suddenly, the rest of her high school experience was threatened: being student council president, her role as debate team captain and walking at graduation. Even her college scholarships were at risk. She was sent to the district's alternative school for 30 days and told she could have faced criminal charges. Like thousands of other students around the country, she was caught by surveillance equipment that schools have installed to crack down on electronic cigarettes, often without informing...

The UK will ban disposable vapes and curb candy-flavored e-cigarettes that attract children under 18

LONDON -- Britain's government will ban the sale of disposable vapes and limit their cornucopia of flavors to prevent children from becoming addicted to nicotine, officials said Monday. It also plans to stick to a contentious proposal to ban today's young people from ever buying cigarettes. It is currently illegal to sell vapes or tobacco to children under 18 in the U.K., but officials say that youth vaping has tripled in the past three years, and that cheap, colorful disposable vapes in flavors like bubblegum and candy floss are a "key driver." "You talk to any parent or teacher, they'll talk to you about the worrying..."

Tribal program takes addiction treatment on the road

With the national opioid epidemic disproportionately affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives, a tribal confederation in Oregon decided to take matters into their own hands. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde not only opened Oregon's first tribally owned opioid treatment program in Salem in 2021, but a year later, the tribe also began what is believed to be the nation's first tribally operated mobile medication unit. The mobile bus runs a daily circuit from the tribal reservation in Grand Ronde to McMinnville to Salem, seeing patients and dispensing medications directly to tribal members struggling with...

Lawmaker wants California workplaces to put naloxone in first-aid kits

A new bill would require California workplaces to stock their first-aid kits with a nasal spray that can prevent opioid overdoses, greatly expanding the range of locations that have the lifesaving medication on hand. Naloxone, commonly sold under the brand name Narcan, can halt a deadly overdose if administered promptly. When the medicine reaches the brain, it binds to the same receptors as opioids, displacing the drugs so that their dangerous effects are reversed. As thousands of Californians lose their lives annually to opioid overdoses, state health officials have pushed to expand access to the medication...

Records show Publix opioid sales grew even as addiction crisis prompted other chains' pullback

An executive at Teva Pharmaceuticals flagged Publix Super Markets in October 2015 after detecting what he called in an email "serious red flags" with the grocery chain's orders of powerful opioids. The share of high-strength oxycodone orders was well above normal for a chain of grocery store pharmacies, and the total number of pills sent to Publix stores was "significantly above their peers," Teva's head of federal compliance wrote in the email to his supervisors, according to court records in a federal lawsuit pending in Ohio against Publix and other companies. "This is high-strength oxycodone ultimately..."

Justice Department expands claims against Pa. courts in opioid addiction treatment case

HARRISBURG — The U.S. Department of Justice has broadened its accusations that Pennsylvania courts discriminate against people with opioid use disorder by restricting access to medications widely seen in the medical community as life-saving. The outcome of this court case — which directly involves the state Supreme Court, as well as Blair, Jefferson, Lackawanna, and Northumberland County court systems as defendants — could have major implications across the state for people who experience opioid addiction and face criminal charges. Recently filed court documents show the opposing sides...

Washington state reaches \$149.5 million settlement with Johnson & Johnson over opioid crisis

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington state attorney general announced a \$149.5 million settlement Wednesday with drugmaker Johnson & Johnson, more than four years after the state sued the company over its role fueling the opioid addiction crisis. Attorney General Bob Ferguson's announcement came as opioid overdose deaths have risen across the state, with 2,048 in 2022 — more than twice as many deaths as there were in 2019, according to the most recent numbers from the Washington State Department of Health. Under the deal, the state and local governments would have to spend \$123.3 million to address...

Researchers uncover potential non-opioid treatment for chronic pain

A new approach to treating neuropathic pain is making a key step forward thanks to researchers at The University of Texas at Austin. Among the most difficult types of pain to alleviate is neuropathic pain, pain that is usually caused by damage to nerves in various body tissues, including skin, muscle and joints. It can cause patients to suffer feelings like electric shocks, tingling, burning or stabbing. Diabetes, multiple sclerosis, chemotherapy drugs, injuries and amputations have all been associated with neuropathic pain, which is often chronic, sometimes unrelenting and affects millions of people...

Psychology research: Women more sensitive to cocaine

Previous studies focused on cocaine use have found that women are more likely than men to develop an addiction, try cocaine at a younger age, use larger amounts of the drug, and suffer from overdose. Now, a new study from researchers at The University of Texas at Arlington in the journal *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* finally validates what scientists have long suspected: The female sex hormone estradiol (a synthetic version of the naturally occurring estrogen) is responsible for why women are more susceptible to cocaine addiction than men. "For the first time, we have shown that estradiol...

Investigating how patterns of polysubstance use are associated with sexual partnership factors

Researchers from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine studied how high levels of substance and polysubstance use are associated with sexual practices, and partner characteristics that can reinforce risk for HIV acquisition or transmission among Black and Latinx sexual youth as well as gender minority youth. The findings were recently published in the journal *Substance Use & Misuse*. Adult studies have demonstrated that polysubstance use increases the risk of acquiring HIV through increased sexual behaviors; however, few studies have...

Researchers establish brain pathway linking motivation, addiction and disease

New findings published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* have shed light on a mysterious pathway between the reward center of the brain that is key to how we form habits, known as the basal ganglia, and another anatomically distinct region where nearly three-quarters of the brain's neurons reside and assist in motor learning, known as the cerebellum. Researchers say the connection between the two regions potentially changes our fundamental view of how the brain processes voluntary movements and conditioned learning, and may lend fresh insight into the neural mechanisms...

Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services Issue Letter to State Medicaid Administrators Urging Coverage for Life-Saving Hepatitis C Medications

The Justice Department announced today that it and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a joint letter to state Medicaid administrators urging them to ensure, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), that their Medicaid programs allow people who have both Hepatitis C (HCV) and substance use disorder (SUD) to access life-saving HCV medications called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs). More than two million adults in the United States have HCV, which can result in a range of serious health conditions including liver disease, liver cancer and death. However, highly...

The FDA has issued a warning urging consumers to avoid any products with Tianeptine due to the risk of severe health consequences, including seizures, loss of consciousness, and death.

The FDA has issued a warning urging consumers to avoid any products with Tianeptine due to the risk of severe health consequences, including seizures, loss of consciousness, and death. In other parts of the world, Tianeptine is used as an anti-anxiety and anti-depressant medication; however, in the US, it is not FDA-approved for any medical use due to the growing amount of evidence that the substance poses dangerous health risks and overdose events. Despite this, Tianeptine products can still be found online and, more shockingly, at local gas stations and smoke shops. Companies are illegally selling...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-032](#)

[Mechanistic Studies on Social Behavior in Substance Use Disorder \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-033](#)

[Mechanistic Studies on Social Behavior in Substance Use Disorder \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans \(BESH\) Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-034](#)

[Mechanistic Studies on Social Behavior in Substance Use Disorder \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-053](#)

[Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Polypharmacology to Discover
Pharmacotherapeutics for Substance Use Disorders \(R41/R42 Clinical Trials Not
Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-054](#)

[Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Polypharmacology to Discover
Pharmacotherapeutics for Substance Use Disorders \(R43/R44 Clinical Trials Not
Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-063](#)

[Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Notice: Medication Discovery Using Rat Models of
Relapse](#)

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