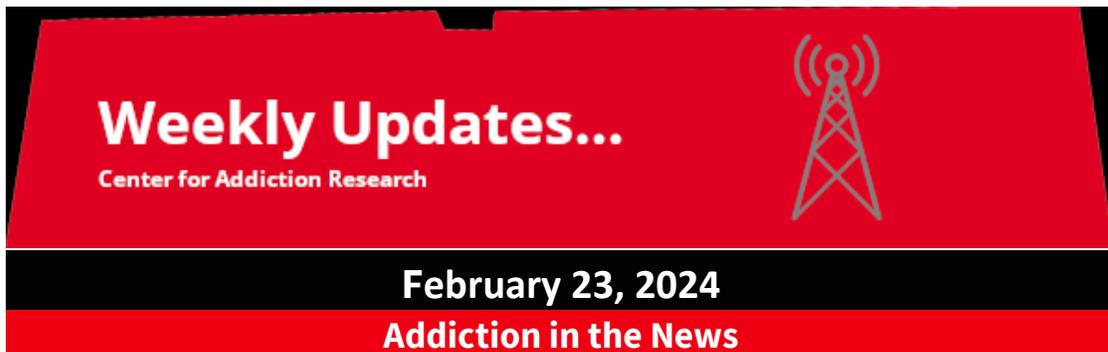


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

CINCINNATI (WXIX) - In response to opioid addiction rising among teens and young adults, Cincinnati Children's Hospital is offering help through an out-patient program. The hospital's Opioid Use Treatment Clinic is targeting patients 16 to 21 years old. "With the opioid crisis in America, we've seen initially adults that were being impacted by this," Emmanuel Chandler of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital said. "But over time there's been a significant increase in overdoses that we're seeing in adolescents and teenagers." Chandler said opioids, particularly ones containing fentanyl, are driving overdoses and overdose deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of teens...

'Magic mushrooms' are making a comeback, particularly in the Midwest.

Here's why

Psychedelic mushrooms are emerging again as a popular drug choice for some people – including some who struggle with anxiety and depression. The burst in interest in psilocybin mushrooms coincides with the plants becoming decriminalized or legalized in some cities or states, with more legislation on the legal horizon in others (though not Ohio). Drug seizures in the past year show that even the Cincinnati area and Ohio appear to be experiencing a resurgence of use of the drug that hippies once embraced as a cure for existential anxiety and just plain wonder. It is also a drug that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration placed on a list of dangerous substances in 1970. Recently, the National Institute...

OneOhio Recovery Foundation board holds first meeting of 2024

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization charged with statewide distribution of more than \$800 million for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts, held its first public meeting of the new year Feb. 14 at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce offices in Columbus. At the meeting, Board Chair Larry Kidd announced that he was stepping down as chair, effective immediately, but would continue to serve as a governor-appointed member of the board. “It has been my distinct honor to serve as chair of the Foundation board over the past 14 months. I’m proud of the work completed during this time, including hiring our first full-time executive director and helping to...

NKU working to increase addiction recovery resources, awareness in rural communities

There can be many challenges to addiction recovery, especially in rural communities. Northern Kentucky University is working to break down some of the barriers. The university’s Institute for Health Innovation has a program working to expand addiction recovery resources in Owen and Carroll counties. “There’s not much health infrastructure and for people who are impoverished, don’t have their own transportation and are struggling with addiction or substance misuse issues, it’s very very challenging,” said Dr. Valerie Hardcastle, St. Elizabeth Healthcare’s executive director of the Institute for Health Innovation at NKU. NKU started employing peer support specialists like Brittany Feltner...

National News

Music exposes listeners to alcohol references, potentially influencing drinking

At least one in four contemporary songs references alcohol, according to an analysis of multiple studies that hint at the effects of music exposure on listeners' drinking. Music is nearly ubiquitous in modern life, thanks partly to smartphones and streaming services. A 2022 study found that we listen to (on average) 961 hours of music per year, or two hours and 38 minutes per day. Music is a powerful social and emotional influence and can shape attitudes and behaviors. This may be particularly so among young people whose engagement with music is relatively high. Research has found that alcohol references...

Heavy alcohol, drug use linked to increased risk of falls among people with HIV

The consequences of a fall can be devastating, particularly among people who are at higher risk of a fracture such as people with HIV. Alcohol consumption and drug use are important risk factors for falls or fractures, but there are no standard medical guidelines on the level of consumption or type of alcohol or other drug use (AOD) that increases one's risk for falls and fall-related injuries, particularly among populations with conditions that already affect balance. A new study led by Boston University School of Public Health and Boston University Chobanian & Avedisan School of Medicine fills this gap with findings...

Using cannabis can ease cravings for street-level drugs, new research suggests

New findings from researchers at the University of British Columbia suggest that cannabis could play a role in addressing the ongoing opioid overdose crisis. The work is published in the journal *Addictive Behaviors*. The publication from Dr. Hudson Reddon, alongside UBC Okanagan's Dr. Zach Walsh and UBC Vancouver's Dr. M-J Milloy, observes that using cannabis is associated with decreased use of crystal methamphetamine among people at highest risk of overdose in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. About 45% of the study's participants reported using cannabis to manage their cravings for stimulant drugs...

Study finds menthol cigarette ban would lead a lot of people to quit smoking

A new paper published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* finds that banning the sale of menthol cigarettes would likely lead to a meaningful reduction in smoking rates. Menthol cigarettes are of particular public health concern because studies have found that the cooling effects of menthol mask the harshness of cigarettes, making it easier for young people to start smoking. Prior research has also found that menthol in cigarettes makes it easier for smokers to absorb nicotine, which results in greater dependence. Menthol smokers also find it harder to quit smoking compared to those who smoke non-menthol cigarettes. Prevalence...

Research shows lasting effects of smoking after quitting

Researchers are still discovering how smoking continues to harm people's health even years after they quit, with a new study on Wednesday revealing tobacco's lasting effect on the immune system. Despite the tobacco industry long fighting to conceal the dangers of smoking, tobacco is now known to kill more than eight million people globally a year, according to the World Health Organization. But the myriad of ways the habit damages bodies are still coming to light. The new study, published in the journal *Nature*, found that smoking alters the immune system, which protect bodies from infection, for...

E-cigarettes boost tobacco use abstinence with smoking cessation counseling

The addition of electronic cigarettes to standard smoking-cessation counseling results in greater abstinence from tobacco use among smokers than smoking-cessation counseling alone, according to a study published in the Feb. 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Reto Auer, M.D., from Bern University Hospital in Switzerland, and colleagues randomly assigned adults who were smoking at least five tobacco cigarettes per day and who wanted to set a quit date to an intervention group (622 participants; free e-cigarettes and e-liquids, standard-of-care smoking-cessation counseling, and option...

Young adults with cognitive disabilities and major depressive episodes found more likely to vape nicotine

In 2022, 14% of high school students and 3% of middle school students reported using e-cigarettes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is part of a growing trend of adolescents and young adults increasingly using e-cigarettes, also known as nicotine vaping. A new study led by Gilbert Gimm, associate professor in Mason's College of Public Health, found that a greater share of adolescents and young adults with cognitive disabilities engaged in past-month nicotine vaping (14.2%) compared to those without a disability (9.6%). The study also found that major depressive episodes...

'Fourth Wave' of Opioid Epidemic Crashes Ashore, Propelled by Fentanyl and Meth

The United States is knee-deep in what some experts call the opioid epidemic's "fourth wave," which is not only placing drug users at greater risk but is also complicating efforts to address the nation's drug problem. These waves, according to a report out Wednesday from Millennium Health, began with the crisis in prescription opioid use, followed by a significant jump in heroin use, then an increase in the use of synthetic opioids like fentanyl. The latest wave involves using multiple substances at the same time, combining fentanyl mainly with either methamphetamine or cocaine, the report found. "And I've yet..."

More people die after smoking drugs than injecting them, US study finds

Smoking has surpassed injecting as the most common way of taking drugs in U.S. overdose deaths, a new government study suggests. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called its study published Thursday the largest to look at how Americans took the drugs that killed them. CDC officials decided to study the topic after seeing reports from California suggesting that smoking fentanyl was becoming more common than injecting it. Potent, illicit versions of the painkiller are involved in more U.S. overdose deaths than any other drug. Some early research has suggested that smoking fentanyl is...

Geographic disparities in access to addiction treatment medication may be linked to race, ethnicity

Buprenorphine, a life-saving medication for opioid use disorder, is far less accessible in geographic areas of the United States with racially and ethnically diverse populations than in predominantly white areas, according to a new study of pre-pandemic data led by health policy scientists at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health published in *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. The study is among the first to examine buprenorphine access at the local, sub-county level, and the findings point to lack of access to medications for opioid use disorder as a potential contributing reason why overdose deaths are...

New technique can quickly detect fentanyl and other opioids

University of Waterloo researchers have developed a new blood testing method that can detect potent opioids much faster than traditional approaches and potentially save lives. The method, the latest effort by Waterloo researchers and entrepreneurs to lead health innovation in Canada, can simultaneously analyze 96 blood samples that could contain opioids such as fentanyl in under three minutes—twice as quickly as other techniques. A study detailing the new blood testing method was published in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*. "The difference between our blood testing method and...

Preventing relapse by restoring an opioid-weakened brain pathway governing behavior

Medical University of South Carolina scientists report in *Neuron* that they have uncovered a way to restore an opioid-weakened brain pathway in a preclinical model. The MUSC research team, led by neuroscientist James Otis, Ph.D., used advanced neuroscience tools to return a pathway between the thalamus and basal ganglia to healthy functioning in mice. As a result, this restoration prevented mice that were opioid-dependent from seeking or self-administering heroin. Results also suggested that sustained opioid use was the cause of this weakened pathway, rather than being caused by it. "Our study is the first...

Opioid cravings were reduced by anti-obesity drug in small study

DENVER — The GLP-1 medication liraglutide significantly reduced opioid cravings in a small analysis presented on Saturday. It is the first randomized controlled trial to test anti-obesity drugs against opioid addiction, which kills around 80,000 people in the U.S. each year. Among 20 patients for opioid use disorder, those on liraglutide experienced a 30% reduction in opioid cravings over the three-week study, with this effect evident at even the lowest liraglutide dose, according to data presented here at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference. Among patients already on...

This rural Maine jail is one of two in the US revolutionizing addiction treatment for inmates

MADISON, Maine — A program designed to help stop the cycle of opioid addiction is showing promise as a pilot project at a Maine county jail. The Somerset County Jail in Madison offers inmates an injection of the drug buprenorphine, a low-strength opioid doctors frequently provide to patients to help them wean off stronger opioids, such as heroin or fentanyl. There are three main versions of buprenorphine. The brand Suboxone is more commonly used nationwide. It's administered as a strip or film that dissolves when placed under a person's tongue, and it's effective for a 24-hour period. There are pills that...

New Jersey using millions from opioid settlement to expand support for people in recovery

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy on Thursday unveiled what he described as a historic effort to combat the opioid crisis in the Garden State. During a visit to the North Jersey Community Research Initiative, Murphy said over the next three years, more than \$95 million will be invested into a range of evidence-based strategies to expand care and support individuals in recovery. "The funding is not coming from the pockets of New Jersey's taxpayers. Instead, this funding is actually coming from settlement payments we are receiving from the opioid industry itself," he said. In 2022, New Jersey began receiving money from...

Fentanyl use spreads deeper into Mexico, on heels of US epidemic

MONTERREY, Mexico, Feb 20 (Reuters) - The teenager who arrived at Jose de Jesus Lopez's drug rehab clinic in the industrial Mexican city of Monterrey in December had unusual symptoms. The 17-year-old's family had taken the boy to hospital a few days earlier when he'd had trouble breathing and then passed out after supposedly consuming cocaine, the director said. Now he was sweaty and nauseous. He'd been vomiting and couldn't sleep. "Something doesn't add up," thought Lopez, who is also the head of an addiction center network in Nuevo Leon state, where Monterrey is located. The boy's...

Access to Opioids Could Be Boosting Suicide Rates

MONDAY, Feb. 19, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- Increased access to prescription opioids has driven up U.S. suicide rates by making it easier to women to end their lives, a new study claims. The study also blames a shrinking federal safety net during tough economic times for rising suicide rates. "We contend that the U.S. federal government's weak regulatory oversight of the pharmaceutical industry and tattered social safety nets have significantly shaped U.S. suicide risk," said lead researcher Daniel Simon, a doctoral candidate in sociology and a research affiliate with the University of...

More than 40% of Americans know someone who has died of a drug overdose

More than 40% of Americans know someone who has died of a drug overdose and about one-third of those individuals say their lives were disrupted by the death, according to a new RAND study. Analyzing a national representative survey of American adults, researchers found that the lifetime exposure to an overdose death is more common among women than men, married participants than unmarried participants, U.S.-born participants than immigrants, and those who live in urban settings as compared to those in rural settings. Rates of exposure were significantly higher in New England (Connecticut...

San Francisco wants to offer free drug recovery books at its public libraries

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The most stolen books from San Francisco public libraries' shelves are not the hottest new novels or juicy memoirs, they are books about

recovering from addiction. Now, city officials want to provide universal access to free drug recovery books, including Alcoholics Anonymous' 12-step recovery book. San Francisco City Supervisor Matt Dorsey on Tuesday introduced legislation to expand a pilot program to distribute addiction recovery books for free at the city's 28 public libraries. A record 806 people died of a drug overdose in the city last year. If approved, San Francisco would be the first...

Drug overdose deaths higher among American visitors to Florida than rest of US, researchers find

American visitors to Florida who died in the state were 63% more likely to have died from a drug overdose compared to visitors to all other states during the first two decades of the 2000s, according to researchers. They published their findings in the journal *Injury Prevention*. "Our research findings point to a health hazard not just for Florida but for Americans in general and a need for more legislation at the state and federal levels to address the issue," said Ilan Shrira, lead author of the study and a social psychologist in the psychology department at Penn State. Shrira and study co-author...

CTN Youth SIG Webinar: The Power of Play: Using Digital Health Games to Target Adolescent Substance Use and Mental Health (March 15, 11am ET)

The CTN Youth SIG is pleased to present an upcoming presentation/webinar: *The Power of Play: Using Digital Health Games to Target Adolescent Substance Use and Mental Health*, presented by, Lynn Fiellin, M.D. This presentation will highlight the work of the play2PREVENT Lab, an academic games research program, and the use of serious videogame interventions to impact health outcomes, particularly substance use and mental health, in adolescents. This talk will outline the process and outcomes involved with the past 15 years of this NIH-funded research.

A pharmacologist explains the controversy and addictive potential of the herbal substance kratom

The herbal substance kratom, derived from the leaves of a Southeast Asian tree, is used by nearly 2 million people in the United States annually. It can be easily purchased at gas stations and convenience stores, smoke shops and online, and is marketed as an "herbal supplement." Proponents claim that kratom has many of the pain-relieving benefits of traditional opioids and that it can potentially be used as a treatment for opioid dependence. The primary concern about kratom is that it can mimic how synthetic opioids work in the body, potentially causing overdoses, severe withdrawal symptoms and...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-25-043](#)

[Transformative Research on the Basic Mechanisms of Polysubstance use in Addiction \(R01 - Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-067](#)

[Notice of Change to the budget limits in RFA-DA-25-047 and RFA-DA-25-048, "Seeking Products to Address Social Needs impacting Substance Use Disorders \(SUD\) \(R41/R42 and R43/R44 Clinical Trials Optional\)"](#)

© [2020 Center for Addiction Research]

