

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 9.29.2023

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

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Seminar Series, Tuesday, Oct. 3, noon: **Anna Kruyer, PhD**, assistant professor, James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy (**and CAR Member**), will present "Astrocytes as Cellular Regulators of Heroin Relapse" in Medical Sciences Building 5051.

*[This Ohio initiative is following success of this approach in Jefferson County with the HEALing Communities Study. **Dr. T. John Winhusen is co-Principal Investigator of the HEALing Communities Study and the CAR Director.**]*

Overdose-reversing 'Naloxboxes' now hanging in Ohio rest stop bathrooms

CINCINNATI — Overdose-reversing Naloxone medication boxes have been installed in 65 rest-stops across Ohio as part of the RecoveryOhio initiative. Gov. Mike DeWine said the public access to overdose-reversing medication in public areas could save lives. "Increasing access to Naloxone is critical to combatting the opioid crisis and decreasing the number of overdose deaths in Ohio," DeWine said. "By placing Naloxboxes in rest areas across the state we are providing more opportunities to reverse the deadly effects of illicit opioids and providing opportunities for Ohioans to choose recovery. Recovering addict and Racing for Recovery employee Michael Herbster was happy to see the box when he...

BBC News Brazil: Vending machines provide overdose antidotes on U.S. streets

A program run by Cincinnati nonprofit Caracole in partnership with the University of Cincinnati launched one of the first harm reduction vending machines in the United States in 2021, and now the idea is continuing to spread across the country. Harm

reduction does not support or enable drug use, but instead aims to empathetically meet people where they are in the course of their drug use and help empower them to take steps which minimize the potential hazards associated with its use. The vending machine located outside of Caracole's Hamilton Avenue building features harm reduction supplies including naloxone, the drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, clean syringes and pipe...

\$60K retreats and a metal detector: How one family fought a vape addiction

He was going off to high school. An all-star Anderson Township kid. A Boy Scout. A varsity wrestler. His parents said he was obsessed with the sport, constantly watching videos and preparing for matches. He was also on the football team and got good grades. He had a girlfriend. He was kind and polite. A good kid. "Then, boom," his mother, Hagit Sunberg, said. "He completely walks away from all of it." Her husband, Jeff Sunberg, put it less delicately: "It's all gone to hell." It wasn't a boom but a puff – hundreds of puffs, actually, as their son became addicted to vaping. The boy's downward spiral has sent his father on a crusade against Big Tobacco, left his mother in a constant state of...

Men in recovery receive job training, free college credit through The City Mission and Tri-C partnership

Looking back can be an essential tool in life as those reflections often teach us our greatest lessons. It's how Richard Larkin Jr. says he was able to face his alcohol addiction. "It's making a big difference," said Larkin Jr., a client at Crossroads. "I pretty much lost everything...I got away from it, and came back to it, and it stuck for a few years...I felt like I needed it to function, so...I was a functioning alcoholic." Larkin Jr. says alcohol became a numbing bandage for the little boy still hurting within for years. "I've been going back to those childhood memories...my foundation and my beliefs were based on trauma," he said. Just like Jimmy Thompson, the addiction tried to take their lives. "I...

Preventing fatal overdoses in the local community

Partnerships between the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) and the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education has allowed for the creation of a comprehensive database of more than 250 variables to understand fatal overdoses in the county. A team of researchers recently published an article on the importance of using local medicolegal and seizure data for surveillance to prevent fatal overdoses in local communities. They found that the local drug supply in Cuyahoga County continues to be unsafe, particularly with the role of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in the drug supply and decedents' toxicology. The researchers emphasized the importance...

Ky. opioid abatement commission considers psychedelic treatment for opioid addiction

The state panel will decide in the next few months whether to invest \$42 million of Kentucky's nearly \$900 million in opioid lawsuit settlement funds. Bryan Hubbard, the commission's chair, proposed the plan earlier this year. Ibogaine has gained recognition in recent years for its potential to treat severe PTSD and opioid addiction while minimizing withdrawal symptoms. But the drug is still classified as a Schedule 1 substance and is not approved for distribution by the Food and Drug Administration. Without FDA approval, many of those who spoke at the panel hearing Friday said they or their loved ones traveled abroad to seek help. Jerry Catlett, an insurance advisor from Mercer County, said...

Local KY Communities Tackle Youth Vaping Crisis

Widespread vaping among young Kentuckians continues to be a public health concern - and some local communities are coming up with innovative ways to tackle the issue. A big win in the battle against nicotine came when the Commonwealth raised the age limit to purchase nicotine products to 21. Lauren Carr, director of the Graves County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy and Prevention, said local shops are still selling vapes to kids. Her county is incentivizing business owners not to sell to minors. "We reward the clerks that do not sell with a gift card," she said. "So we say, 'Hey, thank you for not selling to the kids. Because that is preventing it from getting into the schools.'" Experts say...

Southcentral KY holds first regional opioid symposium

Over 100 southcentral Kentucky leaders, service providers and residents met Monday at the National Corvette Museum to discuss how the region would use its portion of a historic opioid settlement. Kentucky has a major problem. In 2022, 2,135 Kentuckians died from drug overdoses, 90% of which involved opioids. That's 62% higher than 2019's drug overdose deaths. But now, Kentucky also has the money to fund potential solutions, much of it coming from a historic \$26 billion multi-state settlement with manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies implicated in the spread of the opioid crisis. How does the opioid settlement work? Kentucky has received more than \$900 million through...

National News

States maintain outdated laws that create barriers to screening and treatment for alcohol use disorder, finds analysis

Eighteen U.S. states have laws that allow insurance companies to deny health care payments to treat people who were intoxicated when they sustained an injury, despite evidence showing that these laws prevent people from receiving treatment for alcohol use disorder and shift costs from insurance companies to the health care system, the government, individuals and families. Since 2004, the number of states maintaining these laws has dropped by half, and the number of states specifically

prohibiting these insurance exclusions has increased five-fold to fifteen, according to a legal analysis...

Shared genetic factors influence risks for disordered eating and alcohol use in late adolescence, twin study finds

Certain genetic influences contribute to disordered eating and problematic alcohol use, leaving some people vulnerable to both conditions, according to a large study of late adolescent twins. Previous research has found concurrent eating disorders and risky drinking in younger teens amplify the chance of worse outcomes, including death. Studies across age groups have pointed to shared genetic influences for the two conditions, and other studies suggest that changes in one disorder may aggravate symptoms in the other. Understanding the genetic and environmental factors involved in co-occurring...

Animal study reveals bittersweet brain chemical clue that may help women stop binge drinking

Dr. Leigh Walker led a study that showed that when a certain chemical is removed from the brain, males drink more and females drink less. But when the alcoholic drinks are sweetened, female consumption goes up. Dr. Walker, an expert in the neurobiology of anxiety and alcohol use disorders, said the findings could pave the way for treatments designed to help women stop binge drinking. "The taste of alcohol is an important and often overlooked factor that drives alcohol preference, intake and use," Dr. Walker said. "We have identified a chemical in the brain that makes alcohol taste bitter to females, unless..."

Heavy Drinking Not Tied to Lower Response to DAAs for Hepatitis C

Alcohol use and alcohol use disorder (AUD) were not associated with lower odds of sustained virologic response to direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy for chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, according to a retrospective cohort study of veterans. Among over 69,000 patients who initiated DAA therapy, there was no evidence that any alcohol use category was significantly associated with decreased odds of sustained virologic response, reported Christopher T. Rentsch, PhD, of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and colleagues: Abstinence without AUD history: OR 1.09, 95% CI 0.99-1.20...

Cost of treating liver disease tied to drinking projected to double over 20 years

With high-risk drinking on the rise across the nation, experts project the annual cost of treating alcohol-associated liver disease, or ALD, will more than double over the next two decades, increasing from \$31 billion in 2022 to \$66 billion in 2040. The recently released report was published in the American Journal of Gastroenterology. It was led by Jovan Julien, a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School, and Jagpreet Chhatwal, director of the Institute for Technology Assessment at Massachusetts General Hospital. The results depict a bleak scenario: An economic and public health crisis...

Elevated temperatures and climate change may contribute to rising drug and alcohol disorders

Hospital visits from alcohol- and substance-related disorders are driven by elevated temperatures and could be further affected by rising temperatures due to climate change, according to new research by environmental health scientists at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. The study, which is published in *Communications Medicine*, is likely the first comprehensive investigation of the association between temperature and alcohol- and substance-related hospital visits. "We saw that during periods of higher temperatures, there was a corresponding increase in hospital visits...

Young adults' simultaneous use of alcohol and marijuana linked to more negative consequences

Up to one in four young adults use alcohol and marijuana simultaneously (i.e., use at the same time with overlapping effects), a behavior linked to a greater risk of adverse consequences. Given the expanding legalization of non-medical marijuana use, there is an urgent need to better understand the effects of simultaneous use and who is most vulnerable to adverse outcomes. Previous research has yielded mixed and limited results. For the study in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, investigators sought to clarify the associations and consequences of simultaneous use in...

Safety concerns about youth access to online marijuana dispensaries

Researchers from the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York, Lake Success, have looked into age verification procedures and the potential for underage youth access to online marijuana dispensaries in the United States. In the paper, "Access to Marijuana by Minors Via Online Dispensaries," published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, researchers performed a cross-sectional analysis of data collected from the websites of 80 online marijuana dispensaries in 32 states. The data included dispensary locations, shipment regions, product types, age restrictions and verification...

Cannabis use disorder may be linked to increased risk of cardiovascular disease

A new study has found that Canadian adults with cannabis use disorder appear to have an approximately 60% higher risk of experiencing their first heart attack, stroke, or other major cardiovascular event than those without cannabis use disorder. The study, published in *Addiction*, measured the association between problematic marijuana use and the first-time occurrence of adverse cardiovascular disease events such as heart attack, stroke, cardiac dysrhythmias, and peripheral vascular disease. Researchers used five Canadian health databases to create a cohort of nearly 60,000 participants, half...

Using a CBD product? Be sure to tell your doctor

Cannabinoid products may interfere with some prescription medications, so people who use them should add these to the list of supplements they tell their doctors about. This interference could have serious health consequences, according to Penn State Health, which offered some additional advice as legal medical and recreational cannabis becomes more common. "Whether it's recreational cannabis, prescribed cannabinoid or medical marijuana, it's important your doctor knows you're using it," said Kent Vrana, head of the pharmacology department at Penn State College of Medicine. "A problem in...

56 million Americans unknowingly exposed to secondhand smoke, finds study

More than half of American adults have been recently exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke—and the vast majority of them were unaware, according to new research. Nationwide, the new findings suggest that 56 million Americans are unknowingly and routinely exposed to toxic secondhand smoke. "There is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure, and long term exposure can increase the risk of many chronic conditions, such as coronary heart disease, respiratory disease, and cancers," said Ruixuan (Roxanne) Wang, a doctoral candidate in the College of Public Health and Health...

FDA must do more to penalize retailers that illegally sell tobacco to kids, government review finds

The US Food and Drug Administration needs to take a stronger stance against retailers that illegally sell tobacco products to children, according to a new report from the US Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General (OIG). In a report published Thursday, the OIG says that the FDA didn't scrutinize repeat violators enough, and in some states, the agency may have been disproportionately focused on sellers in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The report also suggested that the FDA needs to do a better job overseeing online retailers and should work with the Bureau of Alcohol...

E-cigarettes not a safer alternative to smoking, expert says

Electronic cigarette use, or vaping, has been seen as a potentially less harmful alternative to traditional cigarette smoking. A University of Texas at Arlington expert says otherwise. New research from Ziyad Ben Taleb, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and director of the Nicotine and Tobacco Research Laboratory, says that vaping use is just as harmful to the body as cigarette smoking. Ben Taleb's study appears in the journal *Tobacco Induced Diseases*. "Vaping e-cigarettes is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking, especially when it comes to preserving cardiovascular..."

Higher buprenorphine doses associated with improved retention in treatment for opioid use disorder

Individuals with opioid use disorder who were prescribed a lower buprenorphine dose were 20% more likely to discontinue treatment than those on a higher dose, according to a study of patients prescribed buprenorphine in Rhode Island from 2016 to 2020, as fentanyl became widely available. The study, published today in JAMA Network Open, was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, and conducted by researchers at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island; NIDA and the Rhode Island Department of Health. Among patients newly...

Use of injectable extended-release buprenorphine limited by cost and treatment retention, finds study

Injectable, extended-release buprenorphine can be an effective option for people seeking treatment for opioid use disorder, but cost and treatment retention are still barriers for patients unless there are significant changes, new research from Boston Medical Center has found. The study, published in JAMA Network Open, concludes that oral buprenorphine may be more cost-effective and have a higher rate of treatment retention, but the opioid overdose crisis requires a broad menu of effective treatments, including injectable formulations, to address the diverse needs of all patients. The United States record...

The stark U.S. divide in xylazine use

There are stark regional differences in the use of xylazine, a powerful veterinary sedative increasingly mixed with illicit fentanyl that can cause skin-rotting wounds, according to a new report from the drug testing lab Millennium Health. Why it matters: Fatal overdoses involving xylazine, also known as "tranq" or "zombie drug," have skyrocketed in recent years, worsening the nation's drug crisis. And a patchy surveillance system scattered across local and state governments makes it difficult to track xylazine's spread in real time. What they found: While virtually all positive urine tests for xylazine also...

Nitazenes: Synthetic opioids more deadly than fentanyl are starting to turn up in overdose cases

The synthetic opioid fentanyl is well known for the many lives it has claimed—mainly in the US, but elsewhere too. Now, a less well-known class of synthetic opioids called nitazenes is starting to crop up in overdose cases, on both sides of the Atlantic. Nitazenes have recently been the subject of a national patient safety alert in the UK as a result of a spike in opioid-related deaths over the last two months, with several cases involving nitazenes. Some drugs in the nitazene class are 100 times more potent than morphine—so about as potent as fentanyl. However, nitazenes may be more deadly. A recent study...

Q&A: Methadone is effective for opioid use disorder, so why aren't more patients using it?

Since the 1970s, methadone has been used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) with great success—reducing the likelihood of dying from an opioid overdose by 50% or more. Yet for patients and prescribers alike, choosing the drug for OUD treatment is complicated. That's because methadone is subject to strict prescriber regulations that other FDA-approved OUD medicines, like buprenorphine, aren't—regulations that have been unchanged for half a century. Under these guidelines, methadone may be dispensed only by specially certified providers in particular facilities—meaning your primary care...

Officials Agree: Use Settlement Funds to Curb Youth Addiction. But the 'How' Gets Hairy.

When three teenagers died of fentanyl overdoses last year in Larimer County, Colorado, it shocked the community and “flipped families upside down,” said Tom Gonzales, the county’s public health director. Several schools began stocking naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses. Community organizations trained teens to use it. But county and school officials wanted to do more. That’s when they turned to opioid settlement funds — money coming from national deals with health care companies like Johnson & Johnson, AmerisourceBergen, and CVS, which were accused of fueling...

Markey and Manchin urge FDA to stop its study of opioids for chronic pain

Two Democratic senators are warning the Food and Drug Administration not to proceed with a controversial trial meant to measure opioids’ effectiveness as a chronic pain treatment. In a letter shared with STAT, Sens. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) warned FDA Commissioner Robert Califf against using the method in the agency’s ongoing work to evaluate whether opioids, despite their widespread use, are effective at treating chronic pain. The FDA’s plan to use the research method, known as an enriched enrollment randomized withdrawal (EERW) trial, has drawn scrutiny as the agency has...

How circuits in the brain may lead to pain management without the use of opioids

When it comes to relieving pain, opioids are virtually unmatched. These drugs, which act on opioid receptors in the brain and the body, pack a potent punch and can effectively manage intense pain. The downside is the addictive nature of opioids. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the number of deaths by drug overdose increased sixfold between 1999 and 2021, with many of these deaths attributed to the ongoing opioid epidemic. This places doctors in a tricky spot, since prescription opioids such as hydrocodone and oxycodone are powerful tools when it comes to pain...

Offering treatment to drug users instead of arresting them reduces crime and addiction, research finds

When police get suspected drug abusers treatment rather than arresting them, those people are less likely to abuse drugs or commit drug-related crimes in the future, new, limited research finds. This kind of police intervention can help reduce opioid abuse. The U.S. has been in the throes of rampant opioid abuse since the late 1990s. Communities around the country have experienced increases in opioid-related deaths and crimes as a result. One study shows opioid-related deaths more than quadrupled from 9,489 in 2001 to 42,245 in 2016. Another study indicates that people addicted to opioids...

Prescribing just a few opioid tablets to patients discharged from emergency departments can ease pain but prevent misuse

Half of patients discharged from the emergency department need only five tablets or fewer of morphine 5mg or an equivalent opioid pain killer, according to new research presented at the European Emergency Medicine Congress. The recent crisis in opioid abuse has been partly attributed to over-prescription, particularly for chronic pain, and doctors have become cautious about giving these drugs to patients. However, researchers say it is vital that patients are given sufficient medication to help them recover from pain and injury, and the new study will help emergency medicine doctors to get the...

Lifesaving addiction medications are rarely started following opioid overdose emergencies, research finds

Could future opioid overdoses, fatalities and other harms of opioid addiction be prevented if hospital emergency departments made better use of effective medications for opioid addiction? A team of University of Michigan researchers thinks so. Led by Thuy Nguyen of U-M's School of Public Health, the researchers analyzed national Medicaid claims data of patients ages 12 to 64 treated at U.S. emergency departments for opioid overdoses in 2018. They focused on ED visits for opioid overdose and the rate of initiation of FDA-approved medications for opioid addiction, including buprenorphine...

Can you stop an overdose death? Updated guidelines may help

Saving lives after an opioid overdose isn't just the job of emergency department workers, according to guidelines on how to treat heart-stopping poisonings. Opioids are just one of the substances addressed in the updated American Heart Association guidelines. But the threat posed by overdoses from such drugs, particularly fentanyl, is immense, said Dr. Eric Lavonas, professor of emergency medicine at Denver Health and the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. "Opioids kill more Americans than all other poisons together by a lot," said Lavonas, who led the expert panel that wrote the updated guidelines...

Overdose crisis reaches historic levels in New York City

The overdose crisis has reached historic levels in New York City, according to new data from the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Provisional data shows there were 3,026 overdose deaths in New York City in 2022, the highest total since the department began recording such incidents in 2000. Newly released data shows that overdose deaths increased by 12% from 2021 to 2022. Fentanyl was detected in 81% of drug overdose deaths in New York City, according to the data. Fentanyl is an opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, the department states. The report found that Black and...

The opioid epidemic is deadly and expensive. Here's what it has cost Texas

Every fentanyl death in North Texas is exponentially destructive. Classroom chairs sit empty. Families mourn. Grandparents go back to work to raise their orphaned grandchildren. Then come the bills. Funeral and medical expenses can cost tens, even hundreds of thousands of dollars. But each life squandered to overdose or addiction equals lost hours working, parenting, creating and spending that ripple across the Texas economy in ways that can scarcely be measured. In 2022, Texas lost the financial equivalent of around 15 Dallas Cowboys franchises, or more than Warren Buffett's net...

Decriminalizing drug possession not linked to higher overdose death rates in Oregon or Washington

In recent months, several media outlets have investigated an Oregon law that decriminalized possession of small amounts of controlled substances, including heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine, for some persons. The articles have included information suggesting that the law may be responsible for continued increases in overdose deaths. New research led by NYU Grossman School of Medicine published online in JAMA Psychiatry suggests that in Oregon and Washington, two states that implemented drug decriminalization policies in early 2021, there is no evidence of an association between...

Glasgow gets go-ahead to open UK's first drug consumption room

Cities across Scotland are considering setting up their own safe injecting facilities after authorities in Glasgow gave the official go-ahead to the UK's first drug consumption room. "All eyes are on Glasgow," said Allan Casey, Glasgow city council's addictions convener, after the plans were approved on Wednesday morning by a joint committee of NHS and council officials. "We know from experience that networks of safe injecting facilities are what is needed and we would be more than happy to work with other cities. I'm already having questions from different cities around the country looking to..."

Addressing social determinants of health in post-overdose outreach associated with reduction in overdoses

Post-overdose outreach programs have proliferated as Massachusetts communities seek to respond to the opioid overdose crisis, driven by fentanyl in the illicit drug supply and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Post-overdose outreach, often by public health and public safety partnerships, seeks to connect overdose survivors with naloxone, overdose education, and treatment to reduce the high risk of a subsequent fatal overdose, but outreach strategy and methods vary widely by municipality. New research from Boston Medical Center's...

Family support vital to prevent teen substance use in border regions, study says

New research from the University of Arizona Health Sciences Comprehensive Pain and Addiction Center found that high levels of family support may prevent substance use among teens who live in border towns on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Adolescence is marked by changes and challenges, including the potential for substance abuse. In the United States, by their final year in high school, 46.7% of youth have tried illicit drugs, according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. Prior research shows social and...

Common brain network detected among people with substance use disorder

A new study by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital suggests a common brain network exists among people with substance use disorder. By evaluating data from across more than 144 studies of addiction, the team found abnormalities across substance use disorders mapped to a common brain network across substances and lesion locations, suggesting a potential brain circuit to target with neurostimulation therapies. The findings are published in Nature Mental Health. "Our study found that different brain regions implicated in addiction..."

Oregon launches legal psilocybin access amid high demand and hopes for improved mental health care

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Psilocybin tea, wind chimes and a tie-dye mattress await those coming to an office suite in Eugene to trip on magic mushrooms. For roughly six hours, adults over 21 can experience what many users describe as vivid geometric shapes, a loss of identity and a oneness with the universe. Epic Healing Eugene — America's first licensed psilocybin service center — opened in June, marking Oregon's unprecedented step in offering the mind-bending drug to the public. The center now has a waitlist of more than 3,000 names, including people with depression, PTSD or end-of-life dread. No prescription...

Substance Abuse Greatly Raises Odds of Heart Attack, Stroke During Pregnancy

THURSDAY, Sept. 21, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Substance abuse and pregnancy may be a dangerous combination. New research finds that pregnant women with a history of substance abuse had a dramatically increased risk of death from heart

attack and stroke during childbirth compared to women with no drug history. “This telling research shows that substance use during pregnancy doubled cardiovascular events and maternal mortality during delivery,” said senior author Dr. Martha Gulati, associate director of the Barbra Streisand Women’s...

Talking to a Loved One Battling Substance Abuse: Staying Positive Is Key

SATURDAY, Sept. 23, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- A conversation with a family member or loved one struggling with addiction can be the catalyst for getting help. But it’s important to choose your words carefully when discussing possible addiction to controlled substances with your loved one, said Dr. Aleksandra Zgierska, a professor of family and community medicine at Penn State College of Medicine. Staying positive is important. “Change can start with just a conversation,” Zgierska said in a college news release. “But that conversation can’t be...

How AI and AR could increase the risk of problem gambling for online sports betting

Sometimes referred to as the "crack cocaine of gambling," electronic gaming machines (EGMs) such as slot machines allow bets to be placed as quickly as once every 2.5 seconds, delivering a rapid and immersive gambling experience. Similar features are now being used to transform online sports betting, significantly increasing the risk of problem gambling. Sports betting is one the UK's most popular forms of gambling. Traditionally, people have placed sports bets in the same way they play the national lottery: betting on the final result of a match or race during the week and often waiting until the...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-24-006](#)

[Mechanistic Studies of the Effects of Psychosocial Stress on Complex Morbidity Involving SUD, Psychiatric Disorders, and HIV \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans \(BESH\) Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-005](#)

[Mechanistic Studies of the Effects of Psychosocial Stress on Complex Morbidity Involving SUD, Psychiatric Disorders, and HIV \(R01 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-067](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Research to Increase Implementation of Substance Use Preventive Services \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-066](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Research to Increase Implementation of Substance Use Preventive Services \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-016](#)

[Single Cell Opioid Responses in the Context of HIV \(SCORCH\) Program: Data Mining and Functional \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-017](#)

[Single Cell Opioid Responses in the Context of HIV \(SCORCH\) Program: Data Mining and Functional \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-025](#)

[NIDA REI: Training a Diverse Data Science Workforce for Addiction Research \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@uc.edu **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunity, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

Center for Responsible Gaming invites proposals for research into prevention

Deadline: October 16, 2023

The International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) aims to help individuals and families affected by gambling disorders and to prevent the onset of gambling problems through high-quality scientific research and evidence-based educational programming on gambling disorders and responsible gambling. The ICRG has requested applications for research on responsible gambling and prevention. Grants of up to \$60,000 per year for up to 3 years plus 15 percent in facilities and administration costs will be awarded to advance the development, implementation, and validation of interventions to minimize gambling-related harm. Investigators are invited to explore interventions to prevent the negative consequences associated with gambling, including impacts on the gambling of players who gamble in a problematic manner. Although open to a wide range of topics, the following are funding priorities: voluntary self-exclusion, the low uptake of responsible gambling tools, analyzing and testing RG messaging, and the perception of people who gamble ranging from low to high engagement, of existing RG programs and coping tools, and how to enhance the uptake and effectiveness of these tools. Domestic, international, public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit organizations can apply for ICRG funding. The principal investigator must have a PhD, MD, or terminal degree. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the International Center for Responsible Gaming website.

CAR Member New Publications

Clinical and psychosocial outcomes by sex among individuals prescribed buprenorphine-naloxone (BUP-NX) or extended-release naltrexone (XR-NTX) for opioid use disorder

Margaret Paschen-Wolff DrPH, Shelly F. Greenfield MD, R. Kathryn McHugh PhD, Kathleen Burlew PhD, Martina Pavlicova PhD, Tse-Hwei Choo MS, Celestina Barbosa-Leiker PhD, Lesia M. Ruglass PhD, Sarah Mennenga PhD, John Rotrosen MD, Edward V. Nunes MD, Aimee N. C. Campbell PhD

The American Journal on Addictions

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajad.13463>

ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives: Limited research has explored sex differences in opioid use disorder medication (MOUD) treatment outcomes. The purpose of this study was to examine MOUD initiation onto buprenorphine-naloxone (BUP-NX) versus extended-release naltrexone (XR-NTX) by sex, and sex differences in clinical and psychosocial outcomes.

Methods: Using data from a 24-week open-label comparative effectiveness trial of BUP-NX or XR-NTX, this study examined MOUD initiation (i.e., receiving a minimum one XR-NTX injection or first BUP-NX dose) and 24-week self-report outcomes. We used regression models to estimate the probability of MOUD initiation failure among the intent-to-treat sample (N = 570), and the main and interaction effects of sex on outcomes of interest among the subsample of participants who successfully initiated MOUD (n = 474).

Results: In the intent-to-treat sample, the odds of treatment initiation failure were not significantly different by sex. In the subsample of successful MOUD initiates, the effect of treatment on employment at week 24 was significantly moderated by sex ($p = .003$); odds of employment were not significantly different among males by MOUD type; females randomized to XR-NTX versus BUP-NX had 4.63 times greater odds of employment ($p < .001$). Males had significantly lower odds of past 30-day exchanging sex for drugs versus females (adjusted odds ratios [aOR] = 0.10, $p = .004$), controlling for treatment and baseline outcomes.

Discussion and Conclusions: Further research should explore how to integrate employment support into OUD treatment to improve patient outcomes, particularly among women.

Scientific Significance: The current study addressed gaps in the literature by examining sex differences in MOUD initiation and diverse treatment outcomes in a large, national sample.

Integrative data analysis of clinical trials network studies to examine the impact of psychosocial treatments for black people who use cocaine: Study protocol

Angela M Haeny, Caravella McCuistian, A Kathleen Burlew, Lesia M Ruglass, Adriana Espinosa, Ayana Jordan, Christopher Roundtree, Joel Lopez, Antonio A Morgan-López

Contemporary Clinical Trials

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cct.2023.107329>

ABSTRACT

Background: Cocaine overdose death rates among Black people are higher than that of any other racial/ethnic group, attributable to synthetic opioids in the cocaine supply. Understanding the most effective psychostimulant use treatment interventions for Black people is a high priority. While some interventions have proven effective for the general population, their comparative effectiveness among Black people remains unknown. To address this gap, our NIDA-funded Clinical Trials Network (CTN) study (0125), will use Integrative Data Analysis (IDA) to examine treatment effectiveness across 9 CTN studies. This manuscript describes the study protocol for CTN-0125.

Methods: Of the 59 completed randomized clinical trials in the CTN with available datasets, nine met our inclusion criteria: 1) behavioral intervention, 2) targeted cocaine use or use disorder, 3) included sub-samples of participants who self-identified as Black and 4) included outcome measures of cocaine and psychostimulant use and consequences. We aim to 1) estimate scale scores of cocaine use severity while considering study-level measurement non-invariance, 2) compare the effectiveness of psychosocial treatments for psychostimulant use, and 3) explore individual (e.g., concomitant opioid use, age, sex, employment, pre-treatment psychiatric status) and study-level moderators (e.g., attendance/retention) to evaluate subgroup differences in treatment effectiveness.

Conclusions: The NIDA CTN provides a unique collection of studies that can offer insight into what interventions are most efficacious for Black people. Findings from our CTN-0125 study have the potential to substantially inform treatment approaches specifically designed for Black people who use psychostimulants.

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