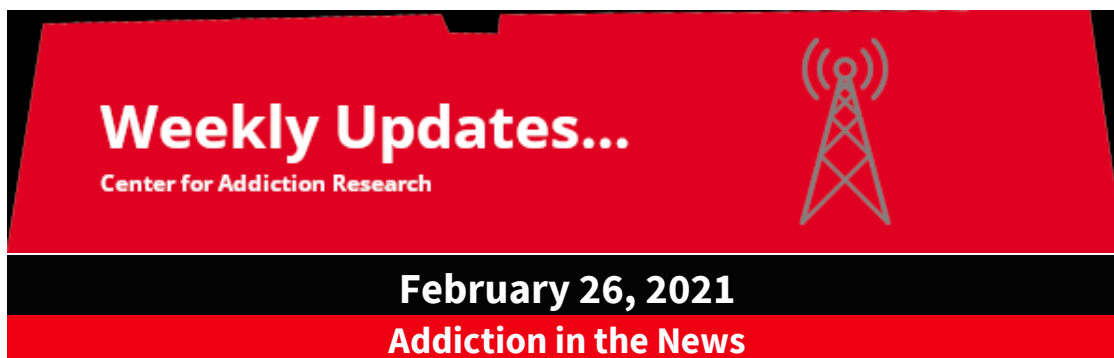


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 2.26.2021

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.

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

### **Montgomery joins journal editorial team**

[Dean's List Weekly News from the College of Medicine 2/22/2021](#)

LaTrice Montgomery, PhD, research associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, has been appointed as an associate editor of the journal Cannabis.

Cannabis is an open access peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the scientific study of marijuana/cannabis from a multidisciplinary perspective. Consistent with the mission of the Research Society on Marijuana, the journal publishes empirical research of the determinants, correlates, consequences, contexts and assessment of marijuana use, as well as the treatment of problematic marijuana use, including cannabis use disorder.

Montgomery, a researcher and licensed clinical psychologist in the department's Center for Addiction Research/Addiction Sciences Division, focuses her research on cannabis and tobacco co-use, especially via blunts. She also investigates medical marijuana and racial disparities in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. She also is an associate editor and social media editor for the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, a peer-reviewed journal that features research articles

on the assessment and treatment of substance use and addictive disorders, including alcohol, illicit and prescription drugs and nicotine.

### **Legislation would permanently schedule Fentanyl-related substances**

Ironton Tribune

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Joe Manchin, D- West Virginia, introduced the bipartisan Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act on Monday, in order to permanently schedule illicitly manufactured and deadly fentanyl. In February 2018, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a temporary scheduling order...

## **National News**

### **State Data Show More Minnesota Students Vaping Marijuana Despite Increased Concerns.**

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/23, Smith, 855K) reports that although “the number of Minnesota teens vaping e-cigarettes has stubbornly stayed flat, a growing number of students who do are vaping marijuana despite increasing public health campaigns and local laws curbing e-cigarette sales.” Of the one in five Minnesota high school students who reported using e-cigarettes in 2020, “65% vaped marijuana – nearly double the rate in 2017, according to a new study by the state Department of Health. Among the 3% of middle school students who used e-cigarettes, 72% vaped marijuana in 2020, up from 16% in 2017.”

### **Opinion: British Columbia Has One Of Highest Opioid Toxicity Death Rates In North America As It Seeks To Decriminalize Drugs.**

Global contributing columnist J.J. McCullough writes in an opinion in the [Washington Post](#) (2/22, 10.52M) that the province of British Columbia “has the highest rate of opioid toxicity deaths in Canada, and while differences in U.S. and Canadian data prevent an apples-to-apples comparison, a rate of 33.4 overdose deaths per 100,000 people would appear to make B.C. one of the most drug-ravaged jurisdictions on the continent – with no sign of slowing down.” According to McCullough, “Government-provided clean needles and supervised injection sites have given way to government-provided ‘safe supply’ of clean drugs and, now, the government of British Columbia formally requesting Ottawa’s permission to begin decriminalizing drugs altogether.” He adds that the government of British Columbia has been “discarding harsh truths for friendly euphemisms” and a “‘province-wide social marketing anti-stigma campaign,’ including ads portraying drug users as happy members of bourgeois society.”

### **Report: Heroin Was Main Cause Of Suburban Chicago Opioid Deaths.**

The [AP](#) (2/19) reported that a “study of deaths related to opioid-related overdoses in suburban Chicago has found heroin was the chief killer, according to a report

released Friday.” The report, “titled ‘Opioid Epidemic in Suburban Cook County,’ was a joint effort by the Cook County Department of Public Health and researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago.” The report “revealed that of the 1,600 overdose deaths recorded from 2016 through June 2020, 83% tested positive for fentanyl or heroin, or a combination of both.”

### **California Lawmaker Proposes Bill That Would Decriminalize Possession, Personal Use Of Several Psychedelic Drugs.**

[The Hill](#) (2/18, Srikanth, 5.69M) reports, “The state of California could be one step closer to decriminalizing all drugs if lawmakers approve new legislation” introduced by State Sen. Scott Wiener on Wednesday that “would decriminalize possession and personal use of a number of psychedelics that can be used for medical treatment.” The bill would “decriminalize a number of hallucinogenic substances, allowing personal use and ‘social sharing’ of the drugs, which include psilocybin, LSD, MDMA and ketamine, as well as related drug paraphernalia for those 21 and older.”

### **Overdose Deaths Hit Record High In Pandemic.**

The [Washington Times](#) (2/18, Tan, 626K) reports “drug overdoses killed an estimated 83,544 people during a 12-month period ending in July 2020, a record that coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic, which experts say has created a huge amount of stress and hampered treatment services.” That represents “almost a 25% increase from the year that ended in July 2019, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 68,023 overdose deaths.” Furthermore, “the number of calls to the national crisis hotline run by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration rose last year by more than 700% from 2019, according to agency spokesman Christopher Garrett.” NIDA Director Nora Volkow said, “During the pandemic, more people are experiencing anxiety. More people are experiencing depression. And one of the ways that people cope with depression and anxiety is taking drugs.”

### **Recreational Substance Use Can Bring On Heart Attacks, Strokes And Other Cardiac Events Earlier In Life, Study Indicates.**

The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Blakemore, 10.52M) reported researchers found “that recreational substance use can bring on heart attacks, strokes and other cardiac events in earlier life, too – and those who have used four or more substances are nine times as likely to experience early heart disease than those who don’t.” The findings were published in *Heart*.

### **Two Telehealth Bills To Be Reintroduced In Congress This Week.**

[mHealth Intelligence](#) (2/23, Wicklund) reports, “Two popular telehealth bills that failed to make it through last year’s Legislature are being reintroduced this week on Capitol Hill, adding to a growing number of connected health bills aimed at

continuing the momentum for telehealth beyond the coronavirus pandemic.” Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) on Monday “re-submitted the Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services (TREATS) Act, which would make permanent certain emergency actions passed during the coronavirus pandemic to boost telehealth access for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.” Furthermore, “the Alliance for Connected Care is reporting that Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Tim Scott (R-SC) plan to reintroduce the Telehealth Modernization Act.”

### **Over 60% Of 18-To-24-Year-Olds Reported Symptoms Of Anxiety, Depression, CDC Survey Indicates.**

[ABC News](#) (2/21, Alkhouri, 2.44M) reports, “The pandemic has closed schools, offices, sports arenas and limited social interaction for millions of people – perhaps an even bigger struggle for young people more used to being active.” In a recent CDC survey, “63% of 18- to-24-year-olds reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, with 25% reporting increased substance use to deal with that stress and 25% saying they’d seriously considered suicide.”

### **CDO Council Looks To ‘Blend Data’ Across Agencies To Maximize Value.**

[Federal News Network](#) (2/18, Heckman, 220) reports the Chief Data Officers Council’s “first update to Congress shows the council stood up working groups last year focused on tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and building data literacy in the federal workforce.” The “working group partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to get agency access to pandemic data.” Ted Kaouk, USDA’s chief data officer and chairman of the CDO Council, said Thursday, “We’re working to blend data across agencies for the first time to leverage the best available data.” In order “to achieve greater data sharing, the National Institutes of Health has launched a new data management sharing policy for NIH-funded research.” NIH Associate Director for Data Science Susan Gregurick “said under this new policy...researchers applying for NIH grants will need to submit a data management and sharing plan with their grant application.”

### **Some Scientists Say Shift To Virtual Studies Is Long Overdue.**

The [New York Times](#) (2/18, Anthes, 20.6M) reports, “When the pandemic hit last year, clinical trials took a hit.” For instance, “many studies that required repeated, in-person visits with volunteers were delayed or scrapped.” However, “some scientists found creative ways to continue their research even when face-to-face interaction was inherently risky,” by mailing medications, performing “exams over video chat and” asking “patients to monitor their own vitals at home.” Now, “many scientists say this shift toward virtual studies is long overdue.”

## **Companies Spent \$2.5B To Treat Five Chronic Conditions Among Employees Over Two Years, Study Suggests.**

[Modern Healthcare](#) (2/18, Tepper, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports “companies spent \$2.5 billion to treat employees’ asthma, diabetes, hypertension, **mental health and substance abuse** and back disorders over the course of two years, according to a new study.” UnitedHealthcare examined “all claims issued by the Health Action Council’s 57 nationwide employer members – which are responsible for coverage of 281,000 individuals – to find that **more than 60% of workers struggle with at least one of these chronic conditions, making them the top cost drivers in employer healthcare.**”

## **Brain Stimulation Studies Offering New Ways To Think About What Psychiatric Disorders Are.**

Online and in print in its Sunday Magazine, the [New York Times](#) (2/24, 16, Tingley, 20.6M) provides an in-depth look at **deep brain stimulation as a treatment for depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, as well as transcranial alternating current stimulation for treatment of OCD.** Nevertheless, “psychiatrists won’t be prescribing brain stimulation to the masses anytime soon.” Still, “**by identifying the neural circuits that give rise to particular symptoms, and by showing that alterations to the timing of their firing can change those symptoms, they offer new ways to think about what psychiatric disorders are.**”

## **Funding Opportunities**



## **GRANTS & FUNDING**

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-AA-21-006](#)

[Notice of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\) Participation in PAR-21-144, Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery \(R01 BESH Required\)"](#)

[NOT-AA-21-007](#)

[Notice of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\) Participation in PAR-21-145, Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-MD-21-016](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Understanding and Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-NS-21-030](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for NIH Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats \(CounterACT\) Early-stage Investigator Research Award](#)

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