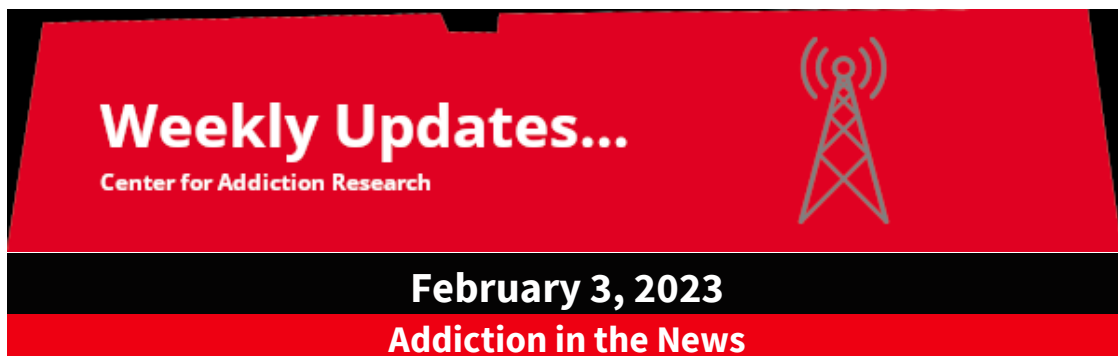


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Therapies make psychedelics more accessible; UC researcher says decriminalization is a good step

Spectrum News turned to a University of Cincinnati researcher to explain the potential therapeutic benefits psychedelics could offer some people. UC College of Arts and Sciences postdoctoral researcher Neşe Devenot told Spectrum News that people have had meaningful, transformative experiences using psychedelics such as psilocybin, the compound in magic mushrooms. Devenot works in UC's Institute for Research in Sensing, which explores sensing and sensor technology from both scientific and artistic perspectives. Federal lawmakers have proposed legislation to expand access to psychedelic substances for medical purposes. Devenot said psychedelics are getting more research...

New support system helps those battling addiction in the Miami Valley

DAYTON — Nearly 21 million Americans have at least one addiction, but an addiction center said only 10 percent receive treatment. News Center 7 Xavier Hershovitz checked out a new one-of-a-kind support system made for those battling addiction. Becky Walsh knows firsthand the impact addiction has on a family. "I felt really helpless. Because I did not know what to do. I wanted to help them. I wanted them to just stop. I couldn't understand why they couldn't just stop," Walsh recalled. "They were living a life that I did not understand." Walsh's son and granddaughter battled substance use disorder, she explained, "that's not something you can just talk to anybody about. I come from a big family..."

National News

Experimental anti-depression drug may also be useful in treating alcohol use disorder

An experimental antidepressant compound with a potentially unique mechanism of action may also be effective against alcohol use disorder, according to a preclinical study from Scripps Research. In the study, which appeared Jan. 20, 2023, in *Neuropsychopharmacology*, researchers found that several weeks of treatment with the molecule MAP4343 reversed excessive alcohol intake in mice that modeled this condition. MAP4343, a steroid-type molecule, is currently being investigated in clinical trials as an antidepressant, though its probable mechanism of action—which involves modulating...

High-intensity drinking escalates among teens within two years of first drink: Study

For some teenagers, heavy drinking begins well before they accept their high school diploma, according to a new University of Michigan study. The average time of escalation from first drink to high-intensity drinking (eight or more drinks in a row for women; 10 or more drinks in a row for men) occurs within two years of first trying alcohol. And teens who initiated high-intensity drinking at younger ages or who had a faster escalation to high-intensity drinking were at greater risk. The findings, published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, also indicate that having a family history of alcohol problems and not attending a...

Residential alcohol and drug treatment programs can help reduce youth crime, says study

Therapeutic communities could reduce future recidivism in young people with drug and alcohol problems who have a history of criminal convictions. Drug and alcohol treatment could make the community safer from youth crime, according to new research. The findings, published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, found residential drug treatment programs may reduce future criminal convictions among young people who have an increasing conviction history prior to referral for drug dependence. The study is one of the first to show a decrease in crime over the long term following a youth drug treatment...

Mocktails or cocktails? Having a sense of purpose in life can keep binge drinking at bay

Heavy alcohol use is common among college students -- and as a consequence, it puts young adults at risk for a wide range of health issues, from cardiovascular disease to cancer. Day in and day out, college students are bombarded with cues to drink, whether that's seeing a group of friends toast at a party or celebrating after an exam. Using functional MRI (fMRI) scanning technology, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and Dartmouth College examined the relationship between these cues, alcohol craving, and alcohol consumption. They found that having a strong...

Legalizing Marijuana Doesn't Raise Drug, Alcohol Abuse: Study

MONDAY, Jan. 30, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Living in a U.S. state where recreational weed is legal does not appear to increase the average adult's risk of succumbing to "reefer madness," a new study of twins has determined. An adult living in a "legal" state is not more likely to develop any sort of substance abuse disorder than their twin residing in a state where marijuana remains outlawed, researchers found. They also aren't more likely to break the law or have problems with their mental health, relationships, work, finances, friendships or standing in the community, according to the report...

Pro-cannabis social media linked to youths' intentions to use

Despite laws against advertising cannabis to teens, young people reported in surveys that they still see a lot of positive cannabis messages through social media posts. Washington State University researchers found these messages were also connected to the teens' intentions to use cannabis, and for college students, with their actual use. Anti-cannabis messages also had an effect in lessening use-intentions, but young people saw less of those types of messages. "Youth, in particular, have really grown up bombarded with cannabis information compared to previous generations," said Jessica...

New Way Needed to Regulate Cannabidiol, FDA Says

The government needs to develop a better pathway for regulating cannabidiol (CBD) in food and dietary supplements, the FDA said Thursday. "After careful review, the FDA has concluded that a new regulatory pathway for CBD is needed that balances individuals' desire for access to CBD products with the regulatory oversight needed to manage risks," FDA Principal Deputy Commissioner Janet Woodcock, MD, said in a statement. "The agency is prepared to work with Congress on this matter." "The use of CBD raises various safety concerns, especially with long-term use," Woodcock...

Tobacco, e-cigarette use among teens rises slightly after 3 years of decline

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (UPI) -- Tobacco and e-cigarette use among teens rose slightly in 2022 after three years of decline, according to the American Lung Association's annual State of Tobacco Control report. The higher rates of tobacco use among the nation's youth came after Congress gave the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate products containing synthetic nicotine through bipartisan legislation in March 2022. The report, released Wednesday, found that 16.5% of high school students and 4.5% of middle school students used tobacco products in 2022, an increase of about 3% for...

Smoking in pregnancy has declined by a third since 2016

There's good news for American mothers-to-be and their newborns: Rates of smoking during pregnancy have fallen by 36% since 2016, a new report finds. The

percentage of pregnant women who smoked was already low in 2016 compared to decades past: 7.2%. But by 2021, that rate had fallen to just 4.6%. That's according to the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Keeping tobacco toxins away from the developing fetus is crucial to infant health. According to the March of Dimes, smoking while pregnant has been...

Machine learning identifies drugs that could potentially help smokers quit

Medications like dextromethorphan, used to treat coughs caused by cold and flu, could potentially be repurposed to help people quit smoking cigarettes, according to a study by Penn State College of Medicine and University of Minnesota researchers. They developed a novel machine learning method, where computer programs analyze data sets for patterns and trends, to identify the drugs and said that some of them are already being tested in clinical trials. Cigarette smoking is risk factor for cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory diseases and accounts for nearly half a million...

Study shows how personal stories of health risks got students to stop vaping

A new Western study shows that university students who were regularly vaping wanted to cut back after learning about the threat the habit could pose to their health. Ph.D. candidate Babac Salmani and Faculty of Health Sciences professor Harry Prapavassis have published a paper in the Journal of Health Psychology showing vaping intentions—and, to a lesser degree, the behavior itself—can be reduced after learning about the potential consequences. Undergraduate students in the study, most of them vaping anywhere from once a week to every day, changed their intentions after watching an...

The feds just removed restrictions around prescribing a popular addiction medication. What does it mean for patients?

People struggling with opioid addiction will now be able to access an addiction treatment drug from any physician licensed to prescribe controlled substances, rather than having to seek out doctors with specialized credentials. The federal government last week lifted restrictions on who can prescribe the opioid buprenorphine to treat addiction, thanks to a legal change pushed by the Biden administration to decrease barriers to addiction care. In Philadelphia, which has one of the nation's worst opioid addiction crises, health officials, advocates and physicians have long pushed for more...

Will the Demise of the X Waiver Save Lives?

The email came as a surprise. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) message read: "Going forward, all prescriptions for buprenorphine only require a standard DEA registration number" and that "there are no longer any limits or patient caps on the number of patients a prescriber may treat for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine." The DEA further indicated that mandated training requirements

for all clinicians holding DEA licenses will begin June 21, 2023. I had waited years for this news. My colleagues and I had advocated for these reforms, but I was not optimistic that Congress would...

A Safer Opioid? Scientists Use Sodium To Reduce Harmful Effects of Fentanyl

Sodium, a commonly found element on Earth, may offer the potential for scientists to create opioids or other drugs with far reduced side effects. Scientists from USC, Washington University in St. Louis, and Stanford University have published a study in the journal *Nature*, in which they showed that by chemically connecting fentanyl to the sodium pockets within nerve cell receptors, they were able to prevent the harmful side effects of the drug while still effectively reducing pain. Further study is needed but the results hold promise – not just for drug development but for addressing the nation’s crisis of...

Experts urge better opioid rescue drug access to save lives

Jessie Blanchard started small nearly five years ago, just trying to get enough of the rescue drug naloxone that reverses opioid overdoses to keep her daughter from dying from an overdose. She pleaded with colleagues at the college where she's an adjunct teacher in Albany, Georgia, to use their prescription benefits to get two doses every six months. Now she loads her Jeep every week and heads out with a few other volunteers to bring the antidote—commonly known by its brand name Narcan—to hundreds of others in the town of 70,000. At parking lots and intersections she also supplies clean...

What Doctors Should Know About Xylazine in Fentanyl

It's been about 3 years since Joseph D'Orazio, MD, and his colleagues at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia first noticed something different among injection drug users who came to the hospital. Some patients who overdosed responded differently to the rescue agent naloxone (Narcan), and then there were the wounds -- severe wounds that required extensive treatment, and sometimes, amputation. That wasn't something they'd seen before in the ongoing opioid crisis. They learned that a veterinary sedative called xylazine was increasingly being added to fentanyl, the predominant opioid...

Prevalence and clinical correlates of antisocial personality disorder in Chinese methamphetamine patients

Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) is a common adult psychiatric disorder characterized by low self-control, lack of empathy, disregard for others, and high levels of impulsivity and aggression. Many studies have shown that ASPD is one of the most common co-occurring disorders in patients with drug addiction and is a predictor of many drug addictions. For example, among heroin addicts who have a high prevalence of ASPD, factors such as education, age at first drug use, withdrawal time, and daily dose are predictors of ASPD. However, the prevalence and clinical correlates of ASPD...

Apex Labs Granted Approval for 294 Patient Take Home Psilocybin Clinical Trial

The APEX-002-A01-03 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 2b study plans to recruit patients across Canada to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of APEX-52, a microdose, orally administered synthetic psilocybin drug product in treating depression and anxiety among adults diagnosed with PTSD. VANCOUVER, BC, Jan. 19, 2023 /CNW/ - Apex Labs Ltd. (APEX or the Company), a pharmaceutical company optimizing the standard of mental health care with psilocybin, is pleased to announce its approval by Health Canada to begin APEX-002-A01-03, the world's largest take home psilocybin...

One in eight Americans over 50 show signs of food addiction

Whether you call them comfort foods, highly processed foods, junk foods, empty calories or just some of Americans' favorite foods and drinks, a sizable percentage of older Americans have an unhealthy relationship with them, according to a new poll. In fact, about 13% of people aged 50 to 80 showed signs of addiction to such foods and beverages in the past year, the new data from the National Poll on Healthy Aging suggest. The percentage is much higher among women than men -- especially women in their 50s and early 60s. It was also higher in older adults who say they are overweight, lonely, or in fair...

Funding Opportunities



[PAR-23-112](#)

[Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-MD-23-003](#)

[Innovations for Healthy Living - Improving Minority Health and Eliminating Health Disparities \(R43/R44 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-107](#)

[Career Enhancement Award to Advance Research on Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention \(K18 Independent Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PAR-23-108](#)

[Career Enhancement Award to Advance Research on Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention \(K18 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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