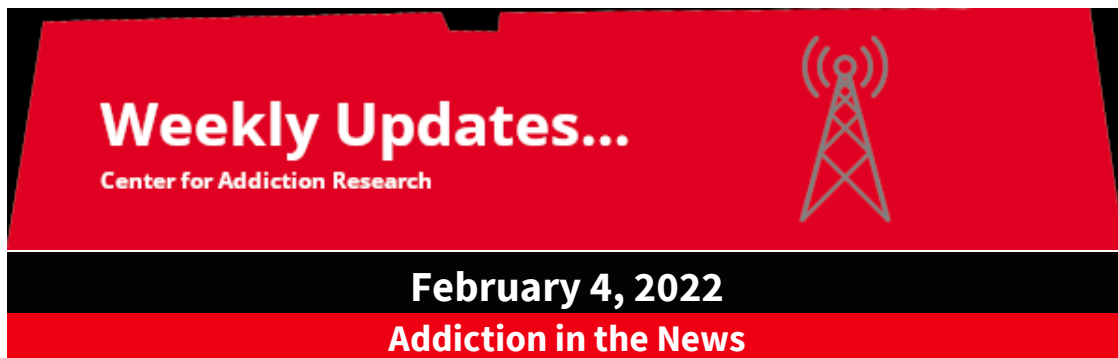


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. **Please note that the weekly newsletter will be on hiatus Friday, February 11, through Friday, March 11.** 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

Apply to the NIDA Summer Research Internship Program!

Deadline to apply is February 11, 2022.

Calling all undergraduates interested in participating in an addiction science summer internship! The **NIDA Summer Research Internship Program** supports all students with a focus on increasing underrepresented populations in substance use and addiction research. Through this program, undergraduates aged 18 and older are introduced to the field of substance use and addiction research by participating in research internships with NIDA's distinguished scientists at universities across the United States. Students work with leading scientists for eight weeks during the summer. The internship may include laboratory experiments, data collection, data analysis, formal courses, participation in lab meetings, patient interviews, manuscript preparation, and literature reviews. In addition, it is expected that each intern will deliver a formal presentation on their research project at the end of the internship. Our program covers travel and housing along with a salary of \$15.00/hour. For more information, please visit **NIDA summer research internship program website.**

Ohio Woman's Opioid Addiction Treatment Malpractice Suit Revived

An Ohio woman will get another chance to sue her doctor in federal court because Michigan's special presuit notice requirement for medical malpractice suits doesn't apply there, the Sixth Circuit said. The presuit notice requirement conflicts with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires complaints to contain a short

and plain statement of the case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit said. Where there is a conflict...

National News

Driving Both High And Drunk More Dangerous Than Either Alone: Study.

[HealthDay](#) (1/31, Norton, 11K) reports that an “analysis of 57 past studies found that the combination of alcohol and marijuana compromised people’s driving skills to a greater degree than either substance alone.” Furthermore, “while alcohol was more impairing, marijuana was not as benign as some believe.” Marijuana “actually made drivers slow down,” but they “also had a harder time staying in their lane – akin to the effects of low blood alcohol levels.” The [findings](#) were published online Jan. 26 in the journal *Addiction*. National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow is quoted.

Marijuana Use May Cause Cognitive Impairment Even When Not Still High.

[NBC News](#) (1/30, Carroll, 4.91M) reported a systematic review involving 10 meta-analyses “on the impact of cannabis on young’s people’s cognition found that many of the known learning and memory difficulties – such as slowed processing speed, and difficulties in focusing – could linger for weeks.” The review revealed that “verbal learning, retention and recall were especially affected for longer periods when the person was no longer high.” The [findings](#) were published online in the journal *Addiction*. National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow said, “If you look at the effects of the drug on teenagers, you need to consider, for example, what happens when a teen uses cannabis and then fails a test. ... If the teen gets exposed to many failures they may lose self-esteem. And so the consequences can go beyond the use of the drug in the moment.” The NIH Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study is mentioned.

Cannabis Use Can Impair Person’s Ability To Drive For Up To Four Hours, Study Finds.

The [New York Post](#) (1/31, McGorry, 7.45M) reports that new research indicates that cannabis use “can impair a person’s ability to drive up to 4 hours” afterwards. In the report, researchers from the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at the University of California San Diego stated, “Although performance was improving at 3.5 hours, recovery was not fully seen until 4.5 hours post smoking.” The researchers examined “191 regular cannabis users and found that smoking cannabis led to significantly declined simulated driving scores, according to the authors of the two-year randomized trial study.” The [findings](#) were published in the *JAMA Psychiatry*. [\[Article attached above.\]](#)

NFL Awards \$1M For Studies On Cannabinoids Effects.

The [AP](#) (2/1, Maaddi) reports, “The NFL is awarding \$1 million in research funding to” teams of medical researchers “from the University of California San Diego and University of Regina in Canada” to “study the effects of cannabinoids on pain

management and neuroprotection from concussion in elite football players.” NFL Chief Medical Officer Dr. Allen Sills told The Associated Press, “We know there’s been a lot of interest in this area, but we did not feel like there was a lot of great solid research on the benefits of marijuana, CBD and treating acute and chronic pain. So, that’s why we wanted to try to contribute to the body of science in this area.”

Menthol Ban On Cigarettes, Cigars On Track For Spring, FDA Says.

[Bloomberg Law](#) reports behind a paywall, “The Food and Drug Administration will act on two long-awaited proposals to ban menthol in cigarettes and cigars this spring, the agency announced Thursday in an update on its efforts to address tobacco-related health disparities.” The proposed actions, “which were first announced in April 2021, would prohibit menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes, and ban all characterizing flavors, including menthol, in cigars.” Anti-tobacco groups and lawmakers “have long called for the FDA to take action on smoking products with menthol flavoring, which are disproportionately used by Black Americans and other minority groups.”

Age, Sex, And Race Among Factors Making People More Likely To Overdose On Opioids, Analysis Finds.

[TIME](#) (1/28, Law, 18.1M) reported, “Researchers are trying to predict who is most at risk for having an opioid overdose – and they’re finding that some Americans face more danger than others.” New research “has found that a person’s age, sex, race, insurance type, and more can all place them at greater risk.” For the study, “researchers looked at data for nearly 237,000 adults in Oregon who didn’t have a previous history of using opiates but who were prescribed them in 2015” and “found that 667 people had fatal or non-fatal opioid overdoses during that time: a rate of about 3 in 1,000.” According to the researchers, “[men], who are more likely than women to overdose on any kind of drug, were 29% more likely to overdose than women in this group; residents of metropolitan counties were 51% more likely to overdose than people who didn’t live in cities, and Black patients were 55% more likely to overdose than white patients.” The findings (1/31) were published in JAMA Network Open.

Opioid Epidemic Could Claim 1.2M Lives In North America Over Next Seven Years Without Stricter Regulation, Revamped Public-Health Policies.

[Bloomberg](#) (2/2, Paton, 3.57M) reports, “The opioid epidemic could claim another 1.2 million lives in North America over the next seven years and widen globally without stricter regulation and revamped public-health policies, according to a report.” The report showed that COVID-19 has exacerbated the opioid crisis by “increasing pressure on health systems and hampering access to services.” Furthermore, “the loss of jobs, disabilities and deaths of family members and friends in some cases have led to greater drug use and addiction.” The findings were published in the Lancet medical journal on Wednesday.

Para-Fluorofentanyl And Metonitazene Contributing To US Overdose Crisis, CDC Report Finds.

The [AP](#) (1/27, Stobbe) reports, “Para-fluorofentanyl and metonitazene are being seen more often by medical examiners looking into overdose deaths, according to a” CDC report released Thursday. The two little-known drugs are often “taken with – or mixed with – illicit fentanyl, the drug mainly responsible for the more than 100,000 US overdose deaths in the last year.”

Wolf Administration Highlights Resources For Older Adults Struggling With Substance Use Disorder.

[WHTM-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (1/27, Rude, 88K) reports, “A new study found that just over 10,000 United States residents 55 years and older died from an opioid overdose in 2019.” The Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Program has responded to the study by joining several departments from the administration of Gov. Tom Wolf (D-PA) “to highlight the risk factors plus race and ethnic and disparities” and to point “to resources for older Pennsylvanians living with substance use disorder.” The study “also found that the opioid fatality rate among non-Hispanic Black men 55 years or older was four times greater than the overall opioid fatality rate for persons of the same age.” The [findings](#) (1/4) were published in JAMA Open Network. The National Institute on Drug Abuse is mentioned.

Norwalk Schools Equipped With Narcan To Handle Possible Overdoses.

The [Connecticut Post](#) (1/27, 310K) reports that middle and high school health offices in Norwalk, Connecticut “are equipped to administer Narcan (naloxone) to anyone experiencing an opioid overdose on school grounds.” Norwalk Public Schools Chief of Staff and Communications Brenda Wilcox Williams said, “Our School Medical Advisor Dr. Norman Weinberger has completed a standing medical order for NPS nurses to be able to administer Naloxone/Narcan if necessary.” According to the Post, “A renewed urgency for the availability of Narcan in schools comes after the death of a 13-year-old boy in Hartford who possibly overdosed on fentanyl, according to the Associated Press.” The National Institute of Drug Abuse is mentioned.

Intranasal Oxytocin Shows Early Promise For Cocaine Dependence.

[Medscape](#) (1/31, Yasgur, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports new research indicates that “[intranasal] oxytocin [oxycodone] (INOT) is showing early promise as a treatment for cocaine dependence.” According to Medscape, “Results of a small 6-week randomized, placebo-controlled trial in patients with cocaine use disorder showed a high level of abstinence in those who received INOT beginning 2 weeks after treatment initiation.” The [findings](#) were published in the March issue of Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports. A National Institute on Drug Abuse award supported the study. [\[Article attached.\]](#)

Drug Overdose Suicides Increasing Among Black Women, Young People And The Elderly.

[Forbes](#) (2/2, Hart, 10.33M) reports new peer-reviewed research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) indicates that “[suicides] by drug overdose are increasing among Black women, young people and the elderly...despite an overall downward trend as U.S. drug overdose deaths soar to record levels.” According to Forbes, “Though there was a steep increase in the number of people dying from drug overdoses in 2020 – nearly 92,000 people, a record figure and up from around 71,000 in 2019 – the overall rate of suicides by overdose fell.” The findings were published in the American Journal of Psychiatry. NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow said, “We must implement strategies for preventing both” accidental and intentional overdose deaths.

Unintentional Drug Overdoses Led To 200,000 Years Of Lost Life For US Preteens And Teens Who Died Between 2015 And 2019, Study Shows.

[CNN](#) (1/31, Christensen, 89.21M) reports that between 2015 and 2019, “teens and preteens in the US may have lost about 200,000 years of life to unintentional drug overdoses, according to a” study using “overdose data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...to calculate the total number of years of life lost for 10- to 19-year-olds who died during that time.” If this “data is expanded to include people up to 24 years of age, unintentional drug overdoses resulted in the loss of 1.25 million years of life.” The findings were published in JAMA Pediatrics. The National Institutes of Health is mentioned.

Doctor Groups Urge Biden Administration To Disclose Costs Of Federally Funded Clinical Trials.

[FierceBiotech](#) (2/1, LaHuick, 4K) reports, “International nonprofits and doctor groups are calling for the U.S. government to disclose the cost of federally funded clinical trials and are urging President Joe Biden to nominate a National Institutes of Health director who will ensure biopharmas reveal that R&D figure to the public.” These organizations “addressed the Jan. 31 letter to Biden’s science advisor Eric Lander, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and leaders at the NIH and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA.” Their “letter calls into question whether biopharmas spend as much as they claim it takes to get a treatment through the clinic.”

Transition To Federal Health Data Standards An ‘Unfunded Mandate’ For Smaller Providers.

[FedScoop](#) (2/1, Nyczepir) reports that according to NCATS IT Resource Branch Chief Sam Michael, “smaller health care providers aren’t adopting federal data standards as fast as the government would like due to an understandable technical skills gap.” He “said the transition to Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) Release 4 (R4) is ‘going well’ but is essentially an ‘unfunded mandate.’” Under the 21st Century Cures Act, “health-care providers, information exchanges and IT

developers” have “until December 31, 2022, to ensure their applications comply with FHIR R4.”

HHS Survey Highlights Barriers To Video Telehealth Access.

[Fierce Healthcare](#) (2/2, King, 150K) reports, “While telehealth use exploded during the pandemic, a new federal study found massive income disparities in video versus audio services.” HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) “released a [survey](#) Tuesday on telehealth use rates from April to October of last year.” ASPE said, “Although research shows that video visits offer some additional benefits compared with telephone visits, they require more complex setup, video-enabled devices and broadband internet access, which may present barriers for older adults, lower income households and those with limited English proficiency.”

[Modern Healthcare](#) (2/2, Hellmann, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports that the survey also found that “Black, Latino and Asian adults are more likely than their white counterparts to use audio telehealth services rather than video.” The analysis by the Health and Human Services Department “underscores the equity concerns providers, plans and advocates have raised as Congress debates the next steps on telehealth expansion.” The HHS report said, “Investments in internet access, video-enabled devices and culturally competent care are needed to ensure equitable use of telehealth services.” Medicare increased telehealth coverage due to pandemic emergency measures, but will return to pre-pandemic restrictions soon. Congress “is considering permanently waiving those restrictions and others that limit coverage of audio-only telehealth, citing inequities in internet access, especially in rural areas and among people of color.”

Numbers Of Teenage Girls Attempting Suicide Increasing During COVID-19 Pandemic.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/1, Klibanoff, 258K) reports, “Across the country, teenage girls are attempting to end their own lives at staggering rates, driving a 50% increase in girls being admitted to the hospital for suspected suicide attempts between early 2019 and 2021.” Even prior to the pandemic, “researchers were documenting alarming increases in anxiety, depression and other mental health concerns among teenagers.” During the pandemic, teenagers have had to navigate “increased internet access, academic pressure, limited access to mental health services and economic and social stressors” while lacking social support structures. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the surgeon general are mentioned.

Could Spider Venom Unlock Better Painkillers?

[Vox](#) (1/31, Dhanesha, 1.88M) reports that a new study suggests the king baboon spider could “inspire new kinds of painkillers.” According to investigators, “the inner workings of the tarantula’s venom could help explain mysteries of chronic pain that have plagued patients and stumped scientists for years.” NIH researcher

Christina Schroeder added, “The benefit of using spider-derived venom peptides are that these peptides do not cause dose dependence and addiction.”

National Institute Of Health Discusses Psychedelic Treatment.

[KRON-TV](#) San Francisco (1/27, Sogomonian, 267K) reports, “For the very first time, the National Institute of Health held a conference to get more details on using psychedelics for therapy, and how insurance would cover that.” Neuroscientist and UCSF Professor Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, who was on the panel, spoke to the outlet “about the treatments she’s been working on and the hope that this workshop is a sign that one day those drugs that are still considered criminal at the federal level will be approved for medicinal use.”

Funding Opportunities



No opportunities this week.

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