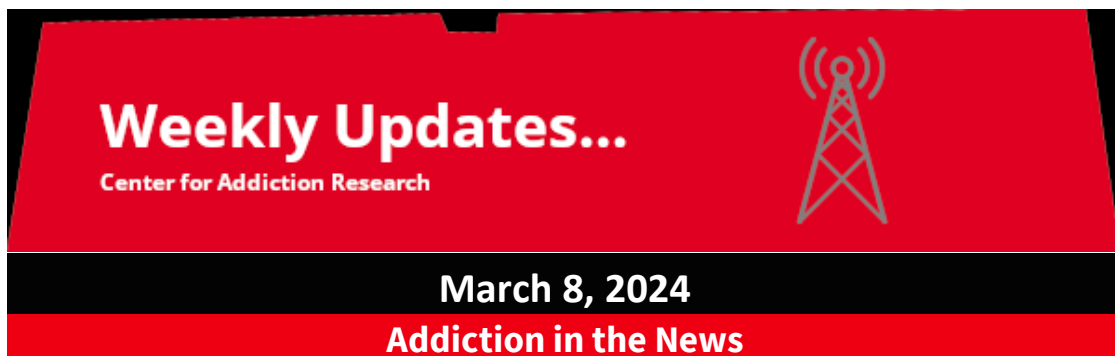


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Congratulations to **Jason Blackard, PhD (CAR Member)**, who was appointed Walter A. and George McDonald Foundation Professorship of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, effective March 1, 2024 – August 31, 2029, by the UC Board of Trustees at its February 27 meeting.

State, county offer millions for agencies battling opioid addiction

Ohio is ready to begin doling out millions of dollars in opioid settlement money to community and government organizations, an influx eagerly anticipated since the first sums were secured in 2021. The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, who has been tasked with distributing over \$860 million of settlements reached with drugmakers and pharmaceutical companies for their roles in the national opioid crisis, released its formal request for proposals Monday. Drugmakers, wholesalers, pharmacies and other companies have agreed to settlements over the toll of opioids that are to pay state, local and Native American tribal governments more than \$50 billion. Under the agreements, most of the money is to be used... **(see other funding opportunity below)**

'Breaking the cycle': Columbus addiction treatment programs aim to keep families together

When Christina Perry runs out to her car to get something, she no longer sees her 10-year-old daughter Karen watching from the window, making sure she comes back. It's a new level of trust in their relationship, said Perry, 30, as the former addict wasn't always able to be there for Karen. But Perry has now been sober for

more than three years, and Karen has lived with her for most of that time — thanks in large part to Amethyst, an Alvis recovery program. The Amethyst program is one of approximately 360 family-based residential treatment programs across the country that allow women to go through residential addiction recovery with their children, or help them get custody of their children back as they work...

Addiction recovery advocate shares concern over House Bill 5

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) - Some people who work in addiction recovery are speaking out against House Bill 5. The controversial crime bill, known as the Safer Kentucky Act, passed in the House last month. It's now awaiting a vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Many fear it will cost tax payers more, and only worsen the problem of drug use in Kentucky. "Incarceration is not going to work to fix the addiction problem in Kentucky," said John Bowman, the Kentucky Senior Campaign Organizer at dream.org. Bowman typically advocates on behalf of people in recovery, or those in need. And this legislative session he's spending most of his time in Frankfort. "The bill is going to round up..."

Ohio's Naloxone Revolution: Saving Lives Amid the Opioid Epidemic

The battle against the opioid crisis in Ohio reveals a significant weapon: naloxone. As overdose rates climb, this life-saving drug offers a beacon of hope, particularly through personal narratives like Shane Hunter's, who credits naloxone for his multiple revivals from heroin overdoses. Ohio's strategic distribution and efforts to enhance accessibility underscore naloxone's pivotal role in combating opioid fatalities. Ohio's response to the opioid epidemic involves a robust naloxone distribution strategy. Through Project DAWN, Ohio saw a 42% increase in naloxone kit distribution, from 205,584 in 2022...

Montgomery County dispersing \$10M from opioid settlement

Beginning Friday, Montgomery County nonprofits that work in addiction services will be able to apply for up to \$200,000 in individual grants from \$2 million set aside from opioid settlement payouts to the county, Montgomery County Commissioners announced Tuesday. The county got \$10 million from this settlement, the commissioners said, which came from multiple lawsuits the county was involved in, including Rite Aid, Janssen and Malinkrodt. About \$6 million will go toward cutting 226 jail beds and adding 100 jail beds in the Behavioral Health Unit, and an additional \$2 million will go to a Safety Net Portal to better coordinate care for those with addiction across health systems, the...

National News

U.S. deaths linked to alcohol keep rising, especially among women

Deaths where alcohol played a key role have climbed sharply in recent years, hitting women even harder than men, new government data shows. The study was published in the CDC journal Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Between 2016 and 2021 (the latest numbers available), "the average number of U.S. deaths from

excessive alcohol use increased by more than 40,000 [29%], to 178,000 per year," reported a team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Put another way, during 2020 and 2021, an average of 488 Americans died each day from excessive drinking, the report's authors concluded. The...

For those with an alcohol problem, are non-alcoholic beverages a wise choice?

Although Dry January is behind us, the non-alcoholic beverage trend is showing no signs of slowing. Sales of alcohol alternatives are growing 20% every year. While the increased availability of non-alcoholic drinks may be better for the general health of society, the picture is less clear for those with alcohol addiction. Mocktails and non-alcoholic beer and wine could provide a healthier alternative to drinking, but for some, these alcohol-adjacent drinks might be too potent a reminder of the real thing. Stanford Medicine clinical scholar Molly Bowdring, Ph.D., studies addiction and treats patients with alcohol...

Ketone supplements vs. alcohol: New study uncovers a surprising interaction

New findings suggest ketone supplements could significantly impact alcohol consumption and cravings. The research, published in the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology, found that ketone supplements not only reduced breath and blood alcohol concentrations but also diminished the subjective appeal of alcohol. Ketogenic diets have gained significant attention not only for their weight loss benefits but also for their potential therapeutic effects on various health conditions. At their core, ketogenic diets are high in fats, moderate in proteins, and very low in carbohydrates. By...

Only 1 in 4 rural US smokers attempted to quit during a one year period, study finds

While overall smoking rates among U.S. adults are declining, many communities remain disproportionately burdened by commercial tobacco use and the associated negative health consequences. Smoking prevalence among rural adults stood at 19.2% in 2020, compared to 14.4% for their urban counterparts. Previous research also shows rural people start smoking at younger ages and smoke more heavily than non-rural residents. Given these disparities, it is pressing to identify strategies that help people quit smoking. A new study from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health (SPH) addresses this need...

Regular e-cigarette use could lead to premature vascular dysfunction, study finds

Regular electronic cigarette use has been linked with signs of premature vascular dysfunction, raising concerns about potential long-term health effects, according to a study by Virginia Commonwealth University researchers. A recent study published through VCU's Vascular and Integrative Physiology Laboratory in the journal *Angiogenesis* found that among healthy adults ages 21 to 31, frequent users of e-cigarettes presented premature vascular dysfunction when compared with

nonusers. The lab is part of the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences in the College of Humanities and Sciences. "We have...

How the U.S. is sabotaging its best tools to prevent deaths in the opioid epidemic

The opioid overdose epidemic has burned through the U.S. for nearly 30 years. Yet for all that time, the country has had tools that are highly effective at preventing overdose deaths: methadone and buprenorphine. These medicines are cheap and easy to distribute. People who take them use illicit drugs at far lower rates, and are at far lower risk of overdose or death. By beating back the cravings and agonizing withdrawal symptoms that result from trying to quit opioids "cold turkey," methadone and buprenorphine can help people addicted to opioids escape an existence defined by drugs and achieve stable...

Redefining Addiction Treatment: The Urgent Call for Integration in US Healthcare

In the heart of a nation grappling with an unprecedented opioid crisis, a voice of scientific reason emerges, challenging the very fabric of the United States healthcare system. Nora Volkow, the formidable director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), stands at the forefront of a pivotal shift in understanding and treating addiction. Her insights shed light on a glaring issue: the stark separation between addiction treatment and the broader healthcare system, a divide that may very well be contributing to the escalating overdose epidemic sweeping across the country. The United States has developed a distinct...

Study finds links between chronic opioid use and brain cell, DNA changes

A study led by Ryan W. Logan, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and neurobiology, has found mutations in key brain cells among individuals with chronic opioid use that could shift how we think about treatment strategies for opioid use disorder. "One thing we've been trying to think about is how can we heal the brain?" said Dr. Logan. "To be able to do that, you've got to understand what's occurring in the human brain. And the onus is on us then to figure out what is a cause or consequence to opioid use and other disorders." The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, was conducted by researchers...

Will 2024 be the Year We Address the Real Roots of the Opioid Crisis?

As a physician and healthcare leader responsible for helping to fight substance misuse across multiple state governments and health organizations, I feel a profound responsibility. Each increase in the opioid crisis's death toll, which surpassed 112,000 lives for the first time in 2023, is a stark reminder of the challenges we face. That number, exceeding the fatalities from car accidents and gun violence combined, is an unambiguous indicator of the crisis's severity. The repercussions of the epidemic are staggering, not just in lives lost but also in its economic and social toll. It has siphoned \$1.5 trillion from our economy...

Xylazine-Laced Fentanyl Overdose: 'Make Sure They're Breathing'

With rising reports of the veterinary sedative xylazine -- also known as "tranq" -- being mixed in with illicit fentanyl, physicians should be aware that the clinical endpoint for "reversing" an overdose should be that the person is breathing, experts said during a CDC call for clinicians. "The idea that people have to wake up to be successful is a bit of a misunderstanding," Lewis Nelson, MD, chair of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark, said during a CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on Thursday hosted by the agency's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control...

Washington lawmakers advance bill to address opioid crisis among Native tribes

A bill that would bring millions of dollars to tribes in Washington state to address the opioid crisis received unanimous support in the House on Friday, opening the door for state funding to address a scourge that some say is claiming a generation. "This bill invests in Indian country. It invests in the Native Americans of Washington state. It invests in the preservation of generations of Native Americans whose land we stand on today," Democratic Rep. Debra Lekanoff, who is Tlingit and Aleut, said during the vote. The proposed measure is expected to provide nearly \$8 million each year for the 29 federally recognized tribes...

Seniors, Doctors at Odds on Opioid Risks and 'Deprescribing'

Older people with chronic pain expressed views about opioid use that often sharply differed from those of primary care doctors, an interview-based study indicated. When asked about the risks associated with long-term opioid use, patients were mainly concerned about becoming addicted, whereas physicians were more worried about acute adverse events such as falling, according to Timothy S. Anderson, MD, MAS, of the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues. And while doctors in the study generally agreed that tapering opioid doses is often warranted, both they and the patients said conversations about...

Pediatricians feel less prepared to care for teens' opioid use disorder

Primary care pediatricians feel less prepared to manage adolescents' opioid use disorder (OUD) compared with other substances, according to a research letter published online in JAMA Pediatrics. Scott E. Hadland, M.D., from Mass General for Children in Boston, and colleagues used data from 474 primary care pediatricians participating in the 2021 American Academy of Pediatrics Periodic Survey to assess their preparedness to provide adolescent OUD care. The researchers found that most agreed or strongly agreed that it is their responsibility to identify substance use disorders (93.9 percent) and...

How a friend's death turned Colorado teens into anti-overdose activists

Gavinn McKinney loved Nike shoes, fireworks and sushi. He was studying Potawatomi, one of the languages of his Native American heritage. He loved holding his niece and smelling her baby smell. On his 15th birthday, the Durango, Colorado, teen spent a cold December afternoon chopping wood to help neighbors who couldn't afford to heat their homes. McKinney almost made it to his 16th birthday. He died of fentanyl poisoning at a friend's house in December 2021. His friends say it was the first time he tried hard drugs. The memorial service was so packed people had to stand outside the funeral...

The Face Of The Opioid Crisis Is Changing, And Treatments Need To Catch Up

Chelsey Moore's back started hurting when she was in high school. She wasn't sure how or why, but the pain wouldn't stop. Finally, an MRI revealed a herniated disc, and a doctor told Chelsey that she was developing degenerative disc disease. He wrote her a Percocet prescription. Back at home, Chelsey realized that when she took more than one Percocet at a time, she felt really good. Sometimes, she'd swallow five or six in a row. "I always knew I should stay away from drugs," she says. She'd smoked cigarettes and weed with her mom—who struggled with substance use disorder—but never anything...

DNA aptamer drug sensors can instantly detect cocaine, heroin and fentanyl—even when combined with other drugs

Researchers from North Carolina State University have developed a new generation of high-performance DNA aptamers and highly accurate drug sensors for cocaine and other opioids. The sensors are drug-specific and can detect trace amounts of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine—even when these drugs are mixed with other drugs or with cutting agents and adulterants such as caffeine, sugar, or procaine. The sensors could have far-reaching benefits for health care workers and law enforcement agencies. "This work can provide needed updates to currently used tests, both in health care and law enforcement settings," says...

More than 1/3 illicit drugs sold on the dark web found to contain unexpected substances

Testing of illicit drugs bought online found that 35% were not what they said they were, highlighting the urgent need for more local drug testing facilities in Australia to prevent harm and overdose. The RMIT-led study analyzed 103 illicit drug samples sourced from the now-defunct dark web forum Test4Pay in collaboration with the Australian National University, UNSW Sydney, and Canadian testing facility Get Your Drugs Tested. While 65% of samples contained only the advertised substance, the study found that 14% of samples had a mixture of the advertised substance with other psychoactive or potentially...

A law-and-order approach to Philly's overdose crisis will have grave effects, harm reduction advocates say

Outreach workers who offer wound care, clean syringes and other services to drug users in Kensington are under fire by a faction in City Council – and those in favor of maintaining these harm reduction measures are rallying in protest. Councilmember Quetcy Lozada spearheaded the formation of the "Kensington Caucus," a group of councilmembers who are taking aim at the addiction crisis in the neighborhood. The caucus has said it will create "triage centers" that would funnel people with substance use disorders from Kensington's streets into treatment or incarceration. Mayor Cherrille Parker issued an...

Dopamine production is not behind vulnerability to cocaine abuse

Why do some people who try drugs struggle with substance abuse while others don't? This question has long puzzled scientists. A team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) explored the complex interplay between personality traits and brain chemistry. The scientists studied the role of impulsivity and the production of dopamine—the so-called "happiness hormone"—in influencing the risk of cocaine abuse. These results, published in *eNeuro*, offer new keys to understanding vulnerability to drug abuse, which could lead to the development of more targeted interventions for people at risk. When a person consumes...

Oregon Legislators Pass Bill To Revert Drug Decriminalization Measures

In response to the escalating overdose crisis, Oregon legislators have approved House Bill 4002, which reverts the state's pioneering drug decriminalization efforts, marking a significant shift in drug possession laws. The bill, which passed with a 21-8 vote in the Senate and 51-7 in the House, is now awaiting the signature of Governor Tina Kotek, who has indicated openness to rolling back decriminalization. HB 4002 redefines the possession of small amounts of hard drugs, such as heroin or methamphetamine, as a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of six months in jail. Additionally, it empowers...

As xylazine surges, some lawmakers want jail time for dealers and people who use the drug

Legislators in a handful of states are offering bills to address the rise in the misuse of xylazine, a cheap animal sedative not intended for human consumption. Xylazine, or "tranq," can induce blackouts and cause lesions that sometimes result in severe infections or amputations, and it can even lead to death. The opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone does not work on xylazine, which drug dealers often find through the dark web and other illicit channels, rather than getting it from veterinary offices. Although xylazine isn't classified by the federal government as a controlled substance, it also isn't approved...

Ketamine Clinics Diverge From APA Recommendations

The proliferation of ketamine clinics in the U.S. has veered far off course from the recommendations of the nation's premier psychiatric association when it comes to using the anesthetic to treat mood disorders, experts say. In 2017, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) issued a consensus statement on the use of ketamine in treating mood disorders, published in JAMA Psychiatry. But the ketamine clinics cropping up across the U.S. don't appear to follow that guidance, Smita Das, MD, PhD, MPH, of Stanford University and a spokesperson for the APA, told MedPage Today. "[Intravenous] ketamine...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-23-057](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for PAR-21-244, "NIDA Animal Genomics Program \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

[RFA-AA-24-004](#)

[Limited Competition: Alcohol-associated Hepatitis Clinical Network Integrated Treatment Clinical Trials Clinical Centers \(U01-Clinical Trial required\)](#)

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

[Limited Competition: Alcohol-associated Hepatitis Clinical Network Integrated Treatment Clinical Trials Data Coordinating Center \(U24 - Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

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

[Model Continuums of Care Initiative \(MCCI\) to Advance Health Equity and End Health Disparities Among Women and Girls in Racial/Ethnic Minority and Other Underserved Communities \(U34 Clinical Trials Required\)](#)

[RFA-OD-24-012](#)

[Predoctoral Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research \(BSSR\) - Institutional Research Training Program \[T32\]](#)

[PA-24-141](#)

[NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings \(Parent R13 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Other Funding Opportunity:

OneOhio Recovery Foundation 2024 Regional Grants Friday, May 3: Application submissions due in the OneOhio Grant Portal by 11:59 PM ET

The OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding outlines approved purposes and abatement strategies that guide the programs and services to be funded with Ohio's opioid settlement dollars. In accordance with these guidelines, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation is committed to ensuring all Foundation funding awards support evidence-based, forward-looking strategies for the purposes of prevention, treatment, recovery, and abatement of substance use and co-occurring disorders. The Foundation has organized the Approved Purposes and Ohio Abatement Strategies into 10 distinct funding priority areas. Please see the RFP and the Grant Toolkit's Funding Priorities fact sheet for more detailed information.

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