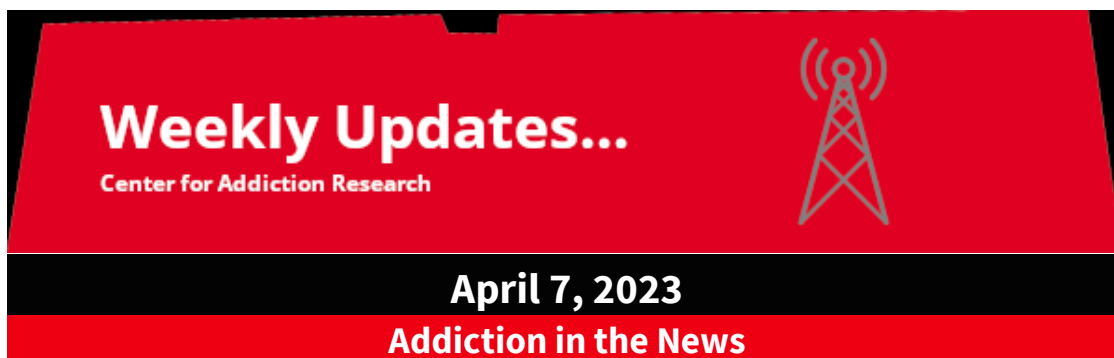


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Medical marijuana bill passes in Kentucky, governor expected to sign

FRANKFORT, Ky. —Medical marijuana passed through the House 66-33 Thursday, giving it final passage. It now heads to the governor's desk, who is an avid supporter, and has said he will sign it into law on Friday. Senate Bill 47, medical marijuana, made its greatest strides this year, passing the Senate for the first time ever, 26-11. On Thursday, the House L&O committee passed it 18-2. It then went to the House for final passage. "This is a truly historic day here in the commonwealth and one that many people deserve, especially the constituents who've approached me over the years to share their stories," Sen. Steve West, R-Paris, said in a news release. The bill makes medical marijuana legal, but the...

WLWT: Experts concerned about surge in problem gambling

In its first year of legal sports betting, Ohio ranked second for the most wagers placed on Super Bowl LVII in February. Experts expect that with the increase in gambling in Ohio, there is a parallel surge in problem gambling. Gregory Stewart, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Cincinnati's College of Allied Health Sciences, joined WLWT to discuss problem gambling. Stewart said data shows calls to the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline tripled in January 2023 compared to January 2022, most likely due to the legalization of sports betting. "We're not making a judgment that gambling is good or bad, [but we're] making a judgment to say if a loved..."

National News

A Drink or Two a Day Won't Help Prolong Life

That glass of red wine with dinner probably won't protect you from an early grave, according to an updated meta-analysis on the longevity impact of alcohol. Compared with never-drinkers, "low-volume" drinkers who kept daily alcohol intake under two drinks (1.3 to 24 g ethanol) each day didn't see any reduction in the risk for death from any cause (relative risk 0.93, 95% CI 0.85-1.01), found researchers led by Jinhui Zhao, PhD, a scientist and senior data analyst at the University of Victoria's Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, in British Columbia. A typical 12-oz beer or 5-oz glass of...

Is Drinking In Moderation Possible With An Alcohol Use Disorder?

While the COVID-19 pandemic had us locked inside our homes, many turned to alcohol. According to a Harris Poll, 17% of people reported heavy drinking during the pandemic. They experienced withdrawal symptoms and blacking out. Some gave up activities that brought them pleasure so they could drink. These are some of the symptoms of alcohol use disorder (AUD), according to Yale Medicine. Other symptoms include unsuccessful attempts to reduce or manage your drinking, spending a lot of time drinking or recovering from its effects, or having alcohol affect your ability to complete tasks...

Alcohol increases risk for gun-involved suicide among Americans, finds study

A CAMH-led study just published in the journal JAMA Network Open has found that the probability of using a gun as a means of suicide among Americans increases the more alcohol they drink. The study looked at all suicides in a national surveillance system in the United States over a 17-year period for people 18 and older who had alcohol in their system at the time of death. It found that the more alcohol they drank, the greater the probability that they would use a gun as the means of suicide, highlighting the need for suicide prevention initiatives and safety planning for people who drink...

Study reveals insights on pandemic-related drinking and mental health

New research from the University at Buffalo provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of drinking patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic and their association with four clinically prevalent mental health disorders in the U.S. The study, published in March in the journal Alcohol and Alcoholism, looked at alcohol consumption among more than 3,600 U.S. residents, and examined associations between drinking patterns and anxiety, depression, stress and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). "We found that people who kept their drinking patterns had lower prevalence of mental..."

Reducing the appeal of smoking: Study confirms tobacco warnings on packages need improvement

Smoking has been glamorized to consumers for decades, but the packaging of combustible tobacco products have been the central target in a global effort to get more people to not smoke. From colorful pictures to specific wording, what is seen on the surface packaging of these products has long served as the main component in advertising for tobacco companies. In an effort to implement warning labels to help communicate health risks to both current and potential consumers, one study confirms that effective warnings can increase knowledge of the grim realities of tobacco use and awareness...

Six out of ten children whose parents restrict smoking to the porch or the yard still at risk from tobacco smoke

Many parents think that they are protecting their children by smoking on the porch or next to the window in a room. However, a new study by Tel Aviv University finds that, in contrast to such beliefs, restricting smoking to the porch does not protect most children from exposure to tobacco smoke. In a unique Israeli study, the research team tested for the presence of nicotine in the hair of children whose parents smoke. Among parents who restrict smoking to the porch or outside the house, the findings are extremely worrisome: among six out of 10 children tested, nicotine was found in their hair. The...

Disparities seen in declines in smoking prevalence

Alyssa F. Harlow, Ph.D., from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and colleagues used a representative sample of 187,821 U.S. young adults (ages 21 to 25 years) from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to examine racial, ethnic, and education-related differences in smoking prevalence and age of smoking initiation between 2002 and 2019. The researchers found that the prevalence of ever and daily smoking declined significantly from 2002 to 2019 for all education and racial and ethnic groups, and was lowest among those with at least some college education...

Experts Express 'Grave Concerns' Over DEA's Proposed Telemedicine Rule

After the Biden administration announced they were planning to end the public health emergency in May, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) released a proposed rule for the prescribing of controlled substances with the use of telemedicine, making some pandemic-era telehealth flexibilities permanent, while also establishing certain guardrails. However, some medical organizations and stakeholders concerned about disruptions in access to critically needed medications argue that the new rule could do more harm than good. Early in the pandemic, the Trump administration...

Buprenorphine initiation in the ER found safe and effective for individuals with opioid use disorder who use fentanyl

Results from a multi-site clinical trial supported by the National Institutes of Health showed that less than 1% of people with opioid use disorder whose drug use includes fentanyl experienced withdrawal when starting buprenorphine in the emergency department. The findings, which appeared today in JAMA Network Open, are strong evidence that buprenorphine, a medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat opioid use disorder, can be safely started in the emergency department without triggering withdrawal, even for people who use stronger opioids. Clinician...

Over-the-counter Narcan: A big win for public health

Narcan, the naloxone nasal spray used to reverse opioid overdose, was approved Wednesday for over-the-counter sale by the Food and Drug Administration. It's a major victory for harm-reduction advocates and public health professionals—and a much needed step toward preventing thousands of overdose deaths each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that almost half of fatal overdoses had a bystander present. "This is a big win and long time coming," says Sachini Bandara, an assistant professor in Mental Health who earned a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management...

As states start to get opioid settlement cash, few are sharing how they spend it

Since last spring, drugmakers and distributors have sent out about \$3 billion in opioid settlement funds to thousands of state and local governments. It's a start on paying what the companies agreed to after they were accused of flooding communities around the country with opioid painkillers that have left millions addicted or dead. All told, these companies, along with several large retail pharmacies, will pay more than \$50 billion over the next 15 years. That's an enormous amount of money — double NASA's budget and five times the revenue of an NBA season. But how state and local...

Recovery high schools help kids heal from an addiction and build a future

Every weekday at 5280 High School in Denver starts the same way. Students in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction gather on the steps of the school's indoor auditorium to discuss a topic chosen by staff members. One recent morning, they talked about mental health and sobriety. A teenage boy dressed in tan corduroys, a black hoodie, and sneakers went first. "I didn't want to have, like, any emotion," he said. "So I thought, like, the best way to, like, put it down would be to do more and more and more drugs." A classmate said she started doing drugs for fun and then got hooked. Another student...

Masimo Opioid Halo™ Granted De Novo for the First and Only FDA-Authorized Opioid Overdose Prevention and Alert System

Irvine, California - April 03, 2023 - Masimo (NASDAQ: MASI) today announced that Masimo Opioid Halo™, an opioid overdose prevention and alert system, has been granted a De Novo by the FDA – making it the first and only FDA-cleared monitoring solution for detecting opioid-induced respiratory depression, the leading cause of death from opioid overdose. With the De Novo, Masimo also becomes the first winner of an FDA Opioid Innovation Challenge to have an authorized solution designed to help solve the U.S. opioid crisis. The De Novo authorizes Opioid Halo to be made available over the alarms to family members, friends, and caregivers, notifying them that help may...

U.S. 'Flying Blind' When It Comes to Data on Substance Use in Pregnancy

Federal, state, and local public health agencies keep track of substance use disorders, hospitalizations, and deaths across the country. However, among the pregnant population, there is a lack of data describing the full picture, and the reasons for that are multifactorial. Pregnant people in the U.S. face many barriers to addiction treatment, affecting how public health databases depict the crisis in this population. Patients who struggle with addiction may not seek care, keeping them out of public health surveillance systems. The disjointed nature of the substance use treatment system keeps...

Fear of Family Separation a Barrier to Addiction Care During Pregnancy

Lauren thought she would be able to stop using drugs when she got pregnant. She had picked up and moved from Arizona to Oklahoma City in 1989. Lauren, whose name has been changed to protect her privacy, had a son at home and a baby on the way, and had been using cocaine for the past 4 years. When Lauren found out she was expecting, she wasted no time before getting an appointment with the ob/gyn to make sure that her pregnancy was going smoothly. But when her doctor asked her about her medical history, she didn't offer up information about her struggles with addiction. "I never...

Mail-Back Envelopes Will Be Dispensed With Outpatient Opioid Scripts

The FDA will require manufacturers of opioid drugs that are dispensed in outpatient settings to provide prepaid mail-back envelopes to outpatient pharmacies and other dispensers, the agency announced Monday. The move is part of the FDA's comprehensive approach to addressing the overdose crisis, according to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf, MD. "We believe these efforts will not only increase convenient disposal options for many Americans, but also reduce unfortunate opportunities for nonmedical use, accidental exposure, overdose and potential new cases of opioid use disorder," Califf...

Xylazine-Laced Fentanyl: The Deadly Combination Sweeping The Nation

In recent years, the US has been in the grip of an Opioid epidemic that has taken countless lives and devastated communities. However, a dangerous drug has emerged that is proving to be a deadly threat to the already troubling crisis: Xylazine-laced Fentanyl. The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently issued a public safety alert to warn Americans of the sharp increase of trafficked Fentanyl mixed with Xylazine, a powerful non-Opioid sedative used in veterinary care. Despite the emerging public health threat, routine toxicology tests are not yet testing for the substance. Although Xylazine misuse was previously reported in Puerto Rico in the early 2000s, its use has remained...

Pandemic Erased Decline in Scripts for Postpartum Opioids

A steady downward trend in opioids prescribed to women after giving birth reversed course with the start of the pandemic, a cross-sectional study suggested. The proportion of women with a filled opioid prescription after delivery dropped progressively from more than 41% in 2018 to about 36% by the beginning of 2020. That number was expected to continue to drop to 35% for March to December 2020 but instead jumped to 37.8% -- 2.8 percentage points more than projected. Moreover, those who gave birth in 2020 after the pandemic started filled more potent (schedule II) opioid prescriptions...

Mothers Face Broken Addiction Treatment System

Kayla Quinones began having contractions a few hours after midnight. Her baby, Jacarri, was on the way. Quinones, 33, was homeless at the time and staying with a friend in upstate New York, and when she began to feel the undulating pains, spaced about 8 minutes apart, she called for help. Those pains, her friend told her, were contractions. They needed to get to a hospital. Before staying with her friend, Quinones spent 6 years living on the streets of Sullivan County, about 2 hours north of New York City. She had been using heroin for 7 years, and cocaine for the last 4. She was homeless for the majority...

Cocaine damage routinely misdiagnosed as non-threatening nasal disease, finds study

A new paper in *Rheumatology Advances in Practice* indicates that granulomatosis with polyangiitis, a nasal disease that causes inflammation of the blood vessels and commonly presents with symptoms in sinuses, throat, lungs, and kidneys, may be commonly misdiagnosed. Researchers believe that many patients identified with the sinus and nasal-limited form of the disease may actually be suffering from nasal damage due to cocaine usage. Cocaine is the second-most commonly abused drug in the United Kingdom, with 2.6% of the population between ages 16 and 59 years old using it. Some 4.8 million people...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-OD-23-015](#)

[Request for Applications \(RFA\): Revision Applications to Support Research on Prevention and Cessation of Menthol Cigarette Use in Populations that Experience Health Disparities \(R01, Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-006](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Leveraging glial cells to treat addiction](#)

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