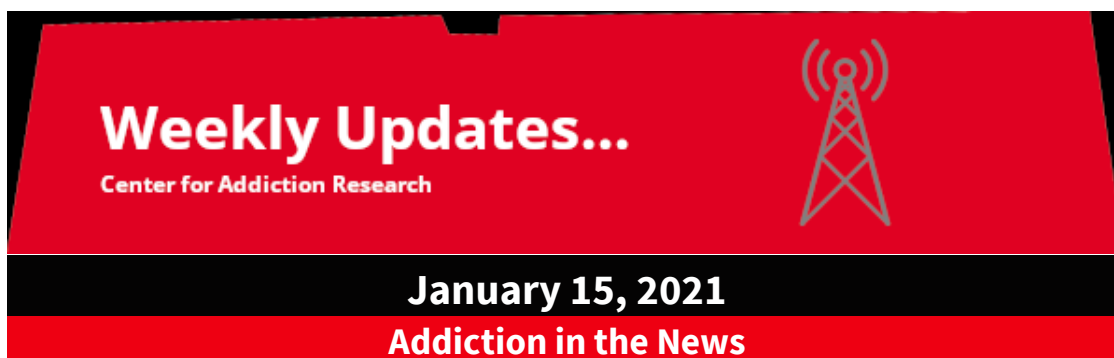


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from Addiction in the News topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA as well as “CAR Member New Publications”.

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

Overdose deaths soar in Butler County, Northern Kentucky during 2020 pandemic

Cincinnati Enquirer/Cincinnati.com

Four Cincinnati area counties saw double-digit percentage leaps in overdose deaths in 2020, preliminary records show. A surge in overdose deaths experienced across the country is a scenario that addiction treatment providers and advocates...

Record surges in Ohio opioid overdoses prompts Yost to urge vigilance

Knox Pages

COLUMBUS — More Ohioans died of an opioid overdose during a three-month period last year than at any time since the epidemic began, according to an analysis by a task force created by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost. The analysis...

Hemp Cigarette Offered In Ohio As Attempt To Curb Tobacco Addiction.

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (1/6, Narciso, 526K) reports, “A Canadian company began offering a new cigarette in Ohio in recent weeks that aims to curb tobacco addiction by burning hemp leaves among other plant material.” Called Taat, this “inhalable smoke is intended to mirror the taste and feel of traditional tobacco, but without the addictive nicotine or other harmful byproducts.” A professor at Ohio State University said that “Taata ‘is not subject to regulation by the FDA as a tobacco product if it does not contain any tobacco-derived materials.’” According to

Theodore Wagener, director of the Center for Tobacco Research and co-leader of the Cancer Control Research Program at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, “Nicotine is not the most harmful part of cigarettes – nicotine is a major reason that cigarettes are addictive.”

National News

Study Identifies First Potential Treatment For Meth Addiction.

[The Hill](#) (1/13, Hellmann, 5.69M) reports, “Researchers think they may have found the first medication treatment for meth addiction, a significant step toward stemming the increase in overdose deaths seen in recent years.” [Research](#) “published Wednesday in The New England Journal of Medicine found that a combination of two medications may be a safe and effective treatment for adults with moderate or severe methamphetamine use disorder.” The trial was conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and its director Nora “Volkow said the next step will be to ask the Food and Drug Administration to approve the drugs for treatment of methamphetamine use disorder so it is covered by insurance plans.” [\(Article attached.\)](#)

Pot Might Impair A Woman’s Fertility: Study.

[HealthDay](#) (1/13, Murez, 11K) reports, “Sunni Mumford, an investigator at the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,” helped conduct a [study](#) that found “women who use cannabis may be reducing their fertility.” The study was recently “published online...in Human Reproduction.”

Using E-Cigarettes Can Increase The Risk Of Becoming A Daily User Of Traditional Cigarettes, Study Indicates.

[ABC News](#) (1/13, A. Anoruo, 2.44M) reports researchers found in a four-year study that using e-cigarettes can increase the risk of becoming a daily user of traditional cigarettes. The findings were published in Pediatrics. In discussing the findings, the article says, “Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said the FDA’s and CDC’s National Youth Tobacco Survey noted youth e-cigarette use jumped from less than 5% to 30% between 2013 and 2019 – a rise he called ‘incredibly rapid.’ Secretary Azar said the rise, as well as evidence youth were drawn to particular e-cigarette flavors, were the onus for the FDA’s 2019 priority enforcement of illegal kid-friendly e-cigarette flavor marketing.”

Toxins In Marijuana Smoke May Be Harmful To Health, Study Finds.

[CNN](#) (1/11, 89.21M) reports, “People who only smoked marijuana had higher blood and urine levels of several smoke-related toxins such as naphthalene, acrylamide and acrylonitrile than nonsmokers, according to the study published Monday in the journal EClinicalMedicine.” Senior study author Dana Gabuzda, a principal researcher in cancer immunology and virology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

in Boston, said in a statement, “Marijuana use is on the rise in the United States with a growing number of states legalizing it for medical and nonmedical purposes – including five additional states in the 2020 election. The increase has renewed concerns about the potential health effects of marijuana smoke, which is known to contain some of the same toxic combustion products found in tobacco smoke.” The piece mentions that the National Cancer Institute says, “People are exposed to substantially more acrylamide from tobacco smoke than from food.”

Axing Federal Scientific Advisory Committees Was A Big Mistake.

In a [STAT](#) (1/11, 262K) “First Opinion” piece, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health Department of Environmental and Occupational Health chair Melissa Perry writes that President Trump “signed Executive Order 13875 in June, requiring all federal agencies to reduce the number of their advisory committees by no less than one-third,” and in “doing so he continued to diminish the role of science in government.” Perry adds, “Some of the scientific advisory committees eliminated by the executive order were charged with giving advice to the directors of major federal health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute.” Perry urges the incoming Biden Administration “to reinstate these advisory boards so the federal government has access to a broad network of clear-thinking, independent public health advisers who will safeguard the nation in a rapidly changing world.”

More Patients Used Telehealth Services For Behavioral Health Treatment During First Months Of Pandemic, Study Suggests.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (1/11, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports a study published by RAND Corp “finds during the first few months of the pandemic, patients were more likely to use telehealth services for behavioral health treatment than physical conditions.” The study “shows that 53.6% of patients with a behavioral health condition sought treatment via telehealth from mid-March to early May of 2020,” while “43.2% of patients with a chronic physical condition used telehealth to receive care during the same period.” Modern Healthcare adds “RAND surveyed 2,052 people from its American Life Panel, which is a group of more than 6,000 who participate in RAND’s research.”

Study Claims E-Cigarettes Serve As A Gateway To Daily Smoking Among Young People.

The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (1/11, Randall, 4.11M) reports that young people who vape are three times as likely to “end up smoking,” according to a study of more than 49,000 people aged 12 to 24 over four years. One of the paper’s authors, oncologist John Pierce of the University of California San Diego, claimed, “E-cigarettes are a gateway for those who become daily cigarette smokers.” He added, “The start product has changed from cigarettes to e-cigarettes, but the end product has stayed the same.”

The researchers found that only one percent of young people who “experimented with a single tobacco product progressed to smoking cigarettes daily – but this figure rose to 15 per cent among those who tried out five or more different forms of tobacco.” The findings were published in Pediatrics.

Once Lost To Addiction, She Returns With Message Of Hope.

The AP (1/5, Callahan) reported on the experience of one woman who was homeless in Philadelphia, and “her resolve to save others who feel trapped, as she once did, in the throes of addiction.” Dr. Nora Volkow, director of NIH’s National Institute on Drug Abuse, said of people who face addiction issues, “The health care system is not prepared to take care of them.” Volkow added “that stigma and social issues – compounded with new distancing protocols – create more barriers.”

Officials Should Use 21st Century Cures Act To Enhance Patient Data Exchange, Expert Urges.

EHR Intelligence (1/8, Jason) reported, “Government officials should utilize the 21st Century Cures Act to enhance patient data exchange between the state and local health departments, a move that might slow down the spread of COVID-19, according to Ben Moscovitch, project director of Health Information Technology at Pew Charitable Trusts.” When providers enter “information into their respective EHRs, the information does not always flow through the system and share or report the information in a timely or accurate manner,” and if “data is sent to the correct location, it is not always received properly due to outdated formats and a lack of interoperability.” The “patient data faults are connected to information blocking, which the final Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) interoperability rule prohibits.” Moscovitch said, “HHS leaders can and should use their authority to ensure that vital data on coronavirus cases is transmitted in formats that state and local officials can readily use.”

Vape Free Schools Initiative Hopes To Help Parents Talk To Kids About Vaping, E-Cigarette Use.

WTOP-FM Washington (1/9, 164K) reported, “There appears to be a bright spot when it comes to the ongoing problem of kids who vape: the most recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the number of kids who are vaping or using e-cigarettes has started to decline.” However, “that silver lining still exists around a dark cloud: every day nearly 8,000 kids start using those products even though by law they aren’t allowed to, according to numbers from the American Lung Association.” This is the reason “the ALA launched its Vape Free Schools Initiative, aimed at helping parents talk to their kids about using those products in a way that doesn’t backfire.”

Powerful Synthetic Opioid Fentanyl Played Major Role In Higher Number Of Deaths Among Homeless Population In L.A. County, Report Says.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/7, Smith, 3.37M) reports, “A sharp rise in deaths of homeless people starting in the spring of 2020 was driven by drug overdoses involving fentanyl,” a report released Thursday by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health concluded.” During “the first seven months of 2020, 926 homeless people died in L.A. County, an increase of 26% over the same period in 2019.” Data indicate “drug overdoses were responsible for just under 30% of homeless deaths in 2020, by far the leading cause.” The article says, “Methamphetamine, determined to be involved in nearly two-thirds of those deaths, remained the dominant contributor,” however, “the presence of the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl in the mix of drugs generally found in a person’s system more than doubled to 41%.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-21-026](#)

[Notice of Pre-Application Information Webinar and Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for RFA-DA-21-029, RFA-DA-21-030, and RFA-MH-21-145](#)

[RFA-DA-21-030](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Integrative Management of chronic Pain and OUD for Whole Recovery \(IMPOWR\): Research Centers \(RM1 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-21-029](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Integrative Management of chronic Pain and OUD for Whole Recovery \(IMPOWR\): Coordination and Dissemination Center \(R24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-MH-21-145](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Optimizing Multi-Component Service Delivery Interventions for People with Opioid Use Disorder, Co-Occurring Conditions, and/or Suicide Risk \(R01 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-21-022](#)

[HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Consortium Administrative Core \(U24 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-21-023](#)

[HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Data Coordinating Center \(U24\)](#)

[RFA-DA-21-021](#)

[HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study \(U01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-21-020](#)

[HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study \(Collaborative U01-Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-21-109](#)

[Early Stage Investigator Research Using Nonhuman Primate \(NHP\) Models \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

CAR Member New Publications

“Longitudinal Outcomes of Children Exposed to Opioids In-utero: A Systematic Review” Sara J. Arter PhD, RN, Brian Tyler PhD, Jennifer McAllister MD, IBCLC Elizabeth Kiel PhD, Ayse Güler MSN, M. Cameron Hay PhD

Journal of Nursing Scholarship, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jnu.12609>

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose was to summarize evidence of long-term outcomes of children, 2 years and older, exposed to opioids in-utero.

Design: This was a systematic review. Studies were identified by searching the following electronic databases: PubMed, EBSCO HOST/Medline, and Web of Science. Articles were published between 1979 and 2019.

Methods: This systematic review was reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Two sets of two independent reviewers extracted data and assessed study quality according to National Institutes of Health quality assessment tools.

Results: Forty-three articles met inclusion criteria. Synthesis of articles identified trends toward worse outcomes for children with in-utero opioid exposure in all areas, most notably related to academic success, behavior, cognition, hospitalizations, and vision.

Conclusions: Findings reinforce the necessity of continued research in this area with improved study design. Despite limitations in the current body of evidence, findings from this review are vital knowledge for clinicians, because children exposed to opioids in-utero are clearly vulnerable to a wide variety of suboptimal health and developmental outcomes.

Clinical Relevance: Recognition of all outcomes across childhood associated with in-utero opioid exposure will inform improved identification and interventions tailored to the most pressing needs of affected children. Despite the need for continued research, there is sufficient evidence to necessitate close, individualized follow-up throughout childhood.

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