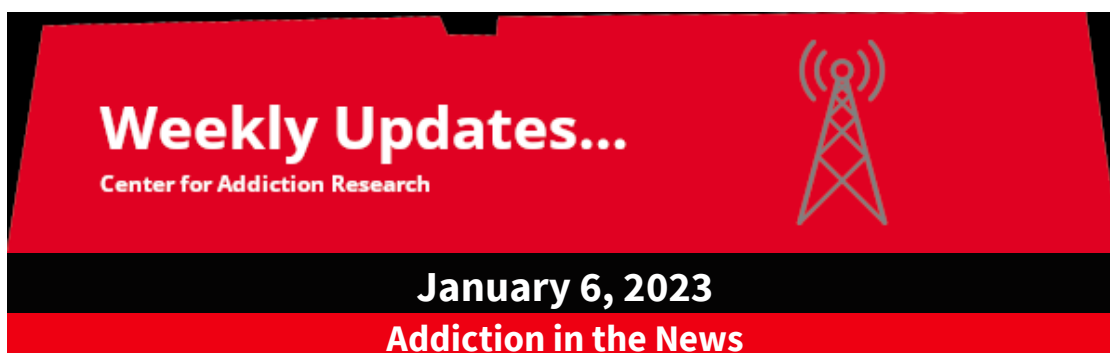


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

WHAS: UC professor expresses concerns about Kentucky's medical marijuana executive order

On Jan. 1, an executive order from Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear's desk went into effect, allowing Kentuckians to purchase medical marijuana in states where it is legal and then bring it back. Kentucky residents with no more than 8 ounces of medical marijuana will be pardoned from possession charges, and to be eligible, a doctor must diagnose and certify the patient with one of 21 conditions. WHAS, Louisville's ABC affiliate, featured University of Cincinnati cannabis researcher LaTrice Montgomery, PhD, in its coverage leading up to the executive order going into effect. "I'm like, wow, there's no sort of tracking," Montgomery told WHAS after reviewing the executive... **(CAR member, Dr. Montgomery)**

International media highlight harm reduction vending machine research

New research from the University of Cincinnati, in partnership with local nonprofit Caracole, shows a self-service vending machine filled with harm reduction supplies such as naloxone helped prevent overdoses and contributed to Hamilton County's overdose deaths decreasing in 2021. Caracole, an HIV/AIDS service organization in Cincinnati, partnered with nonprofit Interact for Health to bring the idea of the vending machine to fruition, with an Interact for Health grant funding the purchase of the vending machine. "We decided to implement a harm reduction vending machine that was no contact, low barrier, so people could access supplies to keep them safer," Suzanne Bachmeyer, director of...

Fentanyl use disorder is tricky to treat: 'Once they start to withdraw, they run'

Doctors and other medical caregivers have been urged for years to get certified to prescribe a medication to patients with opioid use disorder to treat the addiction and reduce overdose deaths. The medication is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved buprenorphine, commonly known by a brand, Suboxone. Taken as prescribed, it's among the most effective ways to treat patients and protect them from overdose. Ideally, patients can start buprenorphine without experiencing severe withdrawal. If they used heroin or other opioids, they might have to wait 12 hours to a couple of days after their last use before taking the medication. But with fentanyl, the wait is far longer. And if...

Life-saving methadone medication is hard to get. Is it harder in Ohio, Kentucky?

What if medication for your life-threatening health condition was available but only under conditions? Things like traveling to a particular clinic to get it rather than having a 30-day prescription filled at a pharmacy and taking it home. Urinating in front of someone every so often for a lab test, and more. It happens a lot in the United States, including in Ohio and Kentucky, for people who take methadone for opioid use disorder. It happens even though the medication is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and despite overdose deaths climbing nationwide, with more than 100,000 people dying in 2021. "Federal regulations limit the availability of methadone at a time...

Combating drug addiction in Brown County

Brown County residents have much to be proud of. A rural county made up of some charming villages rich in history, communities that lack high rates of serious violent crimes, and good public school systems that help to make it a great place to raise a family. But like other counties in Ohio, Brown County isn't without its troubles. Among the biggest problems Brown County faces today is drug addiction. Not only does substance abuse disorder affect those addicted, but it impacts the county as a whole. Along with illegal drug activity comes an increase in other types of crimes in communities such as thefts, break-ins, and sometimes violent crimes. With an alarming number of the criminal...

Leveraging Location Analytics to Address the Opioid Epidemic

December 19, 2022 - Addressing the opioid crisis has become a top public and population health priority in recent years, and big data analytics solutions to address the issue have been proposed and implemented by healthcare organizations across the country. Many of these solutions leverage risk prediction, machine learning, or cloud-based EMR 'technology accelerators' to combat the epidemic and improve patient outcomes for substance use disorders, but researchers have highlighted gaps that prevent these approaches from being effective. In an opinion piece published in the June issue of *Addiction*, researchers from the National Institute of Drug Abuse at the National Institutes...

Treatment clinics prepare for increase in gambling addiction as Ohio launches sports betting

CINCINNATI – The New Year marks the start of a new, multi-million dollar business in Ohio: sports betting. New state law will permit sports gaming online, at casinos and sports arenas as well as permitted bars and restaurants, opening up a new form of gambling to new demographics. The Ohio Casino Control Commission is expecting a boon of millions in new tax revenue for the state, but while many are eager to see the new model take off, those who work with compulsive gamblers are expecting a spike in calls to their helpline and many facing life-changing consequences from legalization. To Chris Tuell, the Clinical Director of Addiction Services at the Lindner Center of HOPE, the...

Experts worry about rise in gambling addiction in Ohio as legalized sports betting begins

CINCINNATI (WKRC) – Legalized online and live sports gambling starts in Ohio on January 1, and experts say that could also create mental health challenges for the state. Mental health experts are worried about a possible big jump in the number of problem gamblers statewide. University of Cincinnati social work visiting associate professor Gregory Stewart says there are about 250,000 people in Ohio currently with a gambling problem, with 16% of those under the age of 18. He says it is hard to predict how much those numbers will go up with legalized sports betting, especially since gamblers can place wagers on their smartphones. But the number could be big. "Ohio being a large state within..."

Experts see slight improvement in Kentucky opioid overdose deaths

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) - In 2021, Kentucky saw record overdose deaths, with more than 2,200 people dying from drug overdoses. That was a nearly 15% increase compared to 2020. There is hope on the horizon as treatment advocates say early numbers for 2022 indicate the slightest decline. The pandemic and isolation are some of the factors in the spike in the last couple of years. Advocates and treatment centers like Addiction Recovery Care have worked relentlessly to save lives and get control of what is killing so many people. "Before COVID hit, Kentucky was beginning to see a decrease in overdose deaths," said Addiction Recovery Care chief administration officer Matt Brown. "Kentucky..."

Northeast Ohio police chiefs provide update on effects of heroin in area

Heroin abuse and overdoses remain an issue nationwide and one that local police departments continued to battle over the past year. Many communities have also seen a surge in methamphetamine, fentanyl and other derivatives. Willoughby Police Chief James Schultz said the city had five heroin possession arrests in 2022. In addition there were 17 cocaine possession arrests, 34 synthetic narcotic arrests, and 17 opiate overdose incidents in the past year. Schultz said while heroin is still a dangerous issue and a point of emphasis, it isn't the only drug that can be a

problem. “Heroin still has an impact in Lake County, but fentanyl and similar derivatives have had such a greater...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Mercy Manor helps women in recovery

Mercy Manor provides an intense 24/7, safe, spiritual recovery residence for women with histories of homelessness, abuse, mental health, incarceration, alcohol, and drug addiction. “At Mercy Manor, the women work their program, while they re-establish themselves into the local community,” explains CEO Barbara Hudson-Benner. “Our targeted population is focused on females with dual diagnoses of mental health and addiction. The residents of Mercy Manor are the wives, mothers, and sisters of families in our community. Our intake of clients come from referrals from community addiction facilities, behavioral health facilities, drug court, criminal justice facilities, and other agencies...

National News

Study finds hepatitis C treatment gap for individuals with alcohol use disorder

A new study supported by the National Institutes of Health shows that individuals with alcohol use disorder (AUD) are less likely to receive antivirals for hepatitis C, despite current guidelines recommending antiviral treatment regardless of alcohol use. Direct-acting antiviral treatment is highly effective at reducing serious illness and death among individuals with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, a condition that commonly occurs among people with AUD. Led by scientists at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, the research was conducted by a team of international scientists and...

Experts publish overview of newest perspectives on hazardous drinking and alcohol use disorders

A University of Rhode Island (URI) professor is a co-author of a new paper on the state-of-the-state of hazardous drinking and alcohol use disorders, published in Nature Reviews Disease Primers. URI Prochaska Endowed Professor Sarah Feldstein Ewing joins 10 of the world's most respected experts in the addiction field to provide a global overview of contemporary cutting-edge perspectives on alcohol use, including current global epidemiology on alcohol use and use disorders, along with current approaches to diagnosis, screening, prevention, management and treatment, and where gaps in...

Alcohol Addiction: The Case for Treatment by Primary Care Providers

Primary care providers build a powerful therapeutic alliance with their patients. Through a longitudinal relationship, they can earn patients’ trust in the treatment of not only physical health conditions but also of mental health conditions, including alcohol use disorder (AUD). Contrary to conventional wisdom, evidence shows that people with AUD do not have to attend a residential rehab program or undergo intensive psychotherapy to get better. Instead, they can take FDA-

approved medications to reduce cravings to drink. These medications can easily be prescribed by primary care...

New study highlights role of drug and alcohol use in serious crashes

Each year, many people look forward to ringing in the new year with family and friends. However, some celebrations include the combination of alcohol and late-night driving—which can lead to fatal accidents. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), between 2008 and 2012, January 1st had the highest percentage of alcohol-related vehicle deaths when compared to other days and holidays. To raise awareness on the dangers of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released...

Alcohol abuse spiked during the pandemic. Treatment hasn't kept up.

As states locked down in 2020, many of them moved to help restaurants and small businesses by making it easier to sell booze. The public policy shift in the states coincided with an alarming increase in alcohol consumption during the pandemic and a 26 percent increase in alcohol-induced deaths from 2019 to 2020. Public health experts warn that the relaxed rules are eroding progress combating substance abuse, especially since resources for treatment for alcoholism have failed to keep pace. Even so, eased rules that were intended to help shuttered businesses — and to keep sales tax revenue...

Don't Mix Alcohol With Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, Study Suggests

Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) was associated with an increased risk of alcohol use disorder (AUD)-related hospitalizations compared with sleeve gastrectomy and a weight management program, a Veterans Affairs cohort study indicated. After adjusting for body mass index and time-updating alcohol use, RYGB was linked to an increased hazard of AUD-related hospitalizations compared with sleeve gastrectomy (HR 1.98, 95% CI 1.55-2.53, $P < 0.001$) and the MOVE! program (HR 1.70, 95% CI 1.20-2.41, $P = 0.003$), reported Nadim Mahmud, MD, MPH, of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University...

A Surprising Consequence of Cannabis Legalization: Higher Alcohol Consumption

According to new research from the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, states that have legalized recreational cannabis have seen a slight increase in alcohol consumption, particularly among young adults and men. This increase in alcohol use, which was recently reported in JAMA Health Forum, suggests that states considering recreational cannabis legalization should also consider targeted public health messaging and policy interventions to mitigate problem drinking. "Recreational cannabis laws have made cannabis legally accessible to nearly half of U.S. adults, but it has been..."

Insomnia Medications Show Promise in Fighting Drug and Alcohol Addiction

Researchers at Rutgers University have discovered a potential biological process for drug and alcohol addiction and believe that current treatments for insomnia could potentially be utilized to reduce or eliminate cravings. An article recently published in the journal *Biological Psychiatry* discusses the findings of researchers at the Rutgers Brain Health Institute and other institutions on the role of the orexin system in drug addiction. The orexin system, which regulates sleep patterns, reward pathways, and mood, has been found to drive drug-seeking behavior. It has been observed that many drugs of abuse...

Study shows cannabis use in adolescents linked with anxiety, memory loss

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry researchers have shown that chronic exposure during adolescence to tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive component of cannabis, may induce long-lasting memory impairments and increased anxiety levels. The study, published in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*, uses a rodent model to pinpoint two different parts of the brain—the dorsal and the ventral regions in the hippocampus—and shows evidence of different sets of abnormalities in each region following THC exposure. The researchers identified several key molecular and neuronal...

Kids' Unintentional Exposures to Edible Cannabis on the Rise

Pediatric exposures to edible cannabis products increased more than 10-fold in recent years, according to a retrospective analysis of the National Poison Data System. From 2017 to 2021, unintentional ingestions of cannabis edibles among U.S. children younger than 6 years rose from 207 to 3,054 cases, with almost all exposures (97.7%) occurring in a residential setting, reported Marit Tweet, MD, of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, and colleagues in Pediatrics. "Unintentional exposure to cannabis edibles in children has become a significant public health issue, and there is a large..."

First legal recreational marijuana shop opens in New York City

New York's first legal recreational marijuana dispensary opened on Thursday in the heart of Manhattan. More than 100 people crowded into the dispensary in New York City's East Village, run by the nonprofit Housing Works, a group dedicated to fighting homelessness and AIDS.

"The first legal adult-use cannabis sales mark a historic milestone in New York's cannabis industry," said Governor Kathy Hochul, who oversees the fourth most populous US state. Hochul said in a statement that she expects New York to serve "as a national model for the safe, equitable and inclusive industry we are now..."

Screen All Surgery Patients for Cannabis Use, New Guidelines Say

Surgical candidates undergoing anesthesia should be screened universally for cannabis use, new guidelines from the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA Pain Medicine) stated. Anesthesiologists should ask all

patients about the type of cannabis product used, whether it was smoked or ingested, the amount used, how recently it was used, and the frequency of use, reported Shalini Shah, MD, of the University of California Irvine, and colleagues in Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine. Anesthesiologists also should be prepared to possibly change the anesthesia plan or...

Collaboration to develop a mobile intervention to help Black American smokers with HIV

HIV remains a critical global public health issue and a significant threat to global health security after having claimed more than 40 million lives, according to the World Health Organization. The stark reality is that one in five of the more than one million people living with HIV in the U.S. is unaware of his or her infection, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reported. Even amid recent strides to end HIV, the most concerning aspects about the treatment of the virus include the wide disparities among Black and Latino Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...

Hispanic and Latinx young males with higher education, greater acculturation are more likely to use e-cigarettes

Hispanic and Latinx young men with higher levels of education who were born in the United States and speak mostly English at home are more likely to use e-cigarettes, according to a Rutgers researcher. In a study, published in American Journal of Medicine Open, researchers examined current and former use of e-cigarettes among individuals from six distinct Hispanic and Latinx backgrounds. Electronic cigarettes—also called e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)—rose in popularity in 2014 when conventional cigarette use decreased among adults in U.S. However, little is known...

Researchers combat e-cigarette lung injury epidemic

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), roughly 1 in every 20 Americans uses electronic cigarettes or vapes—with many being middle and high school students. There has been an uptick in e-cigarette use over the years, as some adults have turned to the products to quit smoking and many adolescents are attracted to fun flavors and advertisements. Although doctors and researchers sympathize with smokers wanting to quit smoking, scientists are discovering that vaping might not be a healthier alternative to smoking, especially in adolescents. E-cigarette products...

What Are Quit-Smoking Programs and How Can They Help You?

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 4, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Sometimes it really does "take a village" to help you meet life's challenges, and quitting smoking can be one of the toughest challenges out there. That's why specially designed smoking-cessation programs can make all the difference, experts say. Many programs employ a combination approach, one that treats the physical and the psychological

addictions you're trying to break. Dr. Amit Mahajan, a volunteer medical spokesperson for the American Lung Association (ALA), says proven ways to help people quit often include professional counseling...

What happens to your body when you quit smoking

Giving up cigarettes can be excruciating, with cravings and withdrawal symptoms lingering for weeks, especially if you aren't strongly motivated. Yet, just minutes after that first smoke-free breath, your body starts to change for the better. And with all the healthy breaths you take in the weeks and months that follow, the benefits only multiply. The health benefits of quitting smoking is the first and biggest reason to quit, according to the American Lung Association (ALA). "Even persons who have smoked for many years or who have smoked heavily can realize health and financial benefits from..."

How Unhealthy Are Cigars?

THURSDAY, Jan. 5, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Cigars are linked with victory, new babies and Winston Churchill, not nicotine addiction, but are they any better for your health than cigarettes? No, say experts who point out the many dangers of cigar smoking. Over the past few decades, through clever marketing, cigar smoking has taken on a rarified aura, with cigar bars and magazines like Cigar Aficionado devoted to a cigar-smoking lifestyle that appeals to male fantasies of power and class. It's also a way to relax because it is a more leisurely smoke than the frenetic rush of a cigarette. What are cigars made...

England slips further off-track for smokefree 2030 target

The UK government is almost a decade behind achieving its target for England to be smokefree by 2030, a new report published by Cancer Research UK reveals. The report warns that, if recent trends continue, the target will now not be met until 2039. This is despite repeated warnings from the charity that data up to 2018 indicated the Government was already seven years off track. The charity is now calling on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, to publish a plan for tobacco control. This must include more action to prevent young people from...

Caring for people and their babies in the opioid crisis

Jeannie Kelly didn't go into obstetrics to become a specialist in substance misuse. But after discovering a drastic disparity in the way pregnant people with opioid use disorder (OUD) were treated on the US East Coast compared with those in the Midwest, her path changed. At Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, she provided obstetric care for people with OUD as part of her residency and fellowship. Health-care workers at Tufts found that getting pregnant women into the health-care system, using medication to wean them off opioids and providing specialists who understood their specific needs...

Babies in danger of ingesting opioids laced with animal tranquilizer

When a toddler or an infant accidentally ingests a prescription opioid medication, the immediate results can prove deadly, experts warn. But another new worrisome dynamic is afoot in the United States, a just-published study reveals: pediatric poisonings from a particularly lethal combo—a potent synthetic opioid known as fentanyl and a powerful veterinary sedative called xylazine. "Infants or toddlers exposed to fentanyl are at risk of death," even without the added threat of xylazine, said lead author Dr. Stephanie Deutsch, medical director of the Nemours CARE Program at...

Deadly fentanyl replacing heroin as drug of choice for opiate users

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. It's also more deadly, in smaller doses, and more addicting, creating addicts within days of their first exposure. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid prescribed by medical professionals for treating severe pain, is also cheaper on the street than other opiates, and so it has largely replaced heroin as the drug of choice for many addicts. It just gives more bang for their buck. "We have seen a huge uptick in it being the drug of choice," Cpl. Karen Norris, outreach officer...

US sues top drug firm over opioid distribution

The US Justice Department sued leading drug distributor AmerisourceBergen Thursday, alleging that despite the country's addiction crisis the company has failed to report suspicious pharmacy orders for addictive opioids as required. The Justice Department said that AmerisourceBergen, which has already agreed to pay \$6.1 billion to states to settle claims it helped stoke the opioid crisis, continued to violate its reporting obligation from 2014 to the present, even participating in hiding suspicious orders. For example, the department alleged that AmerisourceBergen was aware that two...

Here's How States Should Use the Opioid Settlement Funds

As hundreds of millions of dollars start rolling into states from opioid settlement funds, spending these dollars wisely is critical. The significant missteps in how tobacco settlement funds were used offers a lesson in what can go wrong when these massive amounts of money are not used to meaningfully address public health gaps related to substance use and addiction. States have a crucial opportunity to respond differently, and thankfully a tremendous amount of research to guide funding priorities. The urgency to get this right is evident in the numbers; the nation topped 110,000...

Watch: The 'fourth wave' of the overdose crisis

For over two decades, a crisis of opioid overdoses has been one of the most urgent health care emergencies in the United States. Initially driven by the over-prescription of pharmaceutical opioids such as OxyContin, a "second wave" of

addiction deaths began as people transitioned from prescription opioids to heroin, a much riskier drug. The so-called “third wave” was marked by the proliferation of potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. This crisis has been seemingly intractable, with new, record-high deaths year after year. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, a perfect storm...

DOJ urged to investigate sale of fentanyl pills on Snapchat as teen overdose deaths spike

As the U.S. deals with its deadliest overdose crisis to date, a national crime-prevention group is calling on the Justice Department to clamp down on social media’s role in the spread of fentanyl, the drug largely driving a troubling spike in overdose deaths among teenagers. The National Crime Prevention Council sent a letter Wednesday to Attorney General Merrick Garland, calling for an investigation. The group known for ads featuring McGruff the Crime Dog is especially concerned about the sale of fake pills laced with fentanyl on Snapchat, a popular platform among teens. “Drug dealers are using...

Time to Get Serious About the Dual Epidemics of Chronic Pain and Opioid Addiction

ALBANY, NEW YORK, USA, December 27, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Chronic pain and opioid overdoses have never been worse and the two are intimately connected. According to a September 2021 Harris Poll, 56% of adult Americans reported they suffer from chronic pain. This compares to about 30% of American adults just a few years earlier. Opioid overdoses have also been rapidly escalating with an all-time high of over 80,000 deaths in 2021. Though most of those recent deaths have been caused by illicit fentanyl, the vast majority of users first became addicted to opioids prescribed for acute...

Wastewater samples show the dramatic effects of tough love on codeine addicts as consumption plunges

Switching the painkiller codeine to a prescription-only medicine in 2018 led to a 37 percent overall drop in its consumption across Australia, according to new findings from wastewater sampling published in the journal *Addiction*. The samples, taken from 49 wastewater treatment plants, which cover catchment areas for 10.6 million Australians, show the dramatic effect of withdrawing the country's most misused legal opioid from pharmacy counters, cutting dependency, and potentially saving lives. Scientists from the University of South Australia and University of Queensland compared...

Fatal Drug Overdoses Rose Among Black Women

Fatal drug overdoses rose among Black women in recent years, CDC data showed. Annual overdose deaths among Black women increased by 393% from 2015 to 2021 -- from 1,725 to 5,060 deaths -- according to Rebecca Arden Harris, MD, MSc, and David Mandell, ScD, both of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The

number of years of life lost jumped from 58,170 to 178,822, a 407% increase, Harris and Mandell reported in a JAMA Psychiatry research letter. On average, an overdose death resulted in 34.8 years of life lost. During the study period, some of the burden...

NIH launches harm reduction research network to prevent overdose fatalities

To address the overdose crisis in the United States, the National Institutes of Health has established a research network that will test harm reduction strategies in different community settings to inform efforts to help save lives. The harm reduction research network's efforts build on existing harm reduction research, and represent the largest pool of funding from NIH to date to study harm reduction strategies to address overdose deaths. More than 107,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose in 2021, according to provisional data from the U.S. Centers for Disease...

Overdose Prevention Centers Aren't a Radical Concept

It isn't every day that a patient pulls out their phone to show me pictures of their floors. Jason, whom I had just met during a busy Friday afternoon on addiction medicine consults, did just that. "It's not real hardwood, but it's something," Jason said proudly, with tears in his eyes. Why was he getting so emotional over floors? Jason had been homeless, living outside in a tent in San Francisco, for the past 5 years. About 6 months ago, Jason walked into San Francisco's Tenderloin Center (TLC), a brick-and-mortar location created by the city to link individuals experiencing homelessness with overdose...

Most reported substance use among adolescents held steady in 2022

The percentage of adolescents reporting substance use in 2022 largely held steady after significantly declining in 2021, according to the latest results from the Monitoring the Future survey of substance use behaviors and related attitudes among eighth, 10th, and 12th graders in the United States. Reported use for almost all substances decreased dramatically from 2020 to 2021 after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and related changes like school closures and social distancing. In 2022, reported use of any illicit drug within the past year remained at or significantly below pre-pandemic...

Mental health, substance abuse treatment facilities don't provide communication access to deaf, hard of hearing patients

In a paper published in Health Affairs, Tyler G. James, Ph.D., MCHES, post-doctoral research fellow, and his co-authors examined the rate at which federally-funded mental health and substance use treatment facilities complied with federally mandated requirements to provide accessible communication to Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients. The paper, "Communication Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Facilities for Deaf American Sign Language Users," was

published in the leading United States health policy journal. He also presented his findings at the Health Affairs Disability...

NIOSH Address Workplace Substance Abuse Recovery Issues

The U.S. continues to struggle with substance abuse disorders (SUDs). Data shows that 70% (about 13.6 million workers) of all adults with an alcohol or illicit drug use disorder are employed. The 13.6 million workers with a SUD represent nearly 9% of all employed adults. About 1.9 million workers (1%) receive treatment annually for a SUD, and about 13.3 million workers (nearly 9%) report that they are in recovery or have recovered from a past or present substance use problem. Looking specifically at people with SUD, approximately 53% have a mild disorder, 23% have a moderate disorder, and...

3 debates about addiction medicine to watch in 2023

The U.S. is experiencing its deadliest drug crisis ever, and there's no end in sight. And even as nearly 108,000 Americans die of drug overdose every 12 months, the federal government hasn't changed much about its approach to drug use and addiction. With Republicans and Democrats each set to control one chamber of Congress, most advocates aren't expecting Capitol Hill to suddenly step in. But some drug policy groups and major medical associations haven't given up. Instead, they've continued to call for major overhauls — including several that the Biden administration, and potentially...

Recent tragedies highlight rural mental health, addiction crisis

BISMARCK, N.D. — Signs of trouble should have been obvious long before Robert Bracken shot his son, Justin; his older brother, Richard; his employer Doug Dulmage, and, finally, himself with a .357 revolver on Aug. 29, 2022. With an unthinkable scene of four dead bodies in a blue-skied North Dakota grain field, it appeared an act fueled by towering instability had taken place. A formal investigation into the incident continues, leaving the ultimate motive and circumstances unclear. It was one of two tragedies late this summer that illuminate the critical need to address mental health and substance...

Music and ayahuasca's role in treating substance use disorders in men

In Perú, music heals more than the soul. Traditional songs, known as icaros, are part of a treatment process for men rehabilitating from drug and alcohol addictions. Combined with traditional Amazonian medicine and psychotherapy, these icaros are used during ayahuasca healing ceremonies at the Takiwasi Center for Drug Addiction Rehabilitation and Research on Traditional Medicines in Tarapoto, Perú. For the first time in the center's 30-year history, a University of California, Riverside music researcher has captured the positive impact icaros play in men's recovery. Ayahuasca, a plant-based...

Research links addictive behavior to personality, psychopathology

Substance use disorder (SUD) includes dependence syndromes and harmful use of illicit drugs and alcohol. SUD is often complicated by a repetitive pattern of abstinence-reinstatement and psychiatric comorbidities. The personality traits of people with SUD may also be factors contributing to continuous use of substances. It is plausible that SUD reflects a complex interplay between substance use, dependence features, clinical symptoms and personality traits. The relationship between substance use and clinical symptoms can be directional in nature. For instance, drug-induced...

Psychedelic drugs may launch a new era in psychiatric treatment, brain scientists say

One of the hottest tickets at this year's Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego was a session on psychedelic drugs. About 1,000 brain scientists squeezed into an auditorium at the San Diego Convention Center for the symposium, called Psychedelics and Neural Plasticity. They'd come to hear talks on how drugs like psilocybin and MDMA can alter individual brain cells, can help rewire the brain, and may offer a new way to treat disorders ranging from depression to chronic pain. "I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people," says Alex Kwan, a biomedical engineer at Cornell University...

Study links social media, gaming addiction to emotions

Social media scrolling and gaming can be addictive, but a new study out of the University of Georgia found these two behaviors are particularly habit forming for kids who have trouble regulating their emotions. The study found that nearly 80% of adolescents from 12 to 17 reported checking social media every day, with TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat being the most popular platforms among adolescents. And 100% of the students surveyed said they had a social media account. While less common than social media use, internet gaming is on the rise with 86% of the sample reporting experience...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-22-086](#)

[Notice of Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinar for RFA-DA-23-060 and RFA-DA-23-059, "HEAL Initiative: Sleep Predictors of Opioid-Use Disorder Treatment Outcomes Program"](#)

[RFA-DA-24-011](#)

[Substance Use Prevention Effectiveness Research Among Youth and Families in the Child Welfare System \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

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

[Substance Use Prevention Effectiveness Research Among Youth and Families in the Child Welfare System \(R01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-013](#)

[Mechanisms and Targets at the Intersection of HIV and Substance Use \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-014](#)

[Mechanisms and Targets at the Intersection of HIV and Substance Use \(R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-22-022](#)

[HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award in PAIN and SUD Research \(K99/R00 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-22-023](#)

[HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award in PAIN and SUD Research \(Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-NS-22-024](#)

[HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award in PAIN and SUD Research to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-NS-22-025](#)

[HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award in PAIN and SUD Research to Promote Diversity \(K99/R00 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-078](#)

[Biomedical Knowledgebase \(U24 - Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-079](#)

[Biomedical Data Repository \(U24 - Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-PM-23-001](#)

[Enhancing the Use of the All of Us Research Programs Data \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-PM-23-002](#)

[Small Grants to Enhance the Use of the All of Us Research Programs Data \(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-049](#)

[NIDA Core "Center of Excellence" Grant Program \(P30 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-OD-23-039](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@uc.edu **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

[PCORI Also Seeking Research in Interventions for Adolescent Alcohol Use](#)

[Deadline: February 7, 2023, 5:00 PM EST \(Letters of Intent\)](#)

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) intends to release a Targeted PCORI Funding Announcement (Targeted PFA) on January 10, 2023, seeking to fund high-quality comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) that compares brief interventions to address adolescent alcohol use in schools, primary care, or other community-based settings.

Funds and Project Period:

- Funds available up to \$30 million
- Total direct costs up to \$5 million
- Maximum project period up to 5 years

Despite widespread endorsement of screening and brief interventions for substance use and the emerging evidence base for the adolescent population, questions remain about optimal parameters for content, delivery, and follow-up for brief interventions for this population, and for specific subgroups. PCORI's reissued Targeted PFA solicits applications that respond to the following question: What is the comparative effectiveness of brief behavioral interventions, adapted for adolescents ages 12-17, to address alcohol use? PCORI is particularly interested in studies comparing brief interventions adapted to increase reach, engagement, and/or effectiveness for adolescents. The funder is also interested in studies comparing brief interventions tailored to historically excluded, under-researched, and/or under-resourced adolescent populations. It is specifically interested in interventions in schools, primary care, or other community-based settings where

the target population may best be reached. For questions regarding this funding announcement, contact sciencequestions@pcori.org.

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