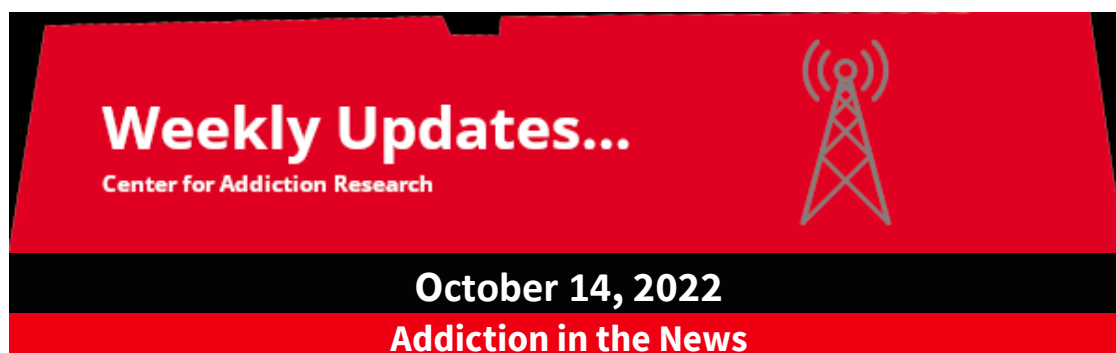


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

[Lexington Rescue Mission brings mental health and addiction recovery resources to local park](#)

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) - The month of October marks seven years of being clean for Shannon Smith. "Society looks at us in a whole different way. You have a stigma of being an addict. They think we're bad people but we're not bad people we just made bad choices. a lot of us, drugs have taken over and having a place to live is not important. drugs is what's important," said Recovery Coach at Recovery Café, Shannon Smith. Smith uses her experience to help others get clean, working at Recovery Café. "We empower them to be a better person. There are different paths of recovery so we do get maybe some people with mental illness..."

[Louisville jail director discusses addiction, mental health 'crisis'](#)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Louisville jail is being impacted by a mental health and addiction "crisis" Louisville Metro Department of Corrections Director Jerry Collins said Friday. Since last November 12 people who were in LMDC custody have died. They include overdose deaths and deaths by suicide, according to LMDC. "As we talk about this loss of life, I want to be intentional in recognizing that each life lost is a father, a son, a mother, a friend, a spouse, a person that someone loves and whose loss creates great pain," he said. Since April, jail staff have intervened 175 times to prevent potential suicides, according to Collins. He...

Ky. commission finalizing grant process for opioid settlement funds

A Kentucky commission tasked with disbursing half of the roughly \$480 million in opioid settlement funds is finalizing its grant process, which is expected to open in the coming week. Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced members of the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission in June, after lawmakers established the commission in 2021. He announced earlier in the year the state would receive the total funds over 18 years – part of a \$26 billion multistate settlement with four drug companies. Companies AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson and Johnson & Johnson have been accused of fueling...

More Than 4 Million Deadly Dosages of Fentanyl Seized in Ohio During DEA Enforcement Surge

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Detroit Division today announced the results of an enforcement operation that resulted in significant fentanyl seizures across Ohio. As part of the nationwide “One Pill Can Kill” initiative in Ohio, the DEA and its law enforcement partners seized more than 65 kilograms of fentanyl powder and 87,000 fentanyl-laced pills during the period of May 23, 2022, through Sept. 8, 2022 – enough to provide 4,766,788 deadly dosages. Nationwide, more than 10.2 million fentanyl pills and approximately 980 pounds of...

National News

Magic mushrooms: An unlikely possible treatment for the rise in problem drinking

Even before the pandemic, heavy drinking among women had risen precipitously, growing an astounding 58% from 2002 to 2013. This is especially troubling, given that females experience alcohol-related problems sooner and at lower levels of drinking than males. The statistics put a dark spin on all those cheeky “Mommy needs her wine” memes that have proliferated across pop culture and social media in recent years. But COVID-19 led to an increase in problem drinking across the gender spectrum, with deaths caused by alcohol rising 25% in 2020 over 2019, as both men and women sought solace in a bottle. It’s long past time to look deeper at how this country addresses alcohol use disorder, a problem that afflicts nearly 15 million Americans – especially now that a promising new treatment may be on the...

Study identifies neural circuit that controls alcohol abuse in mice

Queensland University of Technology researchers have identified, for the first time, a precise neural circuit in the brain that controls long-term alcohol consumption, in a study in mice. Professor Selena Bartlett and Dr. Arnauld Belmer were part of the research team who used cutting-edge molecular tools, pharmacology and a neuroscientific approach to target the part of the brain that has shown to be linked to binge drinking patterns. The research is published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*. "Alcohol dependence is a significant problem in Australia with one in

four people aged 18 years and over exceeded the guideline in 2020–21," Professor Bartlett said. "The mechanism in the brain driving long-term alcohol dependence is unknown and there are few effective treatment options...

Adults who misused alcohol as teens report dissatisfaction and poor health in midlife

Teenagers who misuse alcohol may struggle more with drinking problems in their 20s and 30s, be in poorer health and feel less satisfied with their lives, according to a study led by Rutgers and Virginia Commonwealth University. Published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, researchers defined adolescent alcohol misuse based on responses about frequency of drunkenness, frequency of alcohol use and alcohol problems at ages 16, 17 and 18.5. The early midlife outcomes they measured included life satisfaction, physical symptoms and self-rated health at age 34. Using data from questionnaires of 2,733 pairs of twins born in Finland in the late 1970s, the findings remained consistent even after controlling for genetic and environmental factors that twin siblings share. The outcome...

National campaign encourages people to stop drinking in October

Wausau, Wis. (WAOW) -- October kicked off a campaign that encourages others to stop drinking alcohol, at least for the month. Sober October is a challenge alongside Dry January and Dry July, all with one goal, to stop drinking alcohol. Across the country, more than 5,000 people have pledged to stay sober, raising more than \$13,000 for SMART recovery. SMART Recovery is a free program aimed at helping people with addiction. Luke Frazier, Marketing and Communications Director with SMART Recovery, said the month-long challenge has positive effects and can help people reflect on how much they drink. "Some have already reported that it just makes them a little more aware of how they use alcohol," Frazier said. "In many circumstances, they now can choose not to." Dr. Paula Hensel, Addiction Medicine...

Biden pardons all federal offenses of simple marijuana possession in first major steps toward decriminalization

CNN — President Joe Biden is taking his first major steps toward decriminalizing marijuana, fulfilling a campaign pledge to erase prior federal possession convictions and beginning the process of potentially loosening federal classification of the drug. Biden on Thursday pardoned all prior federal offenses of simple marijuana possession, a move that senior administration officials said would affect thousands of Americans charged with that crime. The announcement comes a month ahead of critical November elections that will determine control of Congress. Some candidates – in particular Pennsylvania Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, who is running for his state's US Senate seat – have made the issue of marijuana legalization central to their campaigns. When Fetterman and Biden met last month, the...

Unexplained Bleeding Linked to Rat Poison in Synthetic Cannabinoids

Unexplained bleeding in dozens of patients with a history of synthetic cannabinoid (SCB) use was linked to poisoning with brodifacoum, an anticoagulant often used in rat poison, Florida health officials reported. In early December 2021, the Florida Poison Information Center Tampa notified the Florida Department of Health about three patients experiencing bleeding with an unclear cause, reported Nikki Coble, MPH, of the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County in Tampa, and colleagues. A photo of a man adding synthetic cannabinoid to a cigarette he is rolling. Unexplained bleeding in dozens of patients with a history of synthetic cannabinoid (SCB) use was linked to poisoning with brodifacoum, an anticoagulant often used in rat poison, Florida health officials reported. In early...

2022 survey shows youth e-cigarette epidemic remains a serious public health threat

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- The results of the 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) released today show that the youth e-cigarette epidemic remains a serious public health threat driven by the actions of the tobacco industry to flood the market with cheap, youth-appealing flavored e-cigarettes while keeping brands already popular among teens easily accessible on shelves across the country. The vast majority of these products have not received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorization, a requirement to legally enter the market. The industry is playing a dangerous game of "catch me if you can" with the FDA at the expense of young people's physical and mental health. In 2022, over 2.5 million middle and high school students reported current e-cigarette use, a higher number than...

Notes from the Field: E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students – United States, 2022

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. middle and high school students (1). Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, can harm the developing adolescent brain, and can increase risk for future addiction to other drugs (2). Among middle and high school current e-cigarette users (i.e., use on ≥ 1 day during the past 30 days), use of disposable e-cigarette devices* increased significantly between 2019 and 2020 (3) and was the most commonly used device type reported in 2021 (4). In 2020 and 2021, approximately eight in 10 middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes reported using flavored e-cigarettes (4,5). CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) analyzed nationally representative data from the...

Health groups urge states to spend Juul settlement dollars on tobacco prevention

Major medical groups are urging states that won a \$438.5 million settlement in a case against electronic cigarette maker Juul Labs Inc. to use the money for tobacco

prevention and cessation programs, particularly those aimed at young people. Selling e-cigarette products to children is illegal in all 50 states. But teen use of the nicotine-laden products increased after Juul introduced sweet-flavored e-cigarettes in 2017. States and school districts reacted with a variety of educational campaigns designed to dissuade kids from using the harmful and addictive products. In addition to paying states over six to 10 years, the Sept. 6 settlement agreement prohibits Juul from any further marketing campaigns aimed at young people, limits where products can be sold and advertised, bans flavors not approved by the...

Proposed menthol ban in US would cut littering by 3.8 billion cigarette butts annually

Discarded cigarette butts are a top source of plastic pollution, and a new study estimates that banning menthol cigarettes in the United States would lead to 3.8 billion fewer littered cigarette filters each year, saving about 750 000 kg—or 1.7 million pounds—of waste each year. Cigarette butts are the most-littered items in the world. Smokers litter about 4.5 trillion cigarettes each year globally. Although cigarette butts are small and may appear environmentally harmless, they are made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that is slow to break down. Littered cigarette butts leach nicotine, heavy metals, and other toxic chemicals into soil and water supplies. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that these chemicals pose a serious threat to wildlife and the environment. Researchers at the...

Expert Sheds Light on Opioid Overdose Crisis in Youth

“It’s not just an opioid crisis, it is a polysubstance crisis,” Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS, FAAP, told attendees of the 2022 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in Anaheim, CA. Hadland, Chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at MassGeneral Hospital for Children and Harvard Medical School, shared insights into the use and abuse of opioids in youth in the US. Hadland is triple board certification in General Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, and Addiction Medicine. Addressing the issue in youth is important, Hadland explained, because data shows 2 of 3 individuals in opioid treatment reported first use before age 25 years, and 1 in 3 reported first use before they were 18 years old. Similarly, he pointed to 2021 data from Monitoring the Future that found almost...

'Treat and Street' Is Not the Answer to Overdose Crises in the ED

Several years ago, I was in the emergency department (ED) with a loved one -- a young woman seeking treatment for opiate withdrawals and a mental health crisis. We had driven 4 hours to this particular hospital because it was a full-service medical center and included a mental health ward with a med/chem (mental illness with chemical dependency) unit. In the ED, she had become very quiet and withdrawn, not her typical behavior. When the medical doctor examined her, he kept saying the mental health unit was "very busy," and he would order her a prescription and we could follow up with someone the next day. I kept insisting we would wait -- we needed to speak with someone from the behavioral health unit. It

was a desperate situation. To my dismay, she was discharged with a prescription for...

Home sensors can detect opioid withdrawal signs at night

Some smart home technology could help curb opioid overdose. A Washington State University pilot study showed that a set of noninvasive home sensors could provide accurate information about overnight restlessness and sleep problems for people recovering from opioid use disorder. Disrupted sleep is a major complaint of people trying to quit highly addictive opioids. Although methadone is effective at reducing cravings and withdrawal, it is often prescribed once daily and adjusting for the proper dosage can take time. In the meantime, treatments can wear off during the night, returning withdrawal symptoms and pain—which increases the risk of resuming drug use and accidental overdose. In the study, detailed in the journal *Pain Management Nursing*, WSU researchers found the home...

Knee, Shoulder Surgeries Without Opioids? It's Possible, Study Finds

MONDAY, Oct. 10, 2022 (HealthDay News) -- While politicians and health officials seek solutions to an opioid epidemic that kills tens of thousands every year, doctors who prescribe the pain medications are seeking alternatives for their patients. New research suggests one way to handle pain for minimally invasive knee or shoulder surgery could be as simple as combining three common medications: the anti-inflammatory naproxen (Aleve); pain reliever acetaminophen (Tylenol); and pantoprazole (Protonix), a proton-pump inhibitor used for gastrointestinal issues. These medications along with counseling about pain and the risks of opioids led to similar scores for pain relief, patient satisfaction and adverse events compared to standard care, which includes opioids, the study found. "We were impressed by...

Cherokee Nation to receive \$1.9M grant to help address opioid overdose epidemic, support Cherokees in recover

The Cherokee Nation will receive a \$1.9 million Tribal Opioid Response Grant to help address the opioid overdose epidemic and support Cherokees in recovery. The White House recently announced that \$1.5 billion was awarded to support states, tribes, and territories' efforts to address the opioid crisis and support individuals in recovery. In 2020, there were 18 deaths, 79 non-fatal drug overdoses, and 576 treatment admissions in seven counties among tribal citizens within the tribe's reservation, according to Cherokee Nation's grant. The Cherokee Nation will use the funds to expand services in its Medication Assisted Treatment clinic at W.W. Hastings Hospital, as well as amplify services aimed for tribal citizens 18 years old or older, who live within the Cherokee Nation reservation and identified with an opioid...

Opioids Tainted With Mystery Chemical Sparked Flood of Unusual Overdoses

SAN FRANCISCO -- Last September, opioids adulterated with a mystery ingredient sparked an outbreak of drug overdoses that flooded a southern Pennsylvania

hospital with 94 patients, a toxicologist reported here. Blood pressure readings approached 200/100 mm Hg in some patients, while many had extremely low heart rates, both unusual symptoms in overdoses, said Sarah Weiss, MD, of Reading Hospital in West Reading, Pennsylvania, during the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) annual meeting. "For the most part, they reported some version of the same thing -- they used their typical drug and it didn't feel right," she explained. Patients were often "somnolent, weak, falling down, or feeling generally unwell." The average length of hospital stay was 3.2 days. Three patients experienced cardiac arrest in the emergency department, where one patient died. Two others died as inpatients.

Opioid addiction treatment disparities could worsen if phone telehealth option ends, study suggests

As the nation ponders the future of temporary pandemic-era telehealth rules, a study suggests that phone calls and video chats may play an important role in leveling the playing field for medication-based treatment for opioid addiction. The study is based on data from more than 17,000 veterans nationwide treated with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder through the Veterans Health Administration. Even though the study suggests telehealth may have helped new and existing patients stay on their treatment, it also reveals telehealth disparities by race, housing status and age. The findings also suggest that telephone-based care – which is at risk for being discontinued -- can play an important role in helping patients access care. That's especially true for groups of patients who were already much less...

Must the Past Be Prologue?

The United States has had a long-standing romance with 2 approaches to substance use disorders (SUDs). Both, ostensibly, reduce abuse and dependence on opioids (OxyContin, heroin, fentanyl) and other drugs. These are Control and Consequences, which continue to prevail, meant to reduce drug use, social harm, and rising overdoses and deaths. Control of substances has been the most popular, go-to approach in the United States. Control means controlling access to a substance of abuse. Prohibition, the war on drugs (twice, thanks to former Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan), border interdiction, crop burning (where the substance originates), and buy and bust (agents acting as addicts buy substances and when they succeed the dealer is busted) are but a few of the methods used for...

Human Cocaine and Heroin Addiction Is Found Tied to Impairments in Specific Brain Circuit Initially Implicated in Animals

White matter in the brain that was previously implicated in animal studies has now been suggested to be specifically impaired in the brains of people with addiction to cocaine or heroin, according to a study conducted by researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Baylor College of Medicine. The study was

published October 6 in Neuron. The study looked at the connectivity of the tract between the prefrontal cortex (PFC), a brain region critical for regulating higher-order executive functions, and the habenula, a region that plays a critical role in reward and reward-associated learning. The habenula has emerged as a key driver of drug-seeking behaviors in animal models of addiction. Specifically, signaling from the PFC to the habenula is disrupted in rodent cocaine addiction models...

New trial will test treatment for meth addiction

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — As overdose deaths continue to climb both in Colorado and across the country, many Coloradans are dying from a dangerous combination of drugs. 9NEWS spoke with a doctor about the trend behind mixing methamphetamine with fentanyl, and a new trial looking at treatment solutions for addiction. Dr. Joe Sakai is an addiction psychiatrist who teaches in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine Anschutz Medical Campus. He also works with patients with substance abuse disorders, including meth. He will be one of the principal investigators during an upcoming trial for a potential treatment for meth addiction. Dr. Sakai: “Methamphetamine use disorder is quite common, quite a common reason people come into treatment.”
"Nationwide...

Free Nationwide Program for Native American Families Affected by Addiction

CENTER CITY, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--With the ongoing substance use and mental health crisis continuing to disparately impact Native Americans, the nonprofit Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation has launched a culturally specific educational and support program for Native American families—accessible at no cost right in the home, regardless if their loved one is in treatment. The new Family Program for Native American Families ensures families have the tools necessary for the journey to their own recovery. To develop the new service, indigenous clinician leaders within Hazelden Betty Ford’s national system of care applied Native American cultural and spiritual principles to the nonprofit addiction treatment leader’s existing, highly regarded family program, making modifications in language and...

Suicide prevention, treatment top discussion during Substance Use Disorder Symposium

WRNMMC, Bethesda, MD – Preventing suicides and treatment of people with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) top discussion during the Annual Substance Use Disorder Symposium, hosted by the National Capital Region Pain Initiative (NCRPI) at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Sept. 21. The symposium, in its sixth year, virtually brought together clinicians, researchers and other health-care practitioners from around the globe to present their work focused on identifying, preventing and treating SUDs. Dr. Christopher Spevak, a pain medicine specialist and board-certified anesthesiologist who directs the NCRPI at WRNMMC, explained that a multifaceted approach including education, research, intervention and clinical care is necessary to prevent, identify and treat SUDs. He added...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-23-030](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization Transformative and Integrative Models of Behavior at the Organismal Level \(R34 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-NR-23-001](#)

[NOTICE OF NINR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR FOR RFA-NR-23-001](#)

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 either of the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and facilitate assistance with approaches.

[Applications Open for 2023 Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Awards](#)

Deadline: Pre-proposal applications are due by 3 p.m. November 17, 2022

The Duke Charitable Foundation's 2023 Clinical Scientist Development Award Competition is now open and accepting applications until November 17. The purpose of the award is to facilitate the transition of junior physician scientists to independent clinical research careers. The foundation expects to award about 16 grants, each up to \$495,000 plus 10% in indirect costs, to early-career physician scientists. Applicants must hold an MD, MD/PhD, DO, or equivalent degree at the Assistant Professor rank and work at a US degree-granting institution that will support clinical research to enable their transition to independent research funding. For complete information see the Request for Applications on the foundation's website.

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