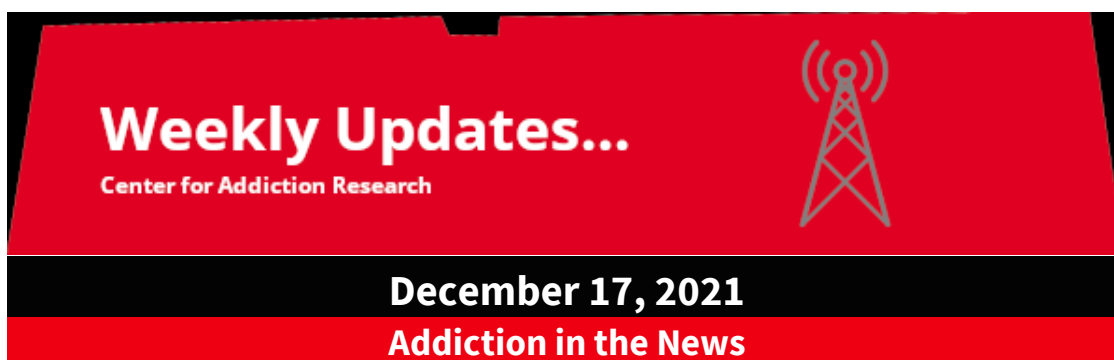


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. The next weekly newsletter will be distributed on 1/7/2022 - we at CAR wish you and your loved ones a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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

Indiana Will Place 19 Naloxone Vending Machines Around State.

The AP (12/9, Taxin) reports, "The first of 19 naloxone vending machines to be located around the state will be placed at the St. Joseph County Jail in South Bend, Gov. Eric Holcomb has announced." The machines are "programmed to dispense free naloxone kits, the governor's office said." Each kit will include "a single dose of naloxone, instructions for use, and a referral to treatment for substance use disorder."

Advocate takes another stab at needle exchange

WARREN — The idea of safe syringe exchanges in Trumbull and Mahoning counties to help people in active drug use is again being suggested, this time from an advocate outside the Valley. Dennis Cauchon, founder of Harm Reduction Ohio, based in Granville, thinks Mahoning and Trumbull, despite good intentions, need to "involve regular people more, those with shared experience or families..."

Program gives gifts to families struggling through opioid crisis

OHIO — A mother who lost two of her children to drugs is now helping families who have experienced the tragedy of the opioid crisis. For the past five years, Keli Clark has been helping families deal with the tragedies associated with the opioid crisis. "Project Noelle is named after my daughter, Noelle, (who) passed away of an overdose in 2017," said Keli Clark, the founder of the organization. Clark...

Three men arrested for fentanyl

Three men were arrested by the Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force for having numerous drugs and related compounds. On Dec. 3, the task force executed a search warrant after making controlled buys of fentanyl compounds. During the search, the officers seized a clamp and molds used in the production of fentanyl compounds, more than 200 grams of a fentanyl related compound, two...

National News

Substance Use Among Teens Dropped Significantly In 2021, Survey Finds.

[CNN](#) (12/15, McPhillips, 89.21M) reports, "Substance use among teens – including alcohol, marijuana, vaping and illicit drugs – dropped significantly in 2021, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse's latest Monitoring the Future survey, published Wednesday." According to CNN, "The researchers found the largest single-year decline in illicit drug use since the survey began in 1975, with drops of about 5% from 2020 among eighth- and 12th-graders and nearly 12% among 10th-graders." National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow said, "These data are unprecedented and highlight one unexpected potential consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused seismic shifts in the day-to-day lives of adolescents. Moving forward, it will be crucial to identify the pivotal elements of this past year that contributed to decreased drug use – whether related to drug availability, family involvement, differences in peer pressure, or other factors – and harness them to inform future prevention efforts."

Additional Sources. [TIME](#) (12/15, Ducharme, 18.1M) reports, "Teen vaping is also down from its peak a couple years ago, as U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data have also shown. In the MTF survey, about 27% of 12th graders and 20% of 10th graders said they'd vaped nicotine in the past year, compared to almost 35% and 31% in 2020." Volkow said, "It is really in all categories that we are seeing that, in terms of drops from one year to the other."

[Forbes](#) (12/15, Nietzel, 10.33M) reports, "Conducted every year since 1975, the survey is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, (NIDA) part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ... This year, the Michigan investigators collected 32,260 surveys from students who were enrolled in 319 public and private schools in the United States. According to a NIDA summary, of this year's respondents, 51.2% were white, 11.3% African American, 16.7% Hispanic, 5.0% Asian, 0.9% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 13.8% self-identified as multiracial." Reflecting on the broad decreases in teen substance use, Volkow said, "These data are unprecedented and highlight one unexpected potential consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused seismic shifts in the day-to-day lives of adolescents."

Severe Bleeding From 'Spice' Synthetic Marijuana Leaves 35 Hospitalized In Florida.

[Newsweek](#) (12/13, Colarossi, 2.67M) reports that at least "35 people in Florida have recently been hospitalized with severe bleeding after using the synthetic cannabinoid drug known as 'spice,' according to the state's poison control center.

... Spice, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is an illegal mix of herbs and laboratory-made chemicals that has often been called 'synthetic marijuana' or 'fake weed' because some of the chemicals in it have similar effects to those found in marijuana." The National Institute on Drug Abuse "has warned that chemicals in spice could cause stronger effects, resulting in health issues that can be 'unpredictable and dangerous.'"

It's Urgent We Legalize Recreational Marijuana.

In an editorial, the [Amandala \(BLZ\)](#) (12/11) said "some insist that it is a bad idea to legalize marijuana for recreational use because its psychoactive substances have caused mental disorders in some users, which they have." The "National Institute on Drug Abuse says 30% of persons who use marijuana will suffer some form of use disorder, and persons who start smoking weed 'before the age of 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely to develop a marijuana use disorder than adults.'" But, the Amandala said, "when we consider that regulating the drug would prevent/reduce the exposure of users to adulterated and/or extremely potent hybrids; put away the present absurd law; end the confusion and corrupting of our law enforcement officers; restore the trust of our youth; and end the turf wars, the scale is tipped way in favor of legalizing it."

Uncle Sam Wants YOU...To Research Marijuana.

[Investing Daily](#) (12/9, Persinos, 23K) reports, "Representing a big turnaround in federal drug policy, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) last week announced that they're in favor of a White House proposal to expedite the research of Schedule I drugs such as marijuana, and even psychedelics such as LSD and psilocybin." Officials with the DEA and NIDA "last week testified at a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing, asserting support for a streamlined research plan put forth by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)." The "plan also would waive the requirement for additional inspections at research sites and allow researchers to manufacture small amounts of drugs without obtaining separate registrations." NIDA Director Nora Volkow said during her testimony, "Even experienced researchers have reported that obtaining a new Schedule I registration, adding new substances to an existing registration, or getting approval for research protocol changes is time consuming."

Massachusetts Town Passes Ordinance Banning Tobacco Sales To Anyone Born After Jan. 1, 2000.

[TIME](#) (12/9, Ducharme, 18.1M) reports that, in Brookline, Massachusetts a newly passed ordinance "ties the right to buy tobacco not to age, but to birth date." At the federal level, Americans "can buy cigarettes, vapes and cigars when they turn 21." But in Brookline, "anyone born after Jan. 1, 2000 will never be able to legally buy tobacco or vaping products, not even as time passes and they turn 22 or 30 or 50 – the goal being to keep younger generations from adopting a habit that may well kill them."

New High-Dose Treatments For Opioid Overdoses Raise Questions.

[STAT](#) (12/15, 262K) reports the recent FDA approval of “two new forms of naloxone” are “opening a fierce debate over whether they could make matters worse.” In October, the FDA “approved Zimhi, a high-dose injectable form of naloxone, an off-patent drug,” which “delivers 5mg of naloxone, an increase more than 12 times the standard 0.4mg injection.” Zimhi “follows the approval of Kloxxado in April, an 8mg intranasal naloxone product developed by Hikma Pharmaceuticals.” While proponents argue the increased dosages could be useful in response to high-dosage fentanyl overdoses, critics contend that there is a lack of evidence these higher dosages are necessary, and that the accompanying intense opioid withdrawal could be counterproductive and even “punitive.” This article mentions the NIH.

Opioid Epidemic’s Next Wave Hits Populations Already At Risk.

[Rac Monitor](#) (12/14) reports that through the pandemic, while “the incidence and prevalence of overdoses has been seen across all populations, areas and populations most prone to social risks have been especially hard-hit, primarily lower-income areas and communities of color.” CDC data “shows a record-high number of drug overdose deaths for 2020: 93,331.” According to Rac Monitor, “A study conducted in partnership with the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health analyzed overdose data and death certificates from four states: Kentucky, Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York,” finding that rates of “opioid deaths among Black people increased by 38 percent, while rates for other racial and ethnic groups did not rise.” In addition, “Rural areas were the hardest hit; the highest increases were seen in Vermont (70 percent), West Virginia (62 percent), and Kentucky (55 percent).”

State Policy Changes Could Increase Access To Opioid Treatment Via Telehealth.

The [Pew Charitable Trusts](#) (12/14, 2K) shares recommendations for state policy changes that could use telehealth to boost access to opioid treatment, concluding that the pandemic demonstrated that “telehealth-based OUD treatment is just as effective as in-person care.” The policy recommendations include: Requiring “public and private insurers to reimburse all OUD treatment providers and services delivered via telehealth”; reimbursing “telehealth-delivered OUD services at in-person rates”; expanding “locations where patients can access OUD treatment services via telehealth”; allowing “audio-only OUD treatment services for patients with Medicaid”; and using “telehealth to deliver OUD treatment services in correctional settings.” Mentioned in this issue brief are CMS, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), HHS, NIDA, NIH, and SAMHSA.

Harm-Reduction Advocates Push For Naloxone To Be Sold Over-The-Counter.

[NPR](#) (12/14, Pattani, 3.69M) reports, “Louise Vincent figures her group, the North Carolina Survivors Union, saves at least 1,690 lives a year. The harm-reduction and

syringe service program in Greensboro, N.C., distributes the opioid overdose reversal medication naloxone to people who use drugs.” The FDA “approved naloxone as a prescription drug to treat opioid overdoses in 1971, when it was only an injectable drug,” and it remains “the cheapest form and the one used most by harm-reduction groups,” who are “calling on the FDA to allow naloxone to be sold over-the-counter so they can order it more easily and distribute it to the people at the greatest risk of overdosing.” Other advocates “have suggested that the Department of Health and Human Services issue an order allowing manufacturers to sell naloxone to organizations buying in bulk without a prescriber’s signoff.”

CDC Study Indicates Fentanyl Deaths Rose “Sharply” In Western, Southern, Midwestern States Between 2019 And 2020.

[The Hill](#) (12/14, Coleman, 5.69M) reports, “Overdose deaths involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl ‘sharply’ increased in Western, Southern and Midwestern states between 2019 and 2020, according to a Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) [study](#) published Tuesday.” This research “determined that fentanyl-related overdose fatalities surpassed 1,800 in Western states in the second half of last year, amid the coronavirus pandemic” which “amounts to an almost 94 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.” Southern states saw “a nearly 65 percent increase compared to the second half of 2019” and Midwestern states saw a 33% increase. The Hill adds, “Robert Califf, President Biden’s nominee to lead the Food and Drug Administration, faced several questions from senators about the high number of overdoses during his confirmation hearing on Tuesday.” [\(Report attached.\)](#)

Colorado On Track To Exceed 2020 Overdose Deaths, With Fentanyl Driving Increase.

The [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (12/15, Klamann, 172K) reports Colorado is “on track to surpass its record-breaking overdose death toll from last year, state data show, with fentanyl continuing to play a larger and deadlier role in the state’s spiraling overdose crisis and even as lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies and opioid manufacturers begin to wind down.” Colorado “is not alone in seeing its overdose deaths jump,” as in November, the “U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said more than 100,000 Americans died of a drug overdose between April 2020 and April 2021, the first time the country had surpassed that threshold in a 12-month period.”

Texas Seized 160 Pounds Of Fentanyl This Year, Which Is More Than 36.2M Lethal Doses.

[The Hill](#) (12/10, Romaine, 5.69M) reported, “Texas seized enough fentanyl in 2021 to equate to ‘more than 36.2 million lethal doses,’ according to a new report.” At a media briefing “on Thursday, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department gave an update on the state’s Operation Lone Star at the southern border and the opioid crisis.” Officials said that “the departments seized

enough fentanyl as of Dec. 2, 160 lbs., that equals more than 36.2 million lethal doses. Two milligrams of fentanyl is enough to be a lethal dose.”

The [New York Post](#) (12/10, 7.45M) reported that Operation Lone Star is “a Texas initiative to curb entry of human traffickers and drug runners into the state.” Furthermore, “combining activity inside and outside of Operation Lone Star’s area of interest, the Texas DPS has seized 886 pounds of fentanyl – approximately 200,790,522 lethal doses, according to data provided by the DPS in a slide presentation.”

Reports Of Fentanyl-Laced Marijuana Raise Concern.

The [Daily Targum \(NJ\)](#) (12/10, Wickramasinghe, 49K) reports, “Fentanyl-laced marijuana has recently been reported to be circulating throughout the Northeastern U.S., which has raised concerns about the dangers surrounding it and how individuals can stay safe.” Lewis Nelson, professor at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, “said that it is currently unclear whether the circulation is a random event or a valid concern.” Nelson “said that so far, there are only a few reports from across the U.S., many of which are not well documented and may be unrelated” but also “said this situation has the potential to become significant as fentanyl-laced marijuana is a dangerous substance.”

Those Who Survive Nonfatal Overdoses Can Face Lasting Cognitive Issues, Drexel Study Suggests.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (12/9, Whelan) reports that people who survive nonfatal opioid “overdoses are still at risk for health complications, including neurodegenerative issues, a new review from Drexel University researchers has found.” According to the Inquirer, “The study reviews available research on nonfatal opioid overdoses and how they might be linked to cognitive issues and, in some cases, Alzheimer’s disease-like changes in the brain.” The study also “shows how people who have suffered an overdose need more care than a dose of naloxone, the overdose-reversing drug, researchers said.”

A Beloved Elmira Woman, 25, Died From Fentanyl Poisoning. What Could Have Saved Her?

The [Hornell \(NY\) Evening Tribune](#) (12/16, 18K) reports, “Brenna Jacqueline O’Brian died unexpectedly on August 26, 2021. Brenna, age 25, was beginning her career as a fine dining chef after earning degrees from both Emerson College and Johnson and Wales University. Autopsy results state that Brenna died of fentanyl poisoning.” According to the Evening Tribune, “Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have been the leading cause of overdose deaths in America, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. People who use drugs are in danger of unknowingly ingesting deadly fentanyl, with new or infrequent users who have not [built] up an opioid tolerance being especially vulnerable to overdoses and death. ... Nationally, over 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses during the 12 months following the

COVID-19 lockdowns, a year over year increase of over 28%. This is the most overdose deaths ever recorded in a one-year span, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

Misusing Prescription Stimulants: What Parents Should Know.

[CHOC Children’s Blog](#) (12/14) shares “what parents should know” about children and teens “misusing stimulants, or a class of prescription medications used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), narcolepsy, and rare cases of depression that have not responded to other treatments.” ADHD is among the “most commonly diagnosed conditions in children and adolescents. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), approximately 10% of children between ages 2 to 17 years are diagnosed with ADHD, and about 60% of them take medications for it.” More than “5 million young adults reported having a substance use disorder; 87% of those with substance use disorders went untreated. Almost 10% of high school seniors reported abusing ADHD medications in the past year, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. This number increases to as high as 35% among college students.”

‘Recovery Is Possible’: National Addiction Expert Discusses Stigma, Recovery.

[100 Days in Appalachia](#) (12/7, Marra) reports that a team from 100 Days in Appalachia and the Opioid Policy Institute in September, as part of Recovery Month, “unveiled the first in our series of resources and training materials under Reporting on Addiction.” National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow “spoke with 100 Days’ Ashton Marra about addiction, stigma and the role of journalists when reporting on both topics.” Volkow said that “stigma is a key component that you see across all areas we call the cascade of the chronic disease of addiction. ... So, if you’re a physician and you’re evaluating someone, you need to actually ask the question to the person if they are taking drugs in a way that they are not going to be defensive.” Asked about the work NIDA is doing, Volkow said, “We are not taking just one approach. One of the components is the academic approach about what are the interventions that have been shown to be better and to produce longer, longer lasting changes in stigma.”

FDA Issues Draft Guidance For Drug Makers On Requirements For Real-World Data.

[Bloomberg Law](#) (12/9, Castronuovo, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports behind a paywall that manufacturers that “file new drug applications must consider the reliability of data sources and consult with privacy experts when gathering evidence outside of traditional clinical trial settings, the Food and Drug Administration said in draft guidance released Thursday.” The document, “which has not yet been finalized by the agency, includes the latest in a series of recommendations issued by the FDA as it works to help drug and biologic sponsors incorporate real-world data within drug applications seeking agency approval.” **[Two guidances attached.]**

New Grant Funding Will Help Establish Addiction Treatment Centers In Underserved Rural Regions Of North Dakota.

The [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (12/11, Springer, 49K) reported “a North Dakota program aimed at those struggling with addiction has helped about 4,800 people without health insurance since it started five years ago.” However, “the vast majority of those who have been provided short-term residential treatment live in or near an urban center, likely because the program is difficult to access for those in remote rural areas.” But “now, \$5 million in grant funding is available to help establish up to four treatment centers in underserved rural areas.” The grants “will be awarded by the North Dakota Department of Human Services.”

Opinion: 55-Year FOIA Timeline Shows FDA’s Data-Sharing Practices Need “Serious Reform.”

In a [Washington Post](#) (12/13, 10.52M) opinion piece, Christopher J. Morten, an associate clinical professor of law at Columbia Law School, and colleagues, argue the FDA’s assertion “[that] it would take 55 years or longer to fulfill a Freedom of Information Act request to review and release the vast amount of data it has on the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine” provides “just more proof that the agency needs a proactive, well-funded data-sharing system to protect public trust and promote scientific research.” The authors say, “The FDA’s sibling agency, the National Institutes of Health, recently announced a laudable new policy of expanded data sharing. The FDA should do the same. Fortunately, President Biden’s nominee for FDA commissioner has voiced support for more proactive data sharing, but he must keep his commitments.”

Autopsy Of Former NFL Player Who Killed Six People Shows He Had CTE.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/14, 10.52M) reports, “The brain of Phillip Adams, the former NFL player who killed six people in April before fatally shooting himself, showed signs of severe chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the director of the Boston University CTE Center announced Tuesday.”

Additional Source. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (12/14, 396K) reports Adams also “had prescribed amphetamines in his system at the time of the killings, as well as an over the counter drug called Kratom that can be a stimulant in small doses and act similarly to opiates in large doses, said Sabrina Gast, York County Coroner.” Kratom is “a drug available online that can cause effects similar to both opioids and stimulants, according to the federal government National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).” The Raleigh News & Observer says, “When kratom is taken in small amounts, users report increased energy, sociability, and alertness instead of sedation. However, kratom also can cause uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous side effects,” The institute of health (NIH) stated.”

An Infamous Psilocybin Patent Has Just Been Challenged.

[Vice](#) (12/15, Love, 1.13M) reports, “Psilocybin is the active compound in magic mushrooms, and whether it can be intellectual property has been the subject of

debate, especially since the mental health company Compass Pathways was granted a patent on its synthetic form of psilocybin in 2020.” Nonprofit group Freedom to Operate put forth “the most rigorous challenge to Compass Pathways’ patents yet: a petition for post-grant review (PGR) filed today.” Vice says, “The challenges on this polymorph patent filed today are the first significant opposition to IP in the psychedelic field. It highlights one procedural way in which psychedelic intellectual property might be pushed back against again in the future – but only if those with enough resources decide to do so.” The article mentions the FDA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

New York Lawmaker Files Bill To Legalize Medical Psilocybin Treatments, With Focus On First Responders And Veterans.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (12/14) reports, “A New York lawmaker on Monday introduced a bill to legalize psilocybin mushrooms for medical purposes and establish facilities where the psychedelic could be grown and administered to patients.” Meanwhile, at the federal level, report provisions of “House-passed spending legislation also touch on the need to expand cannabis and psychedelics research,” with the panel having “urged the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to support expanded marijuana studies, for example.” NIDA also “recently announced it’s funding a study into whether psilocybin can help people quit smoking cigarettes.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-MD-22-008](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Health Care Models for Persons with Multiple Chronic Conditions from Populations that Experience Health Disparities \(R01 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AA-22-001](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Epidemiology and Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Understudied Young Adult Populations; Military, Workforce, and Community College](#)

[NOT-OD-22-022](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems \(ENDS\) and Alternative Nicotine and Tobacco Delivery Systems: Basic Mechanisms of Health Effects](#)

[NOT-OD-22-023](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems \(ENDS\) and Alternative Nicotine and Tobacco Delivery Systems: Population, Clinical and Applied Prevention Mechanisms of Health Effects](#)

[NOT-OD-22-033](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements for Helping to End Addiction Long-term \(HEAL\) Initiative awardees to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable \(FAIR\) through the HEAL Data Ecosystem](#)

[NOT-OD-22-041](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Research Challenges and Needs in the Biobehavioral Mechanisms of Aggression](#)

[NOT-NS-22-040](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for HEAL Initiative: Advancing Health Equity in Pain and Comorbidities \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[NOT-AA-22-003](#)

[Notice of NIAAA Data-Sharing Guidance for Human Subjects Grants Research Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\) \[3rd Revision\]](#)

© [2020 Center for Addiction Research]

