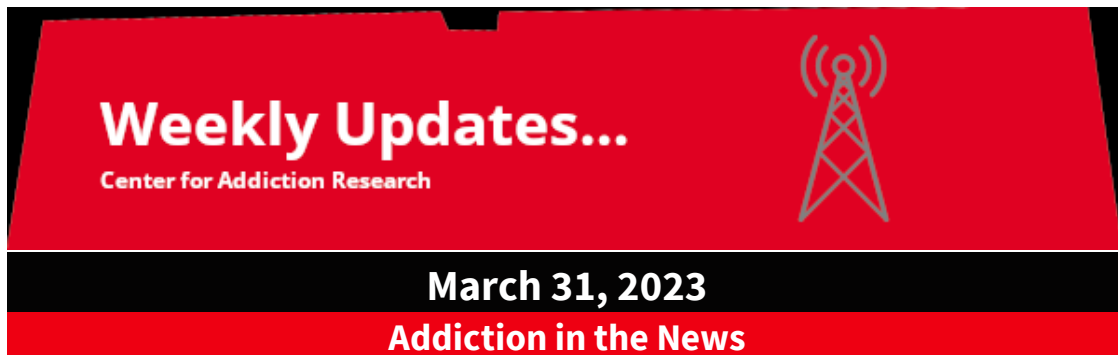


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.31.2023

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

WVXU: Federal approval for psychedelics is on horizon

A University of Cincinnati researcher was a guest on [WVXU's Cincinnati Edition](#) to discuss the growing interest around psychedelics. UC College of Arts and Sciences postdoctoral research associate Neşe Devenot spoke to Cincinnati Edition host Lucy May about the risks and potential rewards of psychedelics to treat a wide variety of mental health issues. Devenot was co-author of a study in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal that found psychedelics might help people change unwanted behaviors by helping them reinvent their perceptions of themselves. UC researchers re-examined a smoking-cessation study that asked participants to write about their experience with psilocybin in ...

These emojis are codes for drugs, Ohio public safety investigators say

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WCMH) – Emojis are taking over for drug terms on social media and other forms of electronic communication, according to a new report from the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center. In a bulletin released Thursday by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the ONIC is warning parents about a way people can communicate with each other online about marketing, buying and selling drugs. An ice cream cone, a carrot or broccoli emoji might not mean what you think it does on a cellphone or social media account. Some of the emojis can also have multiple meanings, according to...

Beshear signs legislation to support those battling addiction

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Two more bills are signed into law today to support Kentuckians battling addiction. Both laws aim to make recovery housing and resources more accessible and make payment for these resources much easier for those receiving treatment and their families. House Bill 248 supports recovery housing by setting requirements for certification, operation and oversight of these residences, according to the governor’s office. Beshear says he hopes obstacles can be identified, such as transportation, location and language barriers to make these resources more accessible. The second bill, House Bill 148, will ensure direct payments from health insurance to the facilities providing...

Growing Danger Of ‘Gas Station Heroin’: Kentucky Latest State To Ban Tianeptine—Opioid-Like Drug Sold In Groceries

TOPLINE Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear (D) signed an emergency regulation Thursday banning all products containing tianeptine, citing a warning by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that the opioid-like drug—referred to as “gas station heroin”—has been linked to overdoses, addiction and death over the last two decades. Tianeptine, an antidepressant typically used to treat depression, anxiety or asthma, is now a Schedule I controlled substance in Kentucky, according to an announcement Thursday by Beshear, who said the drug was previously available in dietary supplements online, over the counter in convenience stores and in gas stations throughout the state. The drug—banned in...

New therapy puppy helps Addiction Recovery Care address opioid epidemic

LOUISA, Ky. — As thousands of people continue to battle the opioid epidemic, it’s prompted treatment centers to think outside the box. For the first time ever, a new furry face is joining Addiction Recovery Care in eastern Kentucky. Dubbed the “Chief Comfort Officer,” a 15-week-old golden retriever will help provide comfort to those battling addiction at Addiction Recovery Care in Louisa, Kentucky. The puppy was donated by two women in the St. Louis area. ARChie will undergo up to nine months of training at Canines 4 Comfort in Illinois, where he’ll learn to become a therapy dog. He’ll then return to Louisa to live as a member of ARC’s chief of staff family. He’s known to be laid back...

National News

Marijuana-derived compounds could reverse opioid overdoses

There's been a recent push in the U.S. to make naloxone—a fast-acting opioid antidote—available without a prescription. This medication has saved lives, but it's less effective against powerful synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. In an interesting twist, researchers are now looking to cannabidiol (CBD), a component of marijuana, as a possible alternative to the popular antidote. Today, a team reports compounds based on CBD that reduce fentanyl binding and boost the effects of naloxone. The researchers will present their results at the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society...

Can cannabis use disorder be accurately diagnosed?

Cannabis use disorder is defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as a problematic pattern leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, with symptoms that may include increased tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, strong desire to use marijuana and spending large amounts of time using cannabis. Tammy Chung, director of the Center for Population Behavioral Health at Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, along with colleagues Marc Steinberg of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Mary Barna Bridgeman of the...

Legal cannabis markets linked to increased motor vehicle deaths

A new study from the University of Illinois Chicago has used death certificate data to compare mortality rates in states that legalized recreational cannabis dispensaries with states that only provided access to medical cannabis. The work is published in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*. The UIC researchers found that there was a substantial increase in crash fatalities in four of the seven states used in the study with legalized recreational markets, and that on average, recreational markets were associated with a 10% increase in motor vehicle accident deaths. Study first author...

Delaware lawmakers vote to legalize recreational marijuana. What will the governor do?

The Delaware Senate in a historic vote on Tuesday passed two pieces of legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana and allow dispensaries to grow and sell weed in the First State. The bills now head to the desk of Gov. John Carney, who has been vocally against recreational marijuana for years. He vetoed the legalization bill last year and avoided the Democratic-controlled Legislature from overriding it. Spokeswoman Emily Hershman, just before the Senate vote, said in a statement that the governor “continues to have strong concerns about the unintended consequences of...

Hispanic, Black and low-income adults are less likely to replace smoking with vaping, finds study

Growing evidence suggests that e-cigarettes may serve as a less harmful alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes, but socioeconomic and racial inequities in cigarette and e-cigarette use are preventing certain populations from reaping these potential health benefits, according to a new study led by Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (Keck School of Medicine of USC). Published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, the study found that Black, Hispanic, and low-socioeconomic status (SES) smokers...

New quitline project helps patients stop smoking

A new University of California study shows long-term success when health care providers make electronic referrals (e-referrals) for their patients to California's tobacco quitline. The paper was published today in the journal *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. Quitlines offer free help to stop tobacco use. They typically double the chances that a person can quit for good. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in the United States. Quitting significantly reduces these risks. However, until this study was conducted, there had been little research about the real-world implementation...

Tobacco use assessments dropped during COVID-19 pandemic, have not recovered

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted primary health care in a multitude of ways, but little is known about how the pandemic impacted assessments of whether patients use tobacco. A new Oregon Health & Science University study published in the *Annals of Family Medicine* finds that routine tobacco use assessments plummeted by 50% during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and did not return to pre-pandemic levels. Researchers warn this could mean people have less information about and access to resources to help quit tobacco products and reduce associated health risks, including...

Minnesota suit against e-cigarette maker Juul goes to trial

MINNEAPOLIS -- Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is slated to lead off opening statements expected for Tuesday in his state's lawsuit against Juul Labs – marking the first time any of the thousands of cases against the e-cigarette maker over its alleged marketing to young people is going to play out in a courtroom. Minnesota sued Juul in 2019, accusing the San Francisco-based company of unlawfully targeting young people with its products to get a new generation addicted to nicotine. Ellison has declined to put a dollar figure on how much money the state is seeking in damages and civil...

Where there's smoke, there's thiocyanate: Researchers find tobacco users in Canada exposed to higher levels of cyanide

Tobacco users in Canada are exposed to higher levels of cyanide than smokers in lower-income nations, according to a large-scale population health study from McMaster University. Scientists made the discovery while investigating the molecule thiocyanate—a detoxified metabolite excreted by the body after cyanide inhalation. It was measured as a urinary biomarker of tobacco use in a study of self-reported smokers and non-smokers from 14 countries of varying socioeconomic status. "We expected the urinary thiocyanate levels would be similar across regions and reflect primarily...

The next generation of the opioid epidemic: Youth polysubstance users

It's a new year, and once again, the opioid epidemic continues to hold a tight grasp on millions of Americans. At the end of last year, the United States reached a major milestone of over one million overdose deaths since the year 2000. And while public health efforts to combat this epidemic have been largely focused on adult opioid use, there is a population of substance users that are commonly overlooked: youth stimulant users. Substance use habits are often initiated during adolescence and young adulthood, but interventions and clinical information targeting this main source contributing to...

FDA OKs First OTC Product for Reversing Opioid Overdoses

The FDA approved the first over-the-counter (OTC) naloxone (Narcan) opens in a new tab or window product for treating opioid overdose on Wednesday. "Today's approval of OTC naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country," FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, MD, said in a statement. Fatal drug overdoses continue to be a major public health issue in the U.S., the agency said, citing fatality figures north of 100,000 for the 12-month period ending in October 2022. The OTC approval paves the way for the nasal spray to be sold directly to consumers in easily...

Newly available test strips can detect lethal 'tranq' in drug supply

Public health workers will soon have a new tool at their disposal to thwart a spreading danger to users of illicit drugs: xylazine test strips. The new testing kits will allow health departments, grassroots harm-reduction groups, and individual drug users to test substances for the presence of xylazine, a sedative often referred to as "tranq." The toxin is increasingly common in the U.S. illicit-drug supply — especially in the Philadelphia area, but increasingly in other cities, too. Xylazine, which is typically used as a sedative in veterinary settings, can cause people to stop breathing, and also often causes...

Congress moves to make xylazine a controlled substance

US lawmakers are moving to classify xylazine, the animal tranquilizer that's increasingly infiltrating illicit drugs, as a controlled substance. Bipartisan legislation introduced Tuesday in the House and Senate reflects growing concern over the highly dangerous sedative, commonly known as "tranq" or "tranq dope." "Drug traffickers are going to great lengths to pad their profits with dangerous drugs like tranq, and we need to empower law enforcement to crack down on its spread in our communities," Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., lead sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "This bipartisan..."

Increased Use of Telehealth Services and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder During the COVID-19 Pandemic Associated with Reduced Risk for Fatal Overdose

The expanded availability of opioid use disorder-related telehealth services and medications during the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with a lowered likelihood of fatal drug overdose among Medicare beneficiaries, according to a new study. “The results of this study add to the growing research documenting the benefits of expanding the use of telehealth services for people with opioid use disorder, as well as the need to improve retention and access to medication treatment for opioid use disorder,” said lead author Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH, Director of the National Center for...

Latinos had been spared the worst of the opioid crisis, but now overdose deaths are skyrocketing

While the face of the opioid crisis has predominantly been considered white and rural, overdose deaths among Latinos have skyrocketed in recent years, with experts attributing the growing numbers to the rise of fentanyl, especially mixed with other drugs. Overdose deaths among Latinos have nearly tripled since 2011, according to a report published this month in the American Journal of Epidemiology. Fatalities from overdoses have risen dramatically when fentanyl is mixed with other drugs, like cocaine and methamphetamine, which are more prevalent among Latinos than are...

Used After Opioid Overdose, Anti-Addiction Drug Can Cut Odds for Fatal OD

TUESDAY, March 28, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- When someone lives through an opioid overdose, taking the medication buprenorphine lowers their risk of death if they OD again, according to new research. Buprenorphine is a medication used to treat opioid use disorder. Researchers linked receiving it after an overdose with a 62% reduction in risk of death in a subsequent opioid overdose. The medication is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, yet fewer than 1 in 20 individuals studied received buprenorphine after a nonfatal opioid overdose, according to the study...

Incentive program improves initiation of medication treatment for opioid use disorder after emergency visit

A novel statewide incentive program intended to improve "warm hand-offs" from Pennsylvania emergency departments to opioid use disorder treatment programs is associated with a 50% improvement in the initiation of medication-assisted treatment in Medicaid-enrolled patients, according to new research from University of Pittsburgh, Howard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania and Vital Strategies scientists. The finding, published today (March 24) in JAMA Health Forum, points to a potential policy approach to reduce overdose mortality...

Less Abuse With Extended-Release Oxycodone, Poison Center Data Suggest

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- An abuse-deterrent formulation of oxycodone led to fewer severe medical outcomes and less intentional abuse compared with other opioid products, poison center data found. Of 189 exposures to oxycodone extended-release (Xtampza ER) reported to poison centers from 2016 to 2022, severe medical outcomes occurred in 12.7% of cases, which was lower versus other opioid products (14-19%), according to Richard Dart, MD, PhD, of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center in Denver. The percentage of exposures associated with death, however, was numerically...

Naloxone prescriptions increased at US hospitals between 2012 and 2019, finds study

Rates of prescriptions for naloxone to people at high risk for opioid overdose, as well as co-prescribing with opioids, has increased in emergency departments throughout the United States over the past decade, providing insight on the positive impact of federal policies and regulations, according to a Rutgers study. Federal opioid prescribing guidelines in 2016 made it easier for doctors to prescribe naloxone to patients at high risk for opioid overdose. When used properly, naloxone is highly effective at reversing or reducing the life-threatening adverse effects of opioids and in preventing...

Have you had difficulty getting access to medications for opioid addiction?

STAT is reporting on the obstacles that prevent many Americans from accessing methadone and buprenorphine, two key medications used to treat opioid use disorder. People and organizations that sometimes make it difficult to access medication can include doctors, methadone clinics, health insurance companies, recovery groups, law enforcement agencies, jails, prisons, drug courts, and labor unions. If those systems, or any other person or organization, have made it difficult for you to start treatment or stay in treatment using methadone or buprenorphine (aka Suboxone), please...

Fibromyalgia may worsen opioid addiction, study finds

There is new evidence that fibromyalgia, and the chronic pain associated with it, could worsen opioid use disorder. Researchers at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, College of Medicine and University of Michigan report their findings in Pain. Scientists have long suspected a connection between opioid use disorder (OUD) and chronic pain. Many people first use opioids to treat pain. Chronic pain has been tied to worsening of OUD and even relapse among those in recovery from opioid addiction. However, researchers didn't know whether all pain has the same effect on OUD, or...

How one state beat national surgery opioid trends

A statewide effort to treat the pain of surgery patients without increasing their risk of long-term dependence on opioids has paid off in Michigan, a study shows. In less

than two years, the effort led to a 56% reduction in the amount of opioids patients received after having six different common operations, and a 26% drop in the chance that they would still be filling opioid prescriptions months after their surgical pain should have eased. Both of those drops beat national trends for similar patients, according to the new study published in *Annals of Surgery* by a team from Michigan Medicine, the...

Drug overdose fatalities among US older adults have quadrupled over 20 years, research finds

Overdose mortality among people age 65 and older quadrupled over 20 years, suggesting the need for greater mental health and substance use disorder policies addressed at curbing the trend, a new research paper finds. The deaths stemmed from both suicides and accidental overdoses, with nearly three-fourths of the unintended fatalities involving illicit drugs such as synthetic opioids like fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamines. Prescription opioids, antidepressants, benzodiazepines, antiepileptics and sedatives were used in 67% of intentional overdoses. "The dramatic rise in overdose...

Evidence of increase in injecting drug use found in 190 countries, report global reviews

Evidence of an increase in injecting drug use at a global level highlights the need for improved coverage of interventions to prevent and manage drug-related harms among people who inject drugs (PWID), say two new reviews led by researchers at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Center (NDARC) and the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney. Published today in *The Lancet Global Health*, the first review found evidence of injecting drug use (IDU) among people aged 15 to 64 years in 190 countries that comprise more than 99% of the global population, an increase of 10 countries since the...

Military psychologist talks facts, prevention of substance, alcohol misuse among service members

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® is an annual week-long observance established by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, or NIDA, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. This year's observance will be held March 20–26 and provides an opportunity to reflect upon substance use issues in the Army community. Substance use disorders, referred to as SUDs, include the misuse of alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, opioids, sedatives or stimulants. Public health studies indicate that alcohol use disorders are the most common form of...

Drug Legalization, Decriminalization Policy Will Be Introduced to APHA House of Delegates in 2023

Pharmacy Times® interviewed Vibhuti Arya, PharmD, MPH, FAPhA, professor at St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and clinical advisor to

the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Adrienne Simmons, PharmD, MS, BCPS, director of programs at the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, as well as St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences PharmD Class of 2023 students Noor Khawaja and Lauren Merkovich, on her presentation at the APhA 2023 Annual Meeting & Exposition titled "Public Health over Punishment: Drug...

Gambling: When Does Play Become Addiction?

SATURDAY, March 25, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- While some gamble socially and others do it for a living, it's a serious addiction for those who have an uncontrollable urge to keep going at the risk of losing everything. "In our brain, the centers involved with gambling addiction are the same centers involved with substance addiction," said Dr. Asim Shah, professor and executive vice chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "The warning signs can be the same as any addiction," he said in a college news release. Gambling stimulates the brain's reward...

Research calls for more consumer protection to combat double danger of gambling with cryptocurrencies

A new study has highlighted how cryptocurrency investors often suffer gambling-related harms—and online gambling outlets accepting cryptocurrency as wagers pose even greater risks. The first-of-its-kind research, led by the University of Bristol and the University of East London, urges for major reform to reduce the extra threat to online gamblers now being lured by an explosion of so-called "cryptocasinos." Lead author Maira Andrade, a student at the University of East London, said, "Crypto gambling sees numerous emerging cryptocurrency risks, including the lack of regulation, risk of fraud, and..."

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-MD-23-010](#)

[Notice of Change: Additional Receipt Dates for PAR-22-092, "Health Care Models for Persons with Multiple Chronic Conditions from Populations that Experience Health Disparities: Advancing Health Care towards Health Equity \(R01 - Clinical Trials Optional\)"](#)

