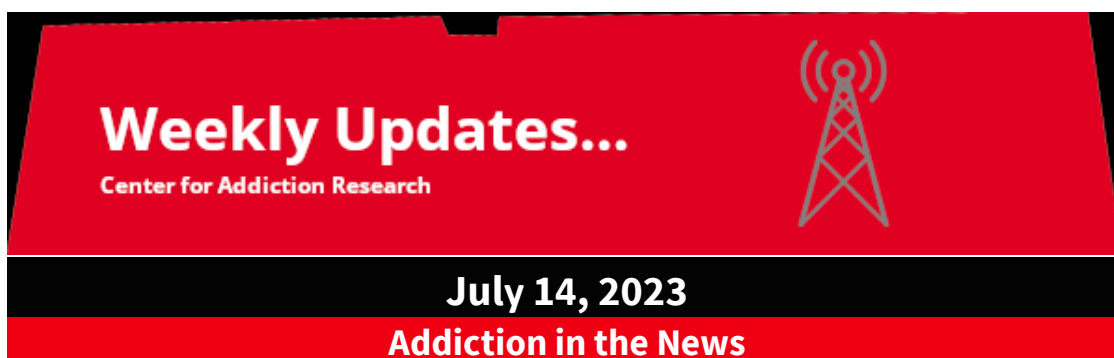


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 7.14.2023

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. **Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be published Friday, July 28.** 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

Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Coalition Southwest Ohio - August Meeting

In March 2023, the Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Coalition hosted by the UC School of Social Work, was established, and held its first meeting in June. The Coalition provides feedback regarding local, state, and national trends and needs, and advocates for workforce development of social workers to conduct problem gambling prevention and treatment services. The Coalition includes individuals representing prevention and treatment, such as field experience agencies, employing agencies, regional colleges/community colleges, and other persons related to problem gambling prevention and treatment. The Coalition's work focuses on workforce development in Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren Counties but also benefits practicing social workers and online students throughout Ohio and other states.

You are invited to join the next meeting, Friday, August 25, 2023, from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM EDT! Click the link that follows for registration details: [Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Coalition Southwest Ohio August Meeting](#)

Governor DeWine Protects Ohio Kids by Vetoing Legislation Blocking Local Efforts to End Sales of Flavored Tobacco Products

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Mike DeWine has once again vetoed legislation that would block (preempt) local governments in Ohio from passing critical, lifesaving

measures to reduce tobacco use, including laws ending the sale of flavored tobacco products. The tobacco industry uses flavors to hook young people into a lifetime of nicotine addiction. Governor DeWine deserves enormous credit for standing up to the tobacco industry and supporting local efforts to end the industry's predatory targeting of kids, Black Americans and other communities with flavored tobacco products. Governor DeWine is absolutely right in stating, "The removal of local regulation would encourage youth nicotine..."

National News

Study: Flavor restrictions could make major progress in fighting youth vaping epidemic

Major progress could be made in fighting the youth vaping epidemic with a complete restriction on sweet flavorings and cooling agents in both cartridge and disposable e-cigarette devices, according to a new study from the Center for Tobacco Research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. The current U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) flavor ban only applies to cartridge electronic cigarette devices. A new study published in the Journal of Studies on Addiction and Drugs by researchers with the Center for Tobacco Research suggests that sweet flavorings...

Medicaid expansion associated with increased, but not high quality, screening for alcohol use: Study

People living in states with expanded Medicaid access were more likely to be screened by their doctor for alcohol use compared to people who lived in states that did not expand Medicaid access, but they did not necessarily receive effective interventions. A study published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research found that living in a state with expanded Medicaid access was associated with a higher prevalence of lower-income adults' receiving some alcohol screening at a recent checkup but not receiving higher quality screening or brief counseling. The authors suggest that...

Alcohol use, even at low levels, increases risk of developing disease, finds systematic review

Even low levels of alcohol use can increase the likelihood of developing diseases like cancer and heart disease. A systematic review of studies of the relationship between alcohol use and risk of disease published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research found that disease risk increases as alcohol use increases and high levels of alcohol use have clear detrimental health effects. While lower-level alcohol use can be protective against certain diseases, it can have significant adverse health effects for many other diseases. The authors urge greater awareness that any level of alcohol use can increase a...

Sharp rise in severe, alcohol-related liver injury during pandemic: Nationwide analysis

A boom in alcohol sales during the pandemic appears to have had dire consequences for some as hospital admissions for alcohol-related hepatitis, a life-threatening liver inflammation, increased dramatically, according to a study of national hospitalization data. Researchers found increasing cases of the alcohol-related liver illness from 2016 through 2020, but the rise was particularly pronounced the year COVID-19 arrived in the U.S. in 2020, which saw a 12.4% increase over 2019 levels. It was worse in younger patients, ages 18 to 44, a group that had a nearly 20% jump in hospital admissions for...

Q&A: New policy recommendations aim to address intersection of alcohol use and gun violence

Alcohol use and gun violence are leading causes of preventable injury and death in the U.S., and the issues are most deadly when they intersect. But despite alcohol being a strong risk factor for gun violence, few policy attempts have been made to address this intersection. Researchers from the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at the Bloomberg School released in May a set of state-based policy recommendations to address the intersection of alcohol use and firearms. Two of the report's authors, Joshua Horwitz, JD, and Silvia Villarreal, MPP, spoke with Public Health On Call host Lindsay Smith Rogers...

New study debunks claims of a psychedelic cannabinoid

The cannabis plant is complex, with about 100 cannabinoids, or compounds, many of which science still knows little or nothing about. The two most prevalent active ingredients—tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD)—have been well-studied. However, a variety of other cannabinoids are being introduced to the marketplace at a fast clip. Among the latest is THC-O-acetate, which has been gaining traction amid claims on social media, online message forums such as Reddit, and even some manufacturers' own advertising, that it produces psychedelic effects similar to LSD or psilocybin...

Q&A: Expert discusses the science and safety of recreational marijuana

In 1951, the Boggs Act signed into law by President Harry S. Truman meant that anyone caught with cannabis received a prison sentence of two to 20 years, on top of a \$2,000 fine. Today, however, adults in Maryland can consume cannabis with no penalty, thanks to legislation enacted on July 1, 2023, making the former Schedule I drug legal to use and possess statewide. Maryland joins 23 other states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, in permitting anyone 21 and older to buy and use cannabis for both recreational and medicinal purposes. But as more states...

First large US clinical trial of cytisinicline finds the smoking cessation medication effective and well tolerated

The first large-scale U.S. clinical trial of cytisinicline, led by a Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) investigator, found the smoking cessation medication to be effective and well tolerated in adults who wished to break their nicotine dependence. In the Phase 3 study published in JAMA, researchers reported that cytisinicline could offer adults who smoke a potential new treatment option. "Cigarette smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death worldwide, yet no new smoking cessation medication has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for nearly two decades," says...

Editorial: Absurdity of addiction: Injection sites would save lives, even if they sound irrational

A fractured Pennsylvania General Assembly, grappling with the state's lethal epidemic of addiction, is moving to ban safe drug consumption sites statewide. State senators approved SB 165, which would criminalize so-called supervised injection sites, by a 41-9 vote, and sent the bill to the House. The overwhelming and unusually bipartisan support for the bill in the Republican-controlled State Senate is no surprise, even though it would breach the hallowed principle of local control. Safe injection sites sound, well, crazy to many people. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Christine Tartaglione, D-Philadelphia, called...

First Murder Conviction for Fentanyl Dealer Delivered in California

TUESDAY, July 11, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- A fentanyl dealer has been found guilty of second-degree murder in what authorities believe is the first-ever murder conviction for dealing the dangerous drug. The conviction happened in Placer County, Calif., in a case involving the fatal overdose last summer of a 15-year-old girl in Roseville, about 20 miles northeast of Sacramento, ABC News reported. "This conviction could be a watershed moment in the war on fentanyl," said Steven Clark, legal analyst and former Santa Clara County District Attorney. "The fact that there was a conviction..."

Once-resistant rural court officials begin to embrace medications to treat addiction

Rachel Solomon and judges hadn't been on the best of terms. Then Judge O. Duane Slone "dumbfounded" her. Solomon was given her first Percocet at age 12 by a family member with a medicine cabinet full. It made her feel numb, she said. "Nothing hurt." By 17, she was taking 80-milligram OxyContin. A decade later, she was introduced to heroin. During those years, Solomon was in and out of trouble with the law. Then, five years ago, at 32, she arrived in Slone's courtroom, pregnant, fearing the worst. But the state circuit court judge saw promise. He ruled that Solomon would serve jail time for an outstanding...

Xylazine: New Drug, Same Old Mistakes

Reports of the drug xylazine being detected in overdoses across the U.S. have been making news lately and present a new challenge in addressing our ongoing overdose crisis. Xylazine, sometimes referred to as "tranq," is not an opioid; it is a member of the class of medicines that agonize alpha adrenergic (α -2) receptors, which in humans are primarily used for blood pressure control but can also be used for sedation. Xylazine is not approved for human use in the U.S., and is only approved for use in veterinary medicine, where it is of significant importance. Many medical, public health, and media reports...

White House Drug Czar Releases Plan to Combat Xylazine-Laced Fentanyl

The Biden administration released a plan Monday to combat the problem of fentanyl being laced with xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer implicated in increasing numbers of overdose deaths. "In the 12 months ending in January, we lost -- tragically -- more than 109,000 Americans to drug overdoses," White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, JD, said Monday on a phone call with reporters. "Almost seven in 10 overdose deaths can be attributed to synthetic opioids like fentanyl, and fentanyl adulterated with xylazine presents another rising threat." "A recent CDC report found that xylazine...

Guns and drugs are killing people in the US at increasing and unprecedented rates, 20-year study finds

A team of researchers from several institutions led by the National Institutes of Health has examined U.S. national death trends. In a paper, "Trends in Mortality From Poisonings, Firearms, and All Other Injuries by Intent in the US, 1999-2020," published in JAMA Internal Medicine, the researchers find disturbing trends in the rate and manner in which Americans are dying. The study finds the number of deaths due to external causes per 100,000 population increased from 65.6 in 1999 to 103.5 in 2020, with poisonings making up most of the difference at +31.18, followed by firearms at +4.18. Between...

Substance use linked to long-lasting brain changes, cognitive decline

An estimated 50 million individuals in the United States struggle with the challenges of cocaine or alcohol use disorders, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Beyond the well-documented health risks, addiction to these substances detrimentally affects our cognitive flexibility, which is the ability to adapt and switch between different tasks or strategies. Although previous research has hinted at this connection, the underlying reasons for this cognitive impairment remain elusive. Cognitive flexibility is a crucial element in various domains of our life, including academic achievement...

How to Prevent Addiction Patients From Leaving Treatment Against Medical Advice

It's widely known that length of stay is one of the most important determinants of success in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. Data has proven that the longer we can keep patients engaged, the better their long-term prognosis. Unfortunately, it's also one of the hardest factors for providers to overcome. Between the difficulties of withdrawal and the overwhelming desire for substances driven by the disease, far too many patients choose to walk away. In fact, research shows the rate of patients leaving against medical (AMA) has increased substantially over the last several years, from...

More Powerful Than SSRIs – Scientists Develop Two New Drug Candidates That Could Treat Addiction and Depression

Two new potential drugs for the treatment of addiction and depression have been created by scientists, drawing from the medicinal properties of a traditional African psychedelic plant called ibogaine. When administered at extremely low doses, these compounds were able to blunt symptoms associated with both disorders in mice. The study, which was recently published in the journal Cell, based its research on the way ibogaine interacts with the serotonin transporter (SERT) – a common target for SSRI antidepressants like fluoxetine (Prozac). A collaborative research team from UCSF, Yale...

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-DA-23-026](#)

[Notice of NIDA Participation in RFA-NS-22-022, RFA-NS-22-023, RFA-NS-22-024, RFA-NS-22-025, "HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award in PAIN and SUD Research"](#)

[NOT-DA-23-028](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Soliciting data on the impact of telehealth initiation of controlled substances permitted under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-029](#)

[Notice of Clarification to PAR-22-027, "Mechanism for Time-Sensitive Drug Abuse Research \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[NOT-NS-23-091](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement for Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network \(BPN\): Small Molecule Drug Discovery and Development of Disorders of the Nervous System \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-NS-23-093](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement for Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network \(BPN\): Small Molecule Drug Discovery and Development for Disorders of the Nervous System \(U44 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

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