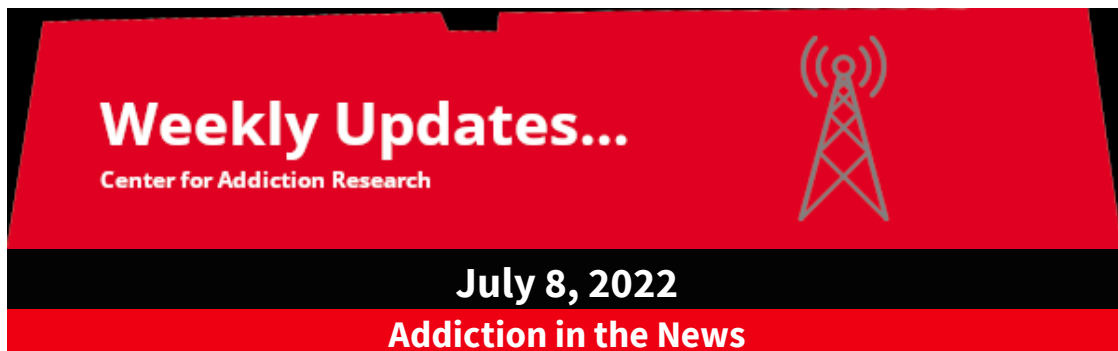


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe ([roweji@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:roweji@ucmail.uc.edu))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

#### **Higdon: Fentanyl is the leading culprit in Kentucky overdose deaths**

Saturday, July 2, 2022 — My friend and Senate colleague Dr. Ralph Alvarado joined a panel of guests a couple of weeks ago for an episode of “Kentucky Tonight,” which focused on the opioid epidemic. The informative discussion came on the heels of a new report from the Kentucky Office for Drug Control Policy showing a 14.5 percent increase in opioid deaths in 2021. What makes the news more troubling is the prior year’s report that...

#### **Lake County commissioners: OneOhio body established, opioid lawsuit judgment forthcoming**

Jul. 3—The regional body holding authorization of how funds are allocated from the OneOhio Solution opioid litigation settlement is mostly established and a judgment on the "bellwether trial" against pharmacy chains for "irresponsibly distributing drugs" will soon be coming to a resolution, according to assessments from the Lake County commissioners. According to Gov. Mike DeWine's office, OneOhio ensures a settlement recognizing that every...

### **National News**

#### **Do Preteens Think About Booze, Pot? Survey Says Yes.**

[HealthDay](#) (7/6, Quinlan Houghtaling, 11K) reports, “Children as young as 9 and 10 start to wonder about tobacco, booze and even marijuana, and many may have easy access to these substances at home, mostly because their parents have not forbidden their use yet,” researchers concluded in a study using data from the

Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study. The research revealed that “about one in 10 of the nearly 12,000 preteen children...said they’re curious about using alcohol or tobacco products, while one in 50 expressed curiosity about using marijuana.” The [findings](#) were published in the June issue of the journal Drug & Alcohol Dependence Reports.

### **“We Need An Answer Now”: Cardiologist Awarded \$2.3M To Study Cannabis Use And Heart Health In People Living With HIV.**

[Cardiovascular Business](#) (7/6) reports, “A cardiologist with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine has received \$2.3 million in funding to examine how cannabis use affects the cardiovascular health of people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).” The physician “was awarded the Avenir Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).”

### **Pharmaceutical Company Says Study Shows Experimental Pill Can Blunt Effects Of THC.**

[STAT](#) (7/5, Feuerstein, 262K) reports, “Anebulo Pharmaceuticals said Tuesday that a single dose of its experimental pill blunted the effects of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, supporting further development of the medicine as a potential antidote for cannabis intoxication.” As more states legalize marijuana and with “the sale of higher-potency THC products on the rise, the Austin, Texas-based company sees a medical need – and a commercial opportunity – for an easily dispensed, high-reversing treatment.” This “medicine could be used to help people seeking care in hospital emergency departments after they accidentally or unintentionally consume excessive amounts of cannabis or THC-containing products.” The FDA is mentioned.

### **Minnesota Legalizes Edibles Containing THC.**

The [Washington Post](#) (7/3, 10.52M) reported that a law took effect in Minnesota Friday “legalizing edibles containing small amounts of THC, the component in cannabis that provides a high, apparently surprising some Republicans, at least one of whom said he voted for the provision unknowingly.” The law, which “permits the sale of edibles and beverages containing up to 5 milligrams of hemp-derived THC per serving,” passed “the Republican-controlled state Senate in May,” and “was signed into law by Gov. Tim Walz (D) last month. But some Republicans told the Star Tribune after the law went into effect that they were caught off guard.” The bill’s author, state Rep. Heather Edelson (D) “resisted the idea that Republicans didn’t understand the scope of the bill, saying that the author of the Senate version of the bill was a Republican, state Sen. Mark Koran, who co-chairs the medical cannabis task force with Edelson.”

### **Expert Calls For Greater Response To Protect Children From Risks Tied To Ingesting THC Products.**

In a [STAT](#) (7/3, 262K) “First Opinion” piece, Partnership to End Addiction Prevention Research and Analysis Vice President Linda Richter, PhD, wrote, “Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, is finding its way into the hands and mouths of young children via products packaged and labeled in ways that bear striking resemblance to famous candy and other snack products known to appeal to children.” Richter called on “policymakers on the state and federal levels...to act to better protect children from the risks associated with ingesting THC products.” Back “in June, the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning about the health threat to children posed by these products. Six days later, more than 20 state attorneys general pleaded with Congress to crack down on copycat THC edibles.”

### **Adolescents Three Times More Prone To Marijuana Addiction Than Adults, New Study Reveals.**

[Benzinga](#) (7/1, Martinovic, 152K) reported that “some recent surveys suggest there’s a decline in teen use of marijuana and other controlled substances.” According to the article, “After Michigan’s annual Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey revealed an unprecedented year-over-year decline in 8th-graders, 10th-graders and 12th-graders, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s (CDPHE) Healthy Kids Colorado Survey’s results showed that in 2021 young people were 35% less likely to use marijuana compared to prior years.” Meanwhile, “a new study published in the Journal of Psychopharmacology found that even though adolescents who use marijuana are three times more prone to develop cannabis use disorder than adult users, they may not be at risk of suffering from other mental health problems related to substance use.”

### **Study Notes ‘Major Uptick’ In Cannabis Vaping Among School-Attending Youth.**

[Dope Magazine](#) (7/1) reported that “a new study reveals that cannabis vaping is the most popular method of cannabis consumption among all U.S. adolescents.” The research “found that cannabis vaping frequency among adolescents among all demographic groups is reported at six or more times per month.” Furthermore, “those who vape and smoke nicotine are more than 40 times more likely to vape and smoke cannabis, according to the study.” This study “used data from the U.S.-based representative annual survey, Monitoring the Future, which examined 51,052 school-attending adolescents.”

### **How To Manage Cancer Pain When Patients Misuse Opioids.**

[Medscape](#) (7/6, Brooks, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports, “Opioids remain a staple in pain management for cancer, but there is little guidance around how to treat patients who have a history of opioid misuse.” In a recent study, “a group of palliative and addiction medicine specialists developed strategies to help frontline clinicians manage patients with advanced cancer-related pain and opioid use

disorder.” The study “was supported by Cambia Health Foundation and the National Institute of Nursing Research.” [\[Report attached – see page 4\]](#)

### **Disposing Of Unwanted Opioids Via The Mail Can Work – If Done Correctly.**

Contributor Ike Brannon wrote in [Forbes](#) (7/1, 10.33M), “Coming up with a way to safely dispose of unneeded prescription medications is one important step we can take to reduce drug abuse.” Recently, the FDA “put forth a proposal to provide pre-paid envelopes that would allow people to mail unused drugs to a facility that can easily and safely dispose of them.” Brannon said, “While I do believe that such a service can help reduce the availability of opioids and other drugs prone to abuse, I am not sure that this step alone is sufficient.” Brannon mentioned the NIDA.

### **Morphine Tablets Recalled Due To Overdose Threat After Stronger Doses Put In Weaker Pills’ Bottles.**

The [Miami Herald](#) (6/30, Neal, 647K) reports, “A packing mistake that can have deadly consequences caused Bryant Ranch Prepack to recall one lot each of Morphine Sulfate 30 mg Extended-Release tablets and Morphine Sulfate 60 mg Extended-Release tablets.” This is because “the 60 mg pills were put in bottles labeled for the 30 mg dose, and vice-versa.”

### **US Government Co-Funding Texas Overdoses Database Project.**

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/5, Rayasam) reports the US government and a state opioid grant are funding a database project that “aims to improve drug overdose tracking” in Texas “called Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts.” This is “one of the few projects in the U.S. pooling crowdsourced overdose data from harm reduction groups in a systematic way.” The database receives its federal funding through SAMHSA.

### **Rural Florida County Experiences Unprecedented Nine Overdose Deaths Over July 4 Weekend.**

The [AP](#) (7/6, Farrington) reports, “A small, largely rural county west of Florida’s capital experienced an unheard-of spike in deadly drug overdoses believed to be caused by fentanyl over the July 4 weekend, with nine people dying in the latest sign that a national crisis is becoming even more far-reaching.” On Friday, “calls to emergency services began flooding in. In addition to the nine deaths over the holiday weekend, another nine people were treated for suspected fentanyl overdoses.” In total in 2021, the county “had just 10 overdoses.”

### **New Hampshire Officials, Medical Experts Warn About Prevalence Of Fentanyl-Laced Drugs.**

[Seacoast Online \(NH\)](#) (7/2, DeWitt, 37K) reported, “New Hampshire officials are warning the public about the risk of fentanyl-laced drugs amid evidence the state has seen an uptick in overdoses this year.” State officials “and a panel of medical

professionals said those increases in overdoses and overdose deaths may be a result of drugs that are more potent than realized.”

### **Editorial: New Massachusetts Bill Would Hurt State’s Opioid Response.**

The [Boston Herald \(MA\)](#) (7/3, 327K) wrote in an editorial, “The cash fueling the opioid epidemic is staggering.” Massachusetts’ “opioid-related overdose deaths...spiked to an all-time high last year” which “begs the question: **Why is the state Senate taking the sting out of the civil asset forfeiture law?**” The paper said, “The law allows district attorneys and police to seize personal property tied to the drug trade.” However, “Senators, in a 31-9 vote, voted this week to make it tougher for DAs and police to get their hands on any personal property from convicted drug dealers.” According to the Herald, “The House should bury this bill as far down a hole as they can dig.”

### **Salisbury Police Issue Warning After Spike In Local Overdose Deaths.**

The [Salisbury \(NC\) Post](#) (7/1, Dlugosz, 50K) reports that in North Carolina, “the Salisbury Police Department issued a warning to the community on Wednesday following a recent series of overdose deaths around the city.” The warning “first appeared on the department’s Facebook page, explaining that there have been **four overdose deaths in Salisbury in the past five days alone.**” It “also noted that **most of the victims were under the age of 30 and that several of them were only known to use marijuana.**” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “has labeled the rise of fentanyl as an ‘epidemic’ that has led to a ‘third wave’ of the opioid crisis, with cases involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl growing across the country since 2013.” NIDA is mentioned.

### **California Advances Bid To Create Legal Drug Injection Sites.**

The [AP](#) (6/30, Thompson) reports, “The California Assembly on Thursday approved a controversial bill allowing Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco to set up places where opioid users could legally inject drugs in supervised settings.” This move to allow safe injection sites “follows more than a year of legislative consideration, with proponents saying it would save lives and detractors saying it would enable drug addiction.”

**Additional Source.** [Marijuana Moment](#) (6/30, Jaeger) reports, “The National Institutes of Health (NIH) put out a pair of requests for applications (RFAs) in December for an effort that will provide funding for efforts to investigate how that and other harm reduction policies could help address the drug crisis.” Furthermore, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra “has also signaled that the Biden administration would not move to block the establishment safe injection sites, stressing that ‘we are literally trying to give users a lifeline.’”

### **New Brain Mechanism Identified In Impulsive Cocaine-Seeking In Animal Model.**

[Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News](#) (6/30, Sterling, 189K) reports, “Scientists at the NIH have discovered that blocking certain acetylcholine receptors in the

lateral habenula (LHb), an area of the brain that balances reward and aversion, made it harder to resist seeking cocaine in a rat model of impulsive behavior.” The “findings identify a new role for these receptors that may represent a future target for the development of treatments for cocaine use disorder, according to the researchers.” NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow said, “This discovery gives researchers a new, specific target toward solving a problem that has long been elusive – developing treatments for cocaine addiction.”

### **Stimulants May Not Improve Academic Learning In Children With ADHD.**

[Medscape](#) (7/5, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports, “Extended-release methylphenidate (Concerta) had no effect on learning academic material taught in a small group of children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), a controlled crossover study found.” Researchers found the stimulant “did improve seat work productivity and classroom behavior, but these benefits did not translate into better learning of individual academic learning units.” The study was supported by the National Institute on Mental Health, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. One of the study’s coauthors has received funding from the NIH.

### **Can A Target Gift Card Help You Stay Off Meth? This L.A. Program Is Trying It.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/4, 3.37M) reports on “contingency management programs” that “use the reward systems in the brain to nudge people away from drug use,” such as offering gift cards to users of drugs if their urine tests show negative results for stimulants. According to the Times, “in drug treatment in Los Angeles County, contingency management remains uncommon, despite strong evidence that such programs can help people stop using meth and other stimulants that can derail and end lives.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse “has called such interventions ‘highly effective.’” Furthermore, “physicians see it as an especially important tool in helping people get off meth, for which no medications are yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration.”

### **Commentary Discusses Methods Of Helping Cure Addiction.**

Conor Feehly writes in [Discover Magazine](#) (6/30, 6.12M), “Addiction is a behavioral phenomenon that has touched many of us.” Feehly discusses how addiction used to be “viewed as a moral failing” but “with the rise of western medicine, and with it clinical psychology, addiction was redefined as a disease.” To help cure addiction, “combining cure-oriented methods that address the neurological underpinnings of addiction with care-oriented methods that aim to foster the development of meaningful behaviors offers a way forward.”

### **Guidance Needed On Information Blocking Rule Research Implications.**

[EHR Intelligence](#) (7/5, Nelson) reports, “Federal guidance is needed on information blocking rule implementation for research data sharing, according to a Health Affairs article” regarding the “information blocking (IB) provision of the 21st Century

**Cures Act.**” Although “electronic health information (EHI) holds the potential to advance clinical research, a lack of incentives and standardized procedures to share EHI...has hampered this progress, the authors wrote.” They “explained that institutions often place conditions on data access for research purposes in the interest of protecting data security, assuring the ethical conduct of research, or preserving competitive advantage.” Additionally, “institutions can, and often must, take action to comply with specific legal requirements for research data access without ‘interfering’ with EHI access.” For example, when multi-institutional research is not covered by the NIH, “institutions often require review and approval from their own institution’s IRB instead of ceding review to the primary site’s IRB.”

### **AOC Amendment Would Direct Military To Study Psychedelics As PTSD Treatment For Service Members.**

[Marijuana Moment](#) (7/5, Jaeger) reports, “Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is pushing to add an amendment to a must-pass military bill that would require the Department of Defense to study the therapeutic potential of psilocybin and MDMA for military service members.” Ocasio-Cortez “recently filed the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which would build on a separate provision already attached to the bill in committee that only gives a DOD mandate to research marijuana as an opioid alternative for military members with certain health conditions.” The NIH is mentioned.

### **Federal Health Officials Say Psychedelics’ Illegal Status Makes It Harder For Researchers To Study Them.**

[Marijuana Moment](#) (6/30, Adlin) reports NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow and NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon “have acknowledged in a letter to two U.S. senators that federal prohibition makes it harder to study the benefits of psychedelics, requiring researchers to jump through additional regulatory hoops.” Researchers “at federal health agencies have previously complained about the obstacles created by federal prohibition.” For example, “in a paper published late last year by the National Cancer Institute, a research team of six – including authors from NIDA, NIH and FDA – wrote that administrative burdens stifle much-needed scientific investigation into the drug’s potential health applications and safety concerns.”

### **Congressional Leaders Urge Psychedelics Research For PTSD And Depression In Updated Spending Measures.**

[Marijuana Moment](#) (7/4, Jaeger) reports, “House Appropriations Committee leadership has taken a special interest in psychedelics research this year as they’ve crafted spending bills and reports to fund various federal agencies. ... The newly added report language contains two sections addressing the therapeutic potential of psychedelics.” The first “broadly encourages research into the substances as potential treatment options for post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression, while the other addresses psychedelics as a possible tool to combat conditions that commonly afflict military veterans.” Additionally, “the Committee

encourages NIH to assess opportunities for further private-public partnerships on researching the use of psychedelic drugs to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and major depressive disorders and provide a report within six months of enactment of this Act on the feasibility of providing potential dedicated researching funding for such partnerships.”

## Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-23-045](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Rapidly Assessing the Public Health Impact of Emerging Opioid Threats \(UG1 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-23-046](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Research to Foster an Opioid Use Disorder Treatment System Patients Can Count On \(RM1 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-MH-22-265](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for BRAIN Initiative: Engineering and optimization of molecular technologies for functional dissection of neural circuits \(UM1 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

### **UC Foundation Funding Opportunities**

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or [carol.russell@uc.edu](mailto: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.

### **[Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation Considers LOIs for HIV/AIDS Efforts](#)**

[Letters of Intent Deadline: August 5, 2022](#)

[Application Deadline: September 2, 2022](#)

The Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to the fight against HIV and AIDS. The foundation invites letters of intent from community-based organizations in HIV/AIDS care and direct services, education, and research. Grants will be awarded to support new or established programs that directly benefit clients and/or target audiences. Requests from across the US are considered, with a particular interest in smaller communities and rural areas. Grant amounts will be determined on a project-by-project basis. In the past, they've ranged up to \$10,000. Priority will be given to requests from locations with a scarcity of available funding; for seed money for new projects, programs, or structures; and innovative ideas for



meeting basic needs. Applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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