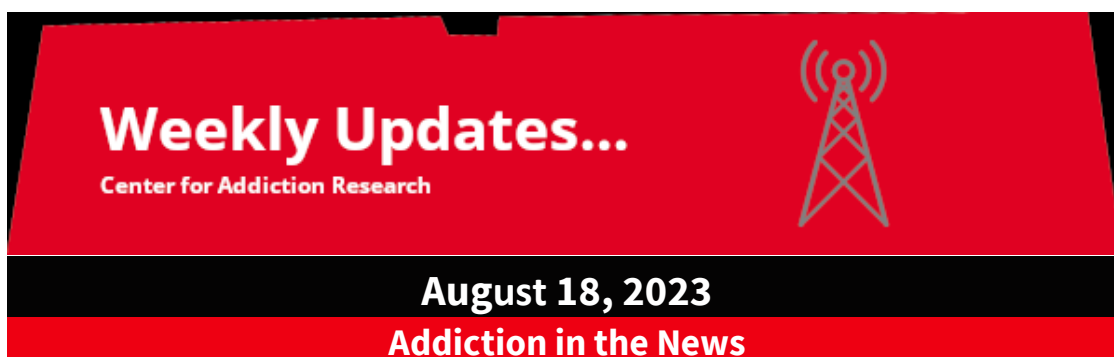


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 8.18.2023

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

‘One vape can equal 40-50 cigarettes’: Indiana teens and vapes

(WTWO/WAWV) — According to the Indiana Youth Tobacco survey, 5 out of 10 Indiana High School students and 1 out of 10 Middle School students thought it would be easy to get tobacco products if they want them. According to the Indiana Department of Health in July of 2020, the legal purchasing age for tobacco went from 18-21 years of age. But raising the minimum age of getting tobacco and vaping products may not be enough. “Cigarette use, tobacco use, is going down. But it’s being replaced by vaping,” Shannon Giles, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coordinator for Tobacco Free Vigo and Chances and Services for Youth. Giles said it’s easy to treat vaping as a behavioral...

Lexington nonprofit offers free alcohol, drug recovery services

LEXINGTON, Ky. — In a health alert, according to the CDC, historically, more men have died from alcohol-related deaths than women. However, a new study in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) shows the gap for alcohol-related deaths is narrowing between men and women. For over three years, Sherri Farmer has volunteered at Voices of Hope in Lexington, which offers free recovery services to the community. “I had worked all my life, and I needed something to do and this ended up being a perfect fit,” Farmer said. Every week, Farmer calls participants in Voices of Hope alcohol/substance abuse recovery program, checking in to see how they’re doing in recovery or just how...

National News

In Monkey Trial, Gene Therapy Shows Promise in Curbing Severe Problem Drinking

MONDAY, Aug. 14, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- For people with severe alcohol use disorder, a new gene therapy trial could lead to an effective treatment that would involve chemically rebalancing the area of the brain associated with addiction. "With alcohol alone, there's generally more than 100,000 deaths [in the United States] per year," said Dr. Tucker Woods, associate medical director of Lenox Health Greenwich Village in New York City, who was not part of the study. "And just think about the impacts on families when somebody's addicted. The impact is not just to that patient, it's also their family and..."

Brain imaging may predict motivation for behavior change in alcohol use disorder

Brain imaging of neuron activity in certain areas of the brain may predict whether an individual is likely to successfully respond to interventions to reduce their drinking. In a study published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, individuals whose baseline imaging showed decreased activity in areas of the brain associated with reward processing and impulsivity and increased activity in regions responsible for complex cognitive processes and emotional regulation were more likely to reduce their drinking following an intervention. The study examined differences in pre-intervention resting state...

Smartphone app may support drinkers who overindulge to drink less heavily

Access to a smartphone alcohol intervention app helped university students to cut down their overall alcohol consumption and the number of days they drank heavily, suggests a study published in *The BMJ* today. Unhealthy drinking is the biggest risk factor to health for 15 to 49-year-olds, and unhealthy use of alcohol is especially prevalent among adult students, prompting the authors to design a smartphone app to encourage healthier drinking among this group. The authors tested the app in 1,770 university students who had screened positive for unhealthy alcohol use when assessed by a questionnaire. The...

Greater enjoyment, not greater tolerance, may motivate heavy drinking among high-risk drinkers

People who drink heavily experience heightened pleasurable effects throughout a drinking episode, which may be what motivates them to continue drinking, and not, as is commonly believed, that they require more alcohol in order to experience these effects. So suggests a first-of-its-kind study of real-world, real-time drinking experiences and motivations of different types of drinkers just published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*. Researchers found that high-risk drinkers felt greater positive effects of alcohol compared to light drinkers, suggesting they are more sensitive to alcohol...

Study: People with severe alcohol use disorder have impaired ability to learn from others' painful experiences

People with alcohol use disorder (AUD) are less able to learn from others' negative experiences, potentially rendering them more vulnerable to maintaining their dangerous drinking or relapsing, according to the first study of its type. The study explored social cognition, processes that enable us to understand and interact with others, and specifically social learning, our ability to learn by observing others' experiences. This might include, for example, seeing others suffering from the negative consequences of heavy drinking and comprehending that heavy drinking could harm us too. Previous...

Drinking, often heavy, is common among cancer survivors

Many Americans diagnosed with cancer continue to drink alcohol regularly—sometimes heavily and sometimes during treatment, a new study shows. The study, of over 15,000 U.S. cancer survivors, found that 78% were current drinkers. And of them, significant percentages said they binged or engaged in other "risky" drinking. The same patterns were seen even among people undergoing cancer treatment. Experts said the findings are concerning, in part because alcohol increases the risk of certain cancers. Drinking during cancer treatment, meanwhile, may interfere with the effectiveness of some therapies...

More Americans than ever believe marijuana smoke is safer than cigarette smoke, but they're wrong

As cannabis use has become legal in many U.S. states for medical or recreational use, Americans' views on the drug may have gotten rosier. In fact, a new report finds that over 44% of adults now believe smoking weed each day is safer than inhaling tobacco smoke. That perception is counter to the science, however, and could have a serious impact on public health. The findings were published online Aug. 11 in JAMA Network Open. "The research that has been coming out is actually suggestive that there's a lot of overlap in terms of the toxins and carcinogens that are in [both] cannabis and tobacco..."

German govt okays 'controlled' use of cannabis

The German government approved a draft law Wednesday legalizing the purchase and possession of cannabis for recreational use, with the health minister pushing back against criticism of the controversial plans. The legislation would allow adults to possess up to 25 grams (0.9 ounces) of cannabis and grow up to three plants for personal use. People would also be allowed to join non-profit "cannabis clubs" of up to 500 members where the drug can be legally cultivated and purchased. The bill still needs to be approved by lawmakers in the German parliament, who return from their summer break on...

Reduced gray matter in frontal lobes linked to teenage smoking and nicotine addiction: Study

Levels of gray matter in two parts of the brain may be linked to a desire to start smoking during adolescence and the strengthening of nicotine addiction, a new study has shown.

A team of scientists, led by the universities of Cambridge and Warwick in the UK and Fudan University in China, analyzed brain imaging and behavioral data of over 800 young people at the ages of 14, 19 and 23. They found that, on average, teenagers who started smoking by 14 years of age had markedly less gray matter in a section of the left frontal lobe linked to decision-making and rule-breaking. Gray matter is the brain...

Many adults who smoke cigarettes wrongly think that vaping is worse for them, say researcher, FDA director

There are no safe tobacco products. But different products have different levels of risk. Cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products are the most harmful, while products like e-cigarettes may be lower-risk alternatives for adults who already smoke. Unfortunately, that message seems to have gotten twisted in the public's mind. A recent survey published in the journal *Addiction* found that only about 20% of the respondents thought that e-cigarettes had fewer harmful chemicals than cigarettes. This misperception even exists among some health care providers who may not realize where each product sits...

New evidence bolsters theory e-cigarettes may increase stroke risk

There is new evidence that bolsters a possible link between e-cigarette use and increased risk of stroke, according to researchers from the University of Colorado Boulder. Their study, conducted in humans, showed that circulating endothelial cell-derived microvesicles (tiny, bubble-like particles released into the bloodstream during inflammation) from e-cigarette users have adverse effects on key factors responsible for regulating brain blood flow. Changes in these factors contribute to the "promotion, development and progression" of ischemic stroke. These strokes are the most common type of stroke and...

Use of E-Cigs Alone Linked to Respiratory Symptoms

Use of e-cigarettes may be inherently associated with respiratory issues regardless of traditional cigarette or cannabis exposure, a prospective study found. Teenagers who reported using e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days subsequently reported an increased risk for shortness of breath (OR 1.78, 95% CI 1.23-2.57), wheezing (OR 1.81, 95% CI 1.28-2.56), and bronchitic symptoms (OR 2.06, 95% CI 1.58-2.69), reported Rob McConnell, MD, of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, and colleagues. And after adjusting for current cigarette and cannabis use as well as...

Two-Thirds of Americans Say Their Lives Have Been Affected by Addiction: Poll

TUESDAY, Aug. 15, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Millions of Americans are addicted to drugs or alcohol, and millions more struggle with an addicted family member or friend, a new poll finds. Two-thirds of those surveyed said either they or a family member have been addicted to alcohol or drugs, been homeless because of an addiction, or overdosed or died from drug use. Moreover, 19% say they themselves have been addicted to drugs or alcohol, had a drug overdose or were homeless because of an addiction. "It's pretty surprising to think about when we talk about addiction and issues with drugs and alcohol, we...

Supreme Court pauses Purdue Pharma bankruptcy deal

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider the Biden administration's challenge to a bankruptcy settlement for Purdue Pharma, pausing the \$6 billion deal over the administration's concerns about a provision that would shield the members of the Sackler family, who own the company, from future opioid-related claims. The court slated arguments in the case for December, leading to a decision likely early next year. The stay will remain in place until the decision is handed down. Purdue, the maker of OxyContin, filed for bankruptcy in 2019 in an attempt to settle about 3,000 lawsuits from states...

Experts: Chronic pain patients who take opioids need better care and coverage

The pendulum of opioid prescribing for pain has swung sharply in the last decade, as the epidemic of opioid overuse, addiction and overdose led policymakers and health care providers to ratchet back on the prescriptions patients receive. But for about 5 million Americans who have taken prescription opioids for years to address their chronic pain, that pendulum swing has led to trouble getting refills, finding new providers when their former ones retire or relocate, or getting access to multimodal pain care that goes beyond pills. In a new paper in the Journal of Pain Research, researchers from...

Most people initiating opioid prescriptions have very low use trajectory

Most adults initiating treatment with prescription opioids have relatively low and time-limited exposure to opioids during a five-year period, according to a study published online Aug. 10 in JAMA Network Open. Natasa Gisev, Ph.D., from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in Sydney, and colleagues examined five-year trajectories of prescription opioid use. The analysis included national pharmaceutical claims data linked to 10 national and state datasets for 3.47 million adults initiating an opioid prescription. The researchers found that the five trajectories included: very low use...

After U.S. warns of counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl, Mexico shuts down 23 pharmacies

Following a four-day raid, Mexico has closed 23 pharmacies in Caribbean resorts of Cancun, Playa del Carmen, and Tulum for irregular pill sales. Last spring, the United

States warned of dangerous pill sales to foreigners and tourists where counterfeit drugs contained fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine. Mexican investigators went to 55 drug stores, finding irregular sales at 23 of them, according to the Mexican Navy Department. In a study from researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles, the scientists said they visited 40 pharmacies in four Northern Mexico cities, finding that 68...

How drugs can warp your sense of time

Imagine a world where you could control your sense of time. Where trips to the dentist flew by in a second and holidays felt like they lasted forever. Time altering pills may sound like science fiction but the time warping effects of psychoactive drugs suggest that deliberate time manipulation may be possible. Drug induced time-warps are a widely reported phenomenon by recreational drug users. My 2022 study suggested that over 75% of people who had recently used cocaine, MDMA (also known as ecstasy) and cannabis reported distortions to the passage of time during drug use. The participants...

New Study on Stigmatizing Imagery for Substance Use Disorders Released

A new Addiction Policy Forum-led study explores stigmatizing and non-stigmatizing imagery for substance use disorders (SUD) and criminal justice contact. The qualitative study of people with lived experience with SUD identified stigmatizing images of substance use and criminal justice settings, along with alternative images to utilize. Researchers found that certain images were identified by individuals as not only stigmatizing but triggering, making individuals reactive and think of using again (i.e., relapse). The results are published in the latest edition of the journal Health & Justice. "Stigma is a major...

Recreational drugs detected in more than 1 in 10 cardiac intensive care patients

Recreational drug use may be a factor in a significant proportion of admissions to cardiac intensive care, with various substances detected in 1 in 10 such patients, suggest the findings of a multicentre French study published online in the journal Heart. Drug use was also associated with significantly poorer outcomes, with users nearly 9 times as likely to die or require emergency intervention as other heart patients while in hospital, and 12 times as likely to do so if they used more than one drug. Recreational drug use is a known risk factor for cardiovascular incidents, such as a heart attack or abnormal...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[PAR-23-244](#)

[Population Approaches to Reducing Alcohol-related Cancer Risk \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-035](#)

[Notice of Change to PAR-20-273, "New Models of Integrated HIV/AIDS, Addiction, and Primary Care Services \(R01 Clinical Trial Required\)"](#)

[NOT-DA-23-034](#)

[Notice of Change to PAR-20-274, "New Models of Integrated HIV/AIDS, Addiction, and Primary Care Services \(R34 - Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[RFA-NS-24-021](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Understanding Individual Differences in Human Pain Conditions \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-229](#)

[NIH Brain Development Cohorts \(NBDC\) Biospecimen Access \(X01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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 the below opportunity, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

[Gilead Research Scholars invites applications for basic and clinical studies in HIV](#)

Deadline: [September 16, 2023](#)

Gilead Research Scholars invites applications for basic and clinical research in the field of HIV. The program will award grants of up to \$180,000 (up to \$90,000 per year for two years). Areas of research may include but are not limited to basic, clinical, behavioral, epidemiological, implementation science, and community-based participatory research; health inequities faced by certain population groups; management of complications, comorbidities and/or co-infections, e.g., HIV and aging; HIV prevention; digital models and artificial intelligence (AI); and health economics outcomes research. This award is intended for junior faculty who meet the criteria for early-stage investigator as defined by the National Institutes of Health.

Health. To be eligible, applicants must hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree at the time of award and be within five years of a faculty appointment at the time of application. Applicants must have a research mentor with extensive experience in their field. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the Gilead Research Scholars website.

Other Funding Opportunities:

[Pilot Site Applications for Anti-Stigma Initiative Now Open](#)

The Addiction Policy Forum’s Anti-Stigma Initiative aims to test and deploy new anti-stigma interventions and resources for communities. The new initiative is designed to:

- Reduce addiction stigma, including stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination intent,
- Increase knowledge about addiction,
- Improve helping behaviors towards individuals with a substance use disorder, and
- Identify levels of addiction stigma in a community to establish a baseline indicator.

Addiction is one of the most stigmatized health conditions on earth and prevents people who are struggling from reaching out for help and isolates families affected by the disease who fear being judged by their communities.

Who Should Apply?

States, Counties, Cities, Tribes	Schools, Colleges, University
Community-Based Organizations	Hospitals, Health Care Providers
Treatment Providers	Faith-Based Organizations
Criminal Justice Agencies	Professional Associations
Employers	Other Community Organizations

Requirements

Any city, county, tribe, agency or organization in the U.S. can apply to become a pilot site for the anti-stigma initiative at no cost. Each applicant is required to test one of two stigma interventions with not less than 50 participants (delivery can be virtual or in-person). Pilot sites will also be asked to disseminate a stigma survey and collect responses from 50 individuals and assign a staff member to support the delivery and completion of projects within the nine months timeline.

Twelve communities will be selected in 2023 to serve as anti-stigma pilot sites at no cost to the agency/jurisdiction. Take part in the anti-stigma initiative and help your organization or community deconstruct the stigma around substance use disorders.

