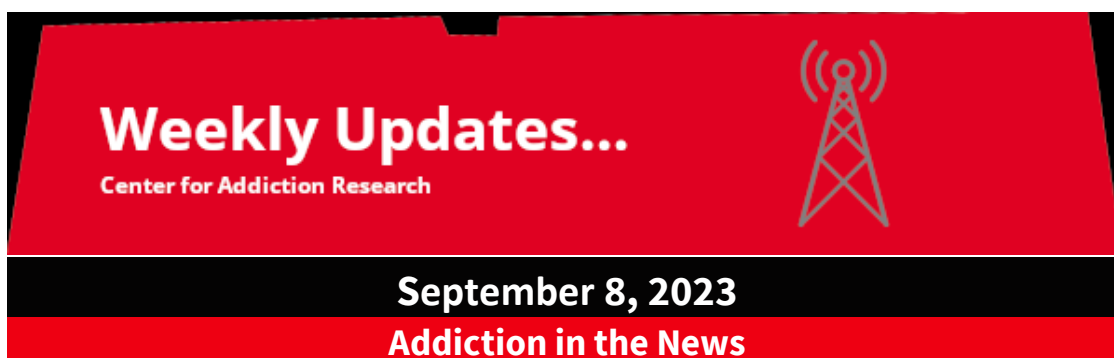


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 9.8.2023

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

Gold and Silver Apples awarded

Medical Sciences undergraduate students have named the 2023 recipients of Gold and Silver Apple Awards for the best courses this past academic year in the Medical Sciences Baccalaureate Program. The students selected their most impactful courses to recognize the excellent teaching by MedSci instructors. Congratulations to **Dr. Terry, Kirley, PhD**, Class of 1982, professor, Department of Pharmacology and Systems Physiology, **(and CAR Associate Member)** who was the recipient of the Golden Apple in 1000/2000 Level Courses for "History of Medicine and Technology Innovation" and a Silver Apple in 4000 Level Courses for "Fundamentals of Medical Pharmacology".

Lindner Center of HOPE Exploring Mental Health Webcast Series, Tuesday, Sept. 12: Chris Tuell, EdD, clinical director of addiction services, Lindner Center of HOPE, and assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, will present "Gaming Addiction: Prevention, Assessment and Treatment" at 5:30 p.m. via Teams. **Register for the event.**

One man's story of addiction leads to an unlikely friendship

VERSAILLES, Ky. (WKYT) - It's a community leaning on one another, as people remember the many loved ones they've lost to addiction. "It's a support system to get like minded people together. To share each other's stories, and know that you're not alone," said Brittany Campbell of Strengthening Transformations Inc. After losing a close friend, Campbell started this candlelight vigil to help others who

are grieving. “It’s never going to go away. It’s about getting a grip on it and finding solutions to the problem,” Campbell said. And it’s actually one man’s story of addiction that led to the start of a beautiful, yet slightly unconventional, friendship. “It was 2013,” starts Deputy Teddy Melton with the...

Over \$1.7 million in federal grants are awarded to reduce overdose risks in rural Indiana

Two Indiana programs are getting over \$1.7 million in federal grants to reduce overdose risks from fentanyl and other opioids in rural Indiana. The grant comes from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The agency’s Rural Communities Opioid Response Program has invested over \$500 million across more than 1,500 counties since 2018. “Far too many rural families have faced the devastation of overdose, and these deaths are felt deeply across rural communities -- where often everyone knows someone lost too soon,” said HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson in a press release. 4C Health -- formerly known as Four County -- Comprehensive Mental Health Center is getting \$1 million...

National News

Social anxiety disorder uniquely predicts alcohol use disorder, research indicates

People with social anxiety are at increased risk of alcohol use disorder, according to new research published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence. The findings provide evidence that this connection remains distinctive to social anxiety and does not hold true for other manifestations of anxiety disorders. Alcohol use disorder is a chronic medical condition characterized by an inability to control alcohol consumption despite its negative consequences on health, relationships, and daily functioning. It involves a range of symptoms, from tolerance (needing more alcohol to achieve...

Marijuana should be moved to lower-risk drug category, U.S. health officials say

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug under the Controlled Substances Act, a move that could potentially expand acceptance of the drug. The DEA confirmed receiving an Aug. 29 letter requesting the change and will begin its own review, a spokesperson told Bloomberg News. The move wouldn't legalize marijuana, but could move it from its Schedule I classification to a Schedule III. Schedule I drugs, which carry a high risk of abuse, include LSD, ecstasy and heroin. Meanwhile, Schedule III drugs can be...

Young smokers report more ocular symptoms

Adolescents and young adult users of both electronic cigarettes and cigarettes have a higher likelihood of experiencing severe and frequent ocular symptoms, according to a study published online Aug. 31 in JAMA Ophthalmology. Anne X. Nguyen, M.D.,

from McGill University in Montreal, and colleagues examined the frequency and severity of ocular symptoms (ocular discomfort, pain, burning, itching, redness, dryness, glare, blurriness, strain, and headaches) in 4,351 young e-cigarette and cigarette users (aged 13 to 24 years). The researchers found that 1.1 to 3.9 percent of ever dual users...

A tax on menthol cigarettes would work better than statewide bans, study finds

Menthol-flavored cigarettes account for more than one-third of cigarettes sold in the United States, and experts believe they are more dangerous than traditional cigarettes. More than 150 cities and counties have prohibited the sale of menthols, and Massachusetts and California both have statewide bans. The Food and Drug Administration proposed a federal ban in 2022 but may never institute it. In the absence of a national ban, new research from the University of Washington finds that a menthol tax is a preferable policy to scattered statewide bans. The study, forthcoming in *Marketing Science*...

My teen is addicted to vaping: How can I help them quit and manage their withdrawal symptoms?

The Australian government is cracking down on vaping. Recreational vapes of any type—whether they contain nicotine or not—will be banned from retail sale across Australia after legislation is introduced (though the date is yet to be set). Rates of teen vaping have been rising rapidly in Australia, from 0.8% of 14- to 17-year-olds describing themselves as a current vaper over the past six months in 2018 to 14.5% in 2023. Among 18- to 24-year-olds, 19.8% have been a current vaper over the past six months. Teens mainly get vaping products from their friends, retail vaping stores or the internet. Once the...

New opioids are joining the illicit drug supply, and they're more potent than fentanyl

In recent years, the opioid epidemic has been worsened by the advent of street fentanyl, an illicit version of a powerful prescription painkiller. But experts now warn that the threat posed by fentanyl may ultimately pale in comparison to the emergence of an even more dangerous type of synthetic opioid that's now tainting the illegal drug supply: nitazenes. That's because a new investigation finds nitazenes are 1,000 times more potent than morphine, which makes them 10 times more power than fentanyl. That means that nitazenes "are much more dangerous, because it takes a smaller amount..."

Insomnia drug helps prevent oxycodone relapse, study shows

A good night's sleep has many proven health benefits, and a new Scripps Research study suggests one more: preventing opioid relapse. In the new study, published online in *Neuropharmacology*, scientists gave an experimental insomnia treatment to rats experiencing oxycodone withdrawal. The researchers found that the animals

were far less likely to seek out drugs again in the future—even after ending the treatment. These findings could eventually lead to therapies to help prevent opioid addiction or relapse in humans. "These results are very encouraging," says Rémi...

Biden Administration Announces \$450M for Drug Overdose Treatment, Prevention

The Biden administration announced Thursday that it would spend an additional \$450 million to address drug overdoses and said that its efforts in this area so far have been working. "The Biden-Harris administration is taking action to beat the overdose epidemic, and more importantly, to save lives," Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff said on a Zoom call with reporters, which was timed to coincide with International Overdose Awareness Day. "We know the overdose epidemic is a national crisis ... We're investing billions to address addiction and the overdose epidemic and to keep communities...

CDC: Deaths From Counterfeit Pills Rising

Fatal overdoses from counterfeit pharmaceuticals, particularly pills found to contain fentanyl, more than doubled in recent years, the CDC reported. Among more than 100,000 recent overdose deaths in the U.S., the percentage caused by pills disguised as legitimate pharmaceutical products increased from 2.0% in the third quarter of 2019 to 4.7% in the last quarter of 2021. The proportion of those deaths involving illicitly manufactured fentanyls jumped to 93.0% from 72.2%, while illicit benzodiazepines also rose to 5.3% from 1.4%. Fake fentanyl was the sole drug involved in 41.4% of counterfeit pill-related...

Antiquated U.S. Laws Governing Methadone Access Must Change

America's drug overdose crisis has escalated in the past few years due to several factors, including disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, driving an unprecedented rise in overdose fatalities. Fentanyl, stimulants and, more recently, sedatives like xylazine in the unregulated drug supply continue to drive the worst overdose crisis in American history. We cannot effectively address this crisis without updating policies that narrow the persistent addiction treatment gap, acknowledge the reality of polysubstance use, and equip addiction specialists with every tool science has to offer. While we saw...

L.A. County sues pharmacy benefit firms, alleging they helped fuel opioid crisis

Los Angeles County has become the latest local government to accuse pharmacy benefit managers — the little-known middlemen of the prescription drug industry — of stoking the opioid crisis by helping flood the nation with highly addictive pills. In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, the county alleged that Express Scripts Inc. and OptumRx Inc. colluded with drug manufacturers to promote dangerously addictive opioids as a safe and moderate pain treatment option. The 59-page filing describes the havoc that the opioid crisis has wreaked inside the county's emergency...

Alarming increase in Illinois fatal drug overdoses among Black and older adults

Today, on International Overdose Awareness Day, Northwestern University scientists have launched a public dashboard containing the most comprehensive data on unintentional fatal drug overdoses in Illinois. The goal of the dashboard is to inform public health efforts to address the ever-increasing rate of overdose-related deaths in the state. "The dashboard allows local areas and counties to explore in detail their own issues with drug overdose death, and hopefully some ideas of how to address it," said Maryann Mason, associate professor of emergency medicine at Northwestern University...

Linking infectious and narcology care found effective in suppressing HIV in people who inject drugs in Russia

New research from Boston Medical Center found that providing pragmatic support, specifically rapid access to antiretroviral therapy, pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder, and strengths-based case management, improved treatment outcomes for people with HIV who inject drugs in St. Petersburg, Russia. Published in *The Lancet HIV*, researchers from the Linking Infectious and Narcology Care—Part II (LINC-II) trial highlight that the odds of achieving viral load suppression at 12 months are three times higher for participants randomized to the intervention group. Russia continues to have the...

Study examines role of religion in substance use services, finds it's often located in racially diverse communities

People have turned to religion and spirituality to deal with crises and critical needs for centuries. Yet little is known how religion plays a role in substance use care. A new publication from the University of Kansas and Georgetown University explored the religious orientation of facilities within the substance use and addiction system of care throughout the Kansas City region, the religiousness of services, where the services are located and differences in services offered. The study showed facilities that appeared more religious, or where faith or religiousness was centered, often offered a wider...

Study suggests substance use disorders on the rise among young adults

A study by City University of New York (CUNY) researchers found a significant increase in substance use disorders among young adults in the U.S. between 2011 and 2019. The study is published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*. Using data from the annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), CUNY SPH doctoral student Thinh Vu and colleagues discovered that substance use prevalence increased from 5.4% to 6.2% over those nine years. Cannabis use disorder was the most prevalent, with a significant increase in prevalence. The researchers also found substance use treatment use...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[PAR-23-236](#)

[Early-stage Biomedical Data Repositories and Knowledgebases \(R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-237](#)

[Enhancement and Management of Established Biomedical Data Repositories and Knowledgebases \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-24-023](#)

[HEAL INITIATIVE: Development and validation of remote or patient wearable device derived objective biosignatures or functional assessments to monitor pain for use as endpoints in clinical trials \(UG3/UH3 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

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