

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 10.6.2023

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

[Study shows widespread naloxone distribution is not enough](#)

A new study from the College of Medicine finds that widespread community distribution of naloxone through a take-home naloxone (THN) program did not significantly impact the median monthly opioid overdose rates. The study was published in PLOS ONE. The Naloxone Distribution Collaborative was facilitated from October 2017 through December 2019 by Hamilton County Public Health. Opioid overdose mortality was compared between the period before (October 2015 to September 2017) and during the program (October 2017 to September 2019). Prior to the start of the program, there was little distribution of THN to individuals in Hamilton County. "Our goal with the Naloxone... **(featuring CAR Population Health and Health Services Core Co-Leader and CAR Member, Dr. Caroline Freiermuth, see publication below in the newsletter)**

[Emerging Trends in Maternal and Child Health related to Substance Use Disorders, Presented by The Next Step Collaborative](#)

Date: 10/27/2023

Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: The Summit Hotel, 5345 Medpace Way, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

This annual conference is sponsored by the Next Step Collaborative, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEEDD).

This will be the 7th annual conference and the first live, in-person since 2019. This conference is designed for professionals identifying, treating, designing, and implementing interventions for children impacted by caregiver substance use disorders. This includes physicians, nurses, teachers, social workers, psychologists, therapists, lawyers, advocates, foster support providers, and intervention specialists. Continuing education is available for a variety of professions.

Kids and vaping: We asked medical pros, 'As a parent, what would you do?'

Vapes come in a wide variety of sometimes deceptive shapes, sizes and colors and accommodate an enormous number of flavored juices. Combine that with all the reports of kids vaping in their classroom and charging seemingly innocuous devices on their laptops via a USB port, and it's clear that parents are facing worries that their own parents never could have imagined. Now tack on a report showing that nearly 1 in 5 high school students said they were vaping when they took a national survey on their behaviors. And more than 1 in 3 said they'd vaped at some point, the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 2021 showed. Any parent might wonder: How can I prevent this from happening...

Ohio teens would stop vaping if tobacco were the only flavor. Ban flavored vapes. | Editorial

Flavored tobacco products, if not outright banned, should absolutely not be sold to minors in Ohio. State legislators must protect our youth by aggressively going after companies targeting them with flavored e-cigarettes, more commonly known as vapes, and imposing stiffer penalties on businesses who sell these products to kids. Teen vaping has become an epidemic, and the numbers are staggering. More than 1 in 3 Ohio high schoolers have tried vaping, according to a 2021 survey backed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And nearly 1 in 5 students currently vape – statistics that line up with national survey results. An Enquirer investigation found the issue is widespread in local...

Attorney General warns of drug that tranquilizes large animals to be re-emerging in Ohio

OHIO — As Ohio fights against the opioid epidemic, Attorney General Dave Yost said a very potent opioid is re-emerging and Ohioans need to be aware. Carfentanil is used to tranquilize large animals like elephants, but it is making its way into the hands of people. Yost is warning Ohioans that it is showing up in recent drug cases in the state. While the drug hasn't popped up in Montgomery County, health leaders still want people to know how dangerous it is. "It's something that's 100 times more potent than fentanyl. Fentanyl is already extremely potent and deadly," Dayton and Montgomery County Public Information Manager Dan Suffoletto said. Yost said investigators found the drug in both Trumbull...

Cracking down on drug traffickers the goal of new Ohio House bill

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WTVG) - Ohio Republicans are looking to increase penalties for convicted drug traffickers, specifically those involved with fentanyl overdoses. State Reps. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) and D.J. Swearingen (R-Huron) are spearheading the 'Saving Ohio Communities Act' to address the issue. They provided sponsor testimony in a House committee on Wednesday on their proposal, House Bill 230. It would increase drug trafficking charges for cocaine, fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamine to keep people convicted of those crimes locked up longer. It would also create a mandatory five-year prison term for people convicted in fentanyl-related deaths in addition to...

Almost \$14 million in grants awarded to fight opioid addiction in Kentucky

FRANKFORT, Ky. (FOX 56) — Help is on the way for dozens of groups across the bluegrass that help in the fight against substance abuse and recovery from opioids. Kentucky won more than \$800 million in a settlement with drugmakers last year. Since then a commission led by the Attorney General's Office has traveled the state figuring out what to do with that money. On Monday, another round of grants was awarded to more than 30 groups helping struggling Kentuckians. The grants total up to \$13.9 million spread across 34 organizations and agencies helping people treat and recover from opioid abuse and prevent the problem before it starts. "That brings the commission's total allocation for this calendar..."

Governor unveils new site to help Hoosiers find addiction treatment

Hoosiers struggling with substance use disorder will now be able to use a free, confidential, first-of-its-kind tool to find appropriate addiction treatment services in Indiana. Gov. Eric Holcomb on Friday announced the launch of Shatterproof Treatment Atlas at an event celebrating the end of National Recovery Month. "Hoosiers with substance use disorder deserve timely access to quality care as soon as they're ready to accept help," he said. "Treatment Atlas puts recovery within immediate reach, giving Hoosiers and their loved ones a trusted resource to find evidence-based, high-quality treatment that meets their unique needs, anywhere in the state." Indiana is one of 13 states to...

National News

Alcohol 'promotion' detracted from success of Women's World Cup, says new commentary

Broadcasters should avoid focusing on alcohol in crowd shots during major sporting events, such as this summer's Women's World Cup final, say researchers. In a new commentary published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, researchers from the Technological University of the Shannon and the University of Galway in the Republic of Ireland suggest that the "thorny issue of alcohol" detracted from the success of the record-breaking tournament. The authors, Dr. Frank Houghton and Daisy Houghton, highlight a "highly problematic" moment during the final between England and Spain, which...

Study Pinpoints Growing Use of Cannabis to Manage Menopause Symptoms

PHILADELPHIA -- One in 10 midlife women said they used cannabis in the past month, some of which was to manage menopausal symptoms, a researcher reported here. In a nationally representative sample of U.S. women, ages 45 to 64, 42% said they had ever used cannabis either recreationally or for medical purposes in their lifetime, according to Carolyn Gibson, PhD, MPH, of the San Francisco VA Health Care System at The Menopause Society annual meeting. When used medicinally, midlife women said the most common motives behind reaching for cannabis included chronic pain (28%), anxiety (24%)...

Research sparks call for greater transparency over where tobacco companies operate

For the first time ever, researchers have attempted to map the supply chain of cigarettes, from farm to factory, in a new study published in the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. The research, from experts at the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath, suggests that the global reach of major tobacco brands and their subsidiaries, including growers and manufacturers, has a direct impact on the degree to which the industry interferes with public health policies in specific countries. Through analysis of the Tobacco Supply Chains Database with the Global Tobacco Industry...

Study shows most adolescent vapers do not use cessation resources

Most adolescent electronic cigarette users do not use cessation resources in their attempts to quit, according to a study published online Oct. 2 in *Pediatrics*. Hongying Daisy Dai, Ph.D., from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and colleagues examined the prevalence and associations of sociodemographic factors, vaping behaviors, and harm perception with the adoption of different vaping cessation methods among current e-cigarette users who made one or more quit attempt in the past 12 months from the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). There were 1,436 current...

More Schools Stock Overdose Reversal Meds, but Others Worry About Stigma

Last year, a student fell unconscious after walking out of a bathroom at Central High School in Pueblo, Colorado. When Jessica Foster, the school district's lead nurse, heard the girl's distraught friends mention drugs, she knew she had to act fast. Emergency responders were just four minutes away. "But still four minutes — if they are completely not breathing, it's four minutes too long," Foster said. Foster said she got a dose of naloxone, a medication that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose, and gave it to the student. The girl revived. Forty-five miles away in Colorado Springs, Mitchell High School officials...

US announces sweeping action against Chinese fentanyl supply chain producers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration took aim Tuesday at the fentanyl trafficking threat, announcing a series of indictments and sanctions against Chinese companies and executives blamed for importing the chemicals used to make the deadly drug. Officials described the actions, which include charges against eight Chinese companies accused of advertising, manufacturing and distributing precursor chemicals for synthetic opioids like fentanyl, as the latest effort in their fight against the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history. The moves come one day before senior administration officials are...

Third of Medicaid Patients With Opioid Use Disorder Don't Get Treatment

MONDAY, Oct. 2, 2023 (HealthDay News) – Medications that cut cravings have been shown to help with opioid use disorder, yet nearly a third of Medicaid recipients dealing with opioid addiction aren't getting them, a new report shows. There were significant disparities in who gets these medications by age, race and states, according to the report released Friday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Medicaid needs to improve access to the treatments. "Medicaid is uniquely positioned to achieve these goals, given that the program is estimated to cover almost 40% of non-elderly adults with opioid..."

Analysis shows opioid prescription rates have decreased for US adolescents

A new analysis reveals that rates of opioid prescribing to US adolescents have decreased in recent years, primarily limited to non-surgery indications. Opioid prescription rates for surgery have remained stable. The analysis, which is published in *Pediatric Anesthesia*, assessed data from the 2015–2020 Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys, which are nationally representative, large-scale surveys conducted annually by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Among 26,909 children aged 10–19 years, 4.7% underwent a surgical procedure in 2015–2020. The surgery rate remained stable...

Insomnia Drug May Help Prevent Opioid Relapse

In both animal and human studies, the administration of insomnia drug Suvorexant during Opioid withdrawal resulted in improved sleep patterns, leading to lessened cravings and an overall decrease in Opioid-seeking behavior. The National Institutes of Health found that over 75% of people who misuse Opioids or have an Opioid use disorder report having sleep problems, including waking up frequently, not sleeping well or long enough, or having irregular sleep schedules. These sleep problems can result in uncomfortable side effects like mood fluctuations and a decreased ability to cope with...

These two moms lost sons to opioids. Now they're on opposite sides at the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON – Lynn Wencus and Ellen Isaacs share a similar story that ends with the same tragedy: Both women lost sons to the opioid crisis, which still claims tens of thousands of American lives every year. Both mothers remember feeling reassured that the painkillers prescribed to their sons were safe. Both tell harrowing stories about scrambling to find treatment centers and feeling hopeless through relapses. Both remember listening as their sons predicted that they would die young from addiction. Both of their sons were right. Isaacs' son, Ryan, and Wencus' son, Jeff, were 33 when they...

NC's mobile clinics provide treatment for opioid addiction

North Carolina has a new tool to fight the opioid epidemic. Mobile clinics drive across the state to provide treatment to those in need. While small, it is a fully equipped clinic with an exam room and testing materials. Brad Townsend, who operates a mobile unit, said he once needed similar treatment. For him, the work is personal. Townsend has been in recovery for four years after more than a decade of using drugs. He went to local rehab but relapsed. Townsend wound up in a California center that offers medically assisted treatment. "It calms your brain down enough, so you can actually think," Townsend...

FDA Takes Steps to Advance the Development of Novel Therapies for Stimulant Use Disorders

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration published a new draft guidance to assist sponsors in developing treatments for stimulant use disorders. The guidance, Stimulant Use Disorders: Developing Drugs for Treatment, when finalized, will be the first to provide the FDA's current thinking on the overall development program and clinical trial design to develop drugs and biologics to support treatment of moderate to severe cocaine use disorder, methamphetamine use disorder and prescription stimulant use disorder. "Currently there is no FDA-approved medication for stimulant use..."

Cellular atlas of amygdala reveals new treatment target for cocaine addiction

Researchers at University of California San Diego School of Medicine and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies have created a unique, cell-by-cell atlas of the amygdala, a small structure deep within the brain that plays a crucial role in controlling emotional responses to drugs. The findings, published in Nature Neuroscience, helped the researchers identify a potential new treatment for cocaine addiction, a disease that is poorly understood at the molecular level and has virtually no approved pharmacological treatments. "There are some drugs that can help treat other addictions, such as those to opioids or nicotine..."

Scientists find common brain network for substance use disorders

Substance use disorders are complex, hard-to-treat conditions that affect a person's brain and behavior. Affected people are unable to control their use of substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, despite harmful consequences. Scientists have used different imaging techniques to find brain areas that might be linked to various addictions. Such studies have often focused on just one particular substance. And they've used differing methods for analysis. This variability has made it hard to find commonalities between the brain networks involved in different substance use disorders. To learn more, a...

PrEP prevents HIV infections, but it's not reaching Black women

Alexis Perkins thought her OB-GYN's office in Atlanta would be just the place to get a prescription for the type of drug that reduces a person's risk of contracting HIV. But during a recent visit, the medical assistant who greeted her had not heard of the medicines known as preexposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, and she seemed uncomfortable discussing it, Perkins says. Her provider had heard of it but didn't feel confident prescribing it. "She was at least honest enough to say that she was interested in it, but she didn't really know that much about it," says Perkins, a 25-year-old nurse, who decided to get on PrEP...

New internet addiction spectrum: Where are you on the scale?

Young people (24 years and younger) spend an average of six hours a day online, primarily using their smartphones, according to research from the University of Surrey. Older people (those 24 years and older) spend 4.6 hours online. Surrey's study, which involved 796 participants, introduces a new internet addiction spectrum, categorizing internet users into five groups: Casual Users (14.86%): This group mainly goes online for specific tasks and logs off without lingering. They show no signs of addiction and are generally older, with an average age of 33.4 years. They are the least interested in...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-24-032](#)

[Mechanistic Research on Neuromodulation for Substance Use Disorders Treatment \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-031](#)

[Mechanistic Research on Neuromodulation for Substance Use Disorders Treatment \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-033](#)

[Mechanistic Research on Neuromodulation for Substance Use Disorders Treatment \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-047](#)

[Seeking Products to Address Social Needs impacting Substance Use Disorders \(SUD\) \(R41/R42 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-048](#)

[Seeking Products to Address Social Needs impacting Substance Use Disorders \(SUD\) \(R43/R44 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-033](#)

[Notice of Information: Recruitment and Retention Monitoring and Reporting of Clinical Research Awards Supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

[PAR-23-309](#)

[Health and Health Care Disparities Among Persons Living with Disabilities \(R01 - Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AI-23-070](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Ending the HIV Epidemic \(EHE\)](#)

CAR Member New Publications

Evaluation of a large-scale health department naloxone distribution program: Per capita naloxone distribution and overdose morality

Caroline E. Freiermuth, Rachel M. Ancona, Jennifer L. Brown, Brittany E. Panches, Shawn A. Ryan, Tim Ingram, Michael S. Lyons

Plos One

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0289959>

ABSTRACT

Objective: To report per-capita distribution of take-home naloxone to lay bystanders and evaluate changes in opioid overdose mortality in the county over time.

Methods: Hamilton County Public Health in southwestern Ohio led the program from Oct 2017-Dec 2019. Analyses included all cartons distributed within Hamilton County or in surrounding counties to people who reported a home address within Hamilton County. Per capita distribution was estimated using publicly available census data. Opioid overdose mortality was compared between the period before (Oct 2015-Sep 2017) and during (Oct 2017-Sep 2019) the program.

Results: A total of 10,416 cartons were included for analyses, with a total per capita distribution of 1,275 cartons per 100,000 county residents (average annual rate of 588/100,000). Median monthly opioid overdose mortality in the two years before (28 persons, 95% CI 25–31) and during (26, 95% CI 23–28) the program did not differ significantly.

Conclusions: Massive and rapid naloxone distribution to lay bystanders is feasible. Even large-scale take-home naloxone distribution may not substantially reduce opioid overdose mortality rates.

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