

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

Columbus City Council proposes \$1 million campaign to help people quit smoking, vaping

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Columbus City Council announced a \$1 million proposal on Monday to help get people to stop smoking and vaping on Monday. The proposal comes as council voted in favor of a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products in the city. Council President Shannon Hardin and Councilmember Shayla Favor joined medical leaders and community partners to make the proposal, according to a release from city council. The "Comprehensive Tobacco Cessation Education and Awareness Campaign" would run through 2023, with the goal of connecting residents addicted to nicotine to resources and programs to help them quit. Hardin said helping those who are already...

Kentucky hospital to pay \$4M for opioid recordkeeping claims

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- A Kentucky hospital system will pay a \$4.4 million civil penalty for faulty recordkeeping that enabled a pharmacy technician to divert 60,000 doses of opioids, federal prosecutors announced. Pikeville Medical Center self-reported the diversion, cooperated with a Drug Enforcement Administration investigation and has taken "substantial steps" to address its problems ahead of the settlement, which does not determine any liability, according to a statement Wednesday from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lexington. "The size of this fine shows how serious this situation is," said agent Todd Scott, who leads the DEA's Louisville division. "Hopefully, Pikeville Medical..."

Work on \$1.5 million addiction-to-workforce facility begins in Greene County

Emerge Recovery and Trade Initiative has begun a \$1.49 million renovation of the former Greene County Career Center to create a one-of-a-kind addiction recovery center, which they aim to open to the public next spring. AKA Construction of Xenia is spearheading the project, which will cost more than the \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds Emerge was awarded by Greene County commissioners in April. “The price of everything has gone up,” said Elaine Bonner, director of philanthropy at Emerge. “We will be looking to raise that money through a combination of ways — including donations from individuals, local businesses, corporations and other...

Recovering hope

When Ashley Miller goes about her day as executive director of Lifeline Recovery Center in Paducah, she is practicing what she preaches. Miller isn’t just the director. She is also a recovering addict and a 2014 graduate of Lifeline’s recovery program. According to the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, 2,250 people in Kentucky died from a drug overdose in 2021, up 14.5% from 2020. An opioid was involved in 90% of those deaths. Drug use is so rampant in the region, it’s a part of Miller’s childhood. Both her parents were addicts and she described her upbringing as “chaos.” By the time she was 13, Miller was abusing prescription pills. Her husband, also raised by addicts, joined her...

Legal Sports Betting Could Lead to More People Becoming Addicted to Gambling

With the January 1st launch date of legalized sports betting in Ohio, the chances will increase that more people may become addicted to gambling. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, “nationally between 1% and 3% of the general adult population, or over 5.1 million people, experience a gambling problem every year. In addition, gambling problems are often hidden, and many people may not be aware of them.” In many people, a gambling addiction also co-exists alongside other problems such as an alcohol disorder or substance abuse. “As more States continue to legalize sports betting the chances are even greater for individuals to develop a gambling...

National News

Measuring reduced alcohol consumption, not just abstinence, effective for evaluating medication treatment for drinking

An analysis of combined pharmacotherapy for reducing drinking and smoking has validated findings that measuring reductions in the amount of drinking, not just abstinence, was an effective outcome for alcohol medication trials. Currently, the Food and Drug Administration, which oversees U.S. clinical trials, accepts total abstinence and percentage of days with no drinking as criteria for success in clinical trials of medication to treat alcohol use disorder. This study, published in

Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, found that treatment with medication for smoking cessation...

2 Studies Reveal Why Alcohol Is More Problematic Than Most People Realize

Because alcohol becomes an even bigger part of our socializing during the holiday season than it normally is, now is the perfect time to take a hard look at this substance. It's not always a pretty sight. Two recent large-scale studies will make that point clear, and I'll get to those in a minute. First, some important context. Because alcohol is so ubiquitous, socially acceptable, intimately associated with good times and celebratory occasions, and yes, legal, we sometimes lose track of how destructive it can be for individuals and society at large. On the one hand, alcohol products are endlessly...

Uptick in prevalence of simultaneous cannabis and alcohol use in the US after states legalize recreational cannabis use

Simultaneous cannabis and alcohol use, defined as using both substances at the same time so their effects overlap, increased in adults from 2008 to 2019, according to new research conducted at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Shifts in cannabis legislation have raised questions about unintended effects on cannabis and alcohol use patterns, whereby policy changes might lead people to use both substances. Until now, the relationships between recreational cannabis laws (RCLs) and changes in simultaneous cannabis/alcohol use prevalence had remain...

FDA rule mandating graphic warnings on cigarettes blocked by judge

(Reuters) - A federal judge has blocked a U.S. Food and Drug Administration rule requiring graphic health warnings on cigarette packages and in cigarette advertisements that had been challenged by cigarette companies. U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker in Tyler, Texas, on Wednesday found that the rule, which was to take effect next October, violated the companies' rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by compelling speech. The FDA declined to comment. Lawyers for the companies - which include R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co, ITG Brands LLC and Liggett Group LLC...

California's flavored tobacco ban won't be blocked by supreme court

An attempt to block California's flavored tobacco ban was stopped Monday when the Supreme Court declined to hear the case. That now means the ban will go into effect on Dec. 21. The ban includes everything from candy flavors to menthol in a wide range of tobacco products including vape pens, tank-based systems, chewing tobacco and cigarettes. Exceptions include hookahs, some cigars and loose-leaf tobacco, CBS News reported. The ban has been in limbo for two years. It was first passed by the state legislature in 2020, then sent to the voters when tobacco companies gathered...

New Zealand imposes lifetime ban on youth buying cigarettes

New Zealand on Tuesday passed into law a unique plan to phase out tobacco smoking by imposing a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes. The law states that tobacco can't ever be sold to anybody born on or after Jan. 1, 2009. It means the minimum age for buying cigarettes will keep going up and up. In theory, somebody trying to buy a pack of cigarettes 50 years from now would need ID to show they were at least 63 years old. But health authorities hope smoking will fade away well before then. They have a stated goal of making New Zealand smoke-free by 2025. The new law...

Nearly half of deaths for 12 cancers in California are due to tobacco, higher than previously reported

Despite California's success in reducing tobacco use, a new study published today in JAMA Network Open demonstrates the continued and significant burden tobacco inflicts on people with cancer. The study was conducted by researchers at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center who used data collected from the California Cancer Registry, a state-mandated population-based cancer surveillance system managed by UC Davis. The study looked at people diagnosed with one of 12 tobacco-related cancers from 2014-2019 in California. The analyses showed that close to half of the cancer...

Most dual smokers and vapers are likely to continue smoking, suggests study

Most adults who both smoke cigarettes and vape are likely to continue smoking or continue dual use over the long term, suggests research published online in the journal Tobacco Control. Vaping doesn't seem to help smokers quit more easily at the population level, emphasizing the need to help dual users ditch both products, conclude the researchers. Dual vaping and smoking is harmful, and current evidence suggests that it's common. But it's not clear how each product is used over time and how these patterns of use might interact. In a bid to find out, the researchers drew on 545...

\$434.9 million JUUL settlement for luring minors into vaping, nicotine addiction

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WTVF) — A two-year investigation conducted by 34 states alleged the e-cigarette producer JUUL had become such a massive brand by primarily marketing to minors. Tobacco use by minors is illegal and unhealthy. The investigation found JUUL to have appealed to youth through launch parties, targeted advertisements, social media posts, and free samples. “JUUL tailored their product and advertisements to minors, thus luring them into vaping and, in some cases, nicotine addiction,” Press Secretary Elizabeth Lane said. “The company is paying for that misconduct. The Tennessee...

Vaping Won't Help Smokers Quit, Another Study Finds

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14, 2022 (HealthDay News) -- So much for vaping as a smoking-cessation tool: New research finds most folks who use both traditional cigarettes

and e-cigarettes are likely to continue smoking rather than quit, a new study finds. How much is most? Only 10% quit vaping and smoking. "As used by the general population, e-cigarettes have not contributed to substantial smoking cessation," said lead researcher Nandita Krishnan, a doctoral student in the department of prevention and community health at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. "Considering...

New study uncovers negative effects from vaping

A recently published preclinical study by researchers at Lawson Health Research Institute and Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, show that vaping may negatively affect pulmonary surfactant in the lungs. Surfactant, which is made of lipids and proteins, is a critical layer in the lungs that allows people to breathe with minimal effort by reducing surface tension. Without surfactant, it would take more effort to breathe and a person would need mechanical help to do so. "Vaping continues to be popular but not much is known about what happens with the aerosol..."

Public health experts urge US health officials to correct e-cigarette misinformation

Leading e-cigarette researchers are urging the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to correct misinformation overstating the dangers of e-cigarettes as part of its "Moving Forward" initiative. A group of public health experts from five major U.S. universities along with the attorney general for Iowa have published an editorial in the journal *Addiction* drawing attention to how the CDC and U.S. Surgeon General perpetuate misinformation on e-cigarettes. They ask the CDC to take concrete steps to address and correct the errors, and thereby strengthen its reputation. The authors...

Sports team participation linked to increased odds of vaping

Youth sports team participation is associated with increased odds of electronic vapor product (EVP) use, according to a study published online Dec. 12 in *Pediatrics*. Eli Rapoport, from the New York University Grossman School of Medicine in New York City, and colleagues analyzed the 2015 to 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey cohorts in a cross-sectional study to examine the associations between sports team participation and past 30-day exclusive cigarette use, exclusive EVP use, and dual cigarette/EVP use among high school students. Data were included for 16,790 sports team participants...

Despite soaring overdose rates, Americans face barriers to treatment

Despite the fact that a record 107,000 Americans died of fatal drug overdoses last year, patients in need of treatment are forced to navigate a punishing gauntlet to get the care they need, a group of addiction medicine specialists from Oregon Health & Science University argue in a new publication. "Most people who need and want treatment for opioid addiction cannot access it," they write in a perspective

published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine. The co-authors include OHSU's Honora Englander, M.D., professor of medicine (hospital medicine and general internal medicine...

Biden admin extends pandemic-era flexibilities on opioid use treatments

The Biden administration is moving to make permanent the pandemic rules that allowed take-home drugs to help fight opioid addiction. Why it matters: The proposed rule from HHS would make it easier for patients with opioid use disorder to access drugs like methadone for home use and for providers to prescribe them via telehealth for patients with opioid use disorder. Before the COVID-era changes, federal regulations often required those seeking treatment to go in-person daily to receive medication, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts. The big picture: Tuesday's moves come amid...

U.S. opioid crackdown hampers some patients' access to psychiatric drugs

WASHINGTON, Dec 12 (Reuters) - A crackdown by U.S. drug wholesalers in response to the opioid crisis is preventing some pharmacists from dispensing a combination of stimulants and sedatives routinely prescribed by psychiatrists to help patients manage conditions like anxiety and ADHD. The three main U.S. pharmaceutical wholesalers - AmerisourceBergen Corp (ABC.N), Cardinal Health Inc (CAH.N) and McKesson Corp (MCK.N) - tightened monitoring of suspicious orders from pharmacies in July as part of a \$21 billion nationwide opioid settlement with attorneys general from 46 states...

Two-thirds of US states have enacted laws to guide use of opioid litigation proceeds

As opioids continue to claim record numbers of lives in the United States, state governments are facing decisions about how to handle funds resulting from settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors. As of August 2022, 32 states have enacted laws that regulate how opioid litigation proceeds are spent, often including the establishment of opioid settlement councils to recommend or direct spending, according to new data created by the Center for Public Health Research at Temple University's Beasley School of Law. Nearly 60 percent of states with laws regulating how opioid...

Chronic Pain: Could Monoclonal Antibodies Replace Opioids?

During the pandemic, doctors employed infusions of monoclonal antibodies (lab-made antibodies) to help patients fight COVID-19 infections. University of California, Davis researchers are now attempting to develop monoclonal antibodies that may aid in the treatment of chronic pain. The objective is to create a monthly non-addictive pain medication that can be used instead of opioids. The project is led by Vladimir Yarov-Yarovoy and James Trimmer, professors in the Department of Physiology and Membrane Biology at the UC Davis School of Medicine. They've established an...

Responsibly expanding access to methadone for people with opioid use disorder will save lives

The overdose epidemic continues to ravage communities across the country. In Washington state, where I live and work, more than 2,000 people died from a drug overdoses in 2021; country-wide, the death toll was more than 107,000. Each loss of life is a preventable tragedy, as well as a missed opportunity for the U.S. health care system to treat addiction and save lives. But many barriers exist that prevent people with opioid use disorder from accessing care they need. A case in point: Physicians who specialize in addiction treatment and who care for people with opioid use disorder in settings...

In rural America, deadly costs of opioids outweigh the dollars tagged to address them

Tim Buck knows by heart how many people died from drug overdoses in his North Carolina county last year: 10. The year before it was 12 — an all-time high. Those losses reverberate deeply in rural Pamlico County, a tightknit community of 12,000 on the state's eastern shore. Over the past decade, it's had the highest rate of opioid overdose deaths in North Carolina. "Most folks know these individuals or know somebody who knows them," said Buck, the county manager and a lifelong resident, who will proudly tell anyone that four generations of his family have called the area home. "We all feel it..."

Federal Prisons Were Told to Provide Addiction Medications. Instead, They Punish People Who Use Them.

Timothy York knows what works to treat his decades-long opioid addiction: Suboxone, a medication that effectively quiets cravings. Since York arrived in federal prison in 2008, he has been held in a series of facilities awash with contraband drugs and violence. He's spent tens of thousands of dollars buying the medication illicitly from prison dealers because Suboxone enables him to think and communicate clearly, he said. But he hasn't been able to get it consistently. In 2019, he was relieved to learn that the federal Bureau of Prisons was starting a program to expand access to Suboxone, and the...

SAMHSA Proposes Update to Federal Rules to Expand Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment and Help Close Gap in Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is proposing to expand access to treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) at a time when more than 107,000 Americans lost their lives to an overdose last year. The proposal would update the federal regulations that oversee OUD treatment standards as part of HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy that supports President Biden's National Drug Control Strategy — a whole-of-government approach to beat the overdose epidemic. Specifically, the proposed...

Reducing opioids prescribed after total knee and hip arthroplasty can be beneficial for patients and doctors

Opioids are commonly prescribed to patients that are discharged after a total knee and hip arthroplasty. Patients are typically given larger prescriptions of opioids that can result in an excess of the medication in their home after recovery is over. In the research study "Association Between Initial Prescription Size and Likelihood of Opioid Refill After Total Knee and Hip Arthroplasty" published in The Journal of Arthroplasty, Elizabeth Dailey, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Michigan Health System and colleagues looked at the effect of providing...

Endocarditis in patients with cocaine or opioid use disorder increased markedly from 2011 to 2022

The incidence rate of infective endocarditis—a rare but often fatal inflammation of the heart valves—among patients with cocaine use disorder or opioid use disorder increased from 2011 to 2022, with the steepest increase occurring from 2021 to 2022, a new study reports. Study findings contribute to expanding evidence of endocarditis as a significant and growing health concern for people who inject drugs, and further demonstrate that this risk has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among patients with either substance use disorder, those who were clinically diagnosed with...

Increasing Stimulant Prescriptions To Prevent Overdose Deaths In An Adderall Shortage

As addiction medicine providers, we consider the recent announcement of a shortage of Adderall by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as cause for emergency. Adderall is traditionally not thought of as a life-saving medication but instead is usually considered only a drug designed to improve quality of life and decrease morbidity related to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Yet, for those dependent upon its use (either for prescribed or recreational use), the absence of the medication may be life threatening—particularly in the era of a fentanyl-contaminated non-prescribed...

New Survey Uncovers Changing Attitudes About Drug and Alcohol Addiction

FRANKLIN, Tenn., Dec. 9, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- A new survey that examined stigmas surrounding substance use disorder shows that attitudes towards addiction are starting to change. Nearly 70% of the 2,000 people who completed the survey conducted by OnePoll on behalf of Landmark Recovery said they are more sympathetic to those suffering from addiction today than they were five years ago. Three out of every four American lives have been touched by addiction in some way, according to the survey. Most survey respondents (76%) said stigmatizing someone with an addiction...

Today's adolescents' substances of choice may be harder for adults to detect

Despite advances in technology and availability, one of the best ways for parents and health care providers to prevent or help stop adolescent substance use is still an old-fashioned conversation, according to a new Viewpoint published in the November issue of *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. The piece, written by a team of University of Rhode Island trainees under Prochaska Endowed Professor Sarah Feldstein Ewing, stresses that relying on detection through informal observation—as parents and providers have commonly done with alcohol and tobacco use—is quickly becoming a...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-24-010](#)

[Rapid Translation of Epidemiological Findings into Interventions to Prevent Substance Use and Addiction \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-OD-23-003](#)

[Short Courses on Innovative Methodologies and Approaches in the Behavioral and Social Sciences \(R25 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-066](#)

[Research on Community Level Interventions for Firearm and Related Violence, Injury and Mortality Prevention \(CLIF-VP\) \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-013](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Research to Address Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Goals Relevant to Substance Using Populations At-Risk for or Living with HIV](#)

[PAR-23-042](#)

[Implementation Research on Noncommunicable Disease Risk Factors among Low- and Middle-Income Country and Tribal Populations Living in City Environments \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

