

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

Governor DeWine observes 1st Ohio Overdose Awareness Day

Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 30 in June, designating Aug. 31 as Ohio Overdose Awareness Day to raise public awareness and to remember the lives lost to the epidemic. Unintentional drug overdose is one of the leading causes of injury death in Ohio, surpassing motor vehicle crashes. According to RecoveryOhio, in January through November of 2020, there were 4,579 unintentional drug overdose deaths reported. This is a 24-percent increase over 2019. Ohio's medical and first responder communities attribute the increase primarily to fentanyl, a highly...

Bipartisan group of state, community leaders recognize Overdose Awareness Day

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Today, Gov. Andy Beshear joined a bipartisan group of state and community leaders to recognize Overdose Awareness Day in Kentucky. Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on Aug. 31 each year to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends as they remember those who have died or have a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose. "Our job is to provide help, hope and a hand to lead people out of the darkness of substance use..."

Recovery Through Employment: ARC Funding Makes Ohio Valley Programs Possible

Jessica Stapleton was in the thralls of active addiction when she first heard of the Recovery to Work program. She had lost the trust of her family and custody of her six children. She credits the program with not only changing her life, but saving it as well. “It pretty much saved my life. I was living with my grandma, totally dependent on my family,” Stapleton, 30, of Ironton, Ohio, said. “I got into this program, I was taught how to stay sober, I was taught working skills – skills to live. I was able to build a support system, and after about a year I was able to move...

National News

Under Pressure: Young And Surrounded By Substances.

[Everyday Health](#) (9/1, Pugle, 331K) reports, “Drug and alcohol use by teens and young adults can alter regular brain development, changing the way the brain circuits develop as well as the strength and weakness of synapses – the way in which neurons communicate with one another.” Among US youth, “substance use – especially illegal drug use – has largely declined over time, but still remains a persistent problem, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).” At present, “according to the CDC, the most commonly used substances among youths include alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes.”

Top Federal Drug Official Admits Legalizers Were ‘Right’ About Teen Marijuana Use And Touts Psychedelics’ Therapeutic Potential.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (8/26) reports that “the head of a federal drug agency acknowledged in a new interview that marijuana legalization has not led to increased youth use despite her prior fears, and she spoke about the therapeutic potential of certain psychedelics that have long been deemed ‘dangerous’ under federal law.” National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow “discussed a wide range of drug policy issues on a podcast hosted by a longtime legalization advocate that was published on Thursday, including the need to shift from a punitive approach to drugs to one that treats addiction as a public health matter.” Volkow “said on Drug Policy Alliance founder Ethan Nadelmann’s show that she was ‘expecting the use of marijuana among adolescents would go up’ when states moved to legalize cannabis, but admitted that ‘overall, it hasn’t.’”

The [American Vaping Association](#) (8/26) reports “Volkow was also asked about tobacco harm reduction and what the role of NIDA is in correcting misperceptions about alternative nicotine products like vaping and heat-not-burn products.” She said, “The reality is that, yes, vaping of nicotine can result in people that are naïve to become addicted very rapidly. On the other hand, as you say, electronic cigarettes offer an alternative delivery for nicotine [for] people who cannot stop smoking. And in the process, the European data has shown that actually there are benefits.” Volkow continued, “So one of the things that we have been very interested in doing

is funding research that will document benefits of the use of the electronic cigarettes for nicotine cessation or for alternatives for treatments.”

‘Striking’: Teens Who Frequently Use Cannabis Six Times More Likely To Have Premature Baby.

[Healio](#) (8/26, Miller, 40K) reports, “Boys and girls aged 15 to 17 years who used cannabis frequently were six times more likely to have a preterm baby later in life, even if the substance was used prior to conception, a 20-year population cohort study showed.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse lists cannabis as the third “most commonly abused drug” by teenagers. The findings were published in Scientific Reports.

VA Sending Mixed Messages For Vets About Cannabis Use To Treat PTSD.

The [Arizona Mirror](#) (8/30, Abbott) reports that “veterans face unfair treatment and stigmatization because the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs refuses to recognize marijuana as a viable treatment option.” According to the Mirror, VA “policy does not allow discrimination against veterans who acquire medical cards in states where it is allowed, although those who do get their MMJ cards do so with their own resources and at their own risk outside the purview of the Veterans Health Administration.” However, attorney Derek Debus of Stone Rose Law in Scottsdale, Arizona, “said having rules in place doesn’t guarantee fair treatment for veterans who legally use cannabis.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse is mentioned.

Sanford Burnham Prebys drug Enters Phase 1 Study For The Treatment Of Tobacco Use Disorder.

[San Diego Metro Magazine](#) (8/30, 58K) reports that Nicholas Cosford, director of the NCI-designated Cancer Center at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, has discovered a drug, SBP-9330, which has entered a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded Phase 1 clinical study. The compound “targets a neuronal signaling pathway underlying addictive behaviors and would be a first-in-class oral therapeutic to help people quit smoking.” NIDA awarded the grant “to Sanford Burnham Prebys, the Department of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego, School of Medicine, and Camino Pharma LLC, who will oversee activities related to the Phase 1 study.”

Experts Advocate For Wider Use Of Academic Medicine In Overdose Prevention.

[Verywell Health](#) (8/31, Wolters) reports, “Leaders from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Addiction (NIDA) are now calling for broader use of academic medicine in overdose prevention.” NIDA Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research Director Carlos Blanco, MD, PhD, “says that academic medicine could help tear down current barriers that prevent many people from accessing life-saving care.” Blanco told Verywell, “A lot of people tend to see people

with opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders as a moral failure, as vice or as something that we should not do, as opposed to a medical disorder.” The article adds, “According to a recent paper by Blanco and other NIDA leaders, 42% of addiction treatment facilities offer certain initial treatment, while only 18% of people with opioid use disorder (OUD) receive any treatment at a specialty facility.” Blanco says, “We as a nation have an obligation to really help everybody who has a disorder the same way that we help people who have obesity, or diabetes, or cardiovascular disease.”

Potentially Safer Approach To Opioid Drug Development.

Today Biz News (8/27) reports that a study, published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*, “from researchers at the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience contradicts existing thinking about how opioid drugs cause tolerance and respiratory depression, and suggests a new, balanced approach to developing safer analgesics.” Jennifer Whistler, senior author on the paper and professor of physiology and membrane biology in the UC Davis School of Medicine, said: “The holy grail of opioid research is to determine the ideal properties of an opioid analgesic for maximizing pain relief while reducing the adverse side effects. This goal has become even more urgent in light of the devastation wreaked by the opioid overdose crises and the failure to identify other non-opioid targets for the treatment of severe and persistent pain.” Today Biz News says “the work was partly supported by grants from the National Institutes of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health.” **(Paper is attached.)**

Advocates Say Relaxed Methadone Rules During Pandemic Can Help Maintain Recovery.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* (9/1, Whelan) reports, “Methadone has long been a gold-standard treatment for opioid addiction.” However, “government regulations mean that many patients have to organize their lives around getting and taking it, no matter how well they are doing, a new study has found.” The pandemic “made it unsafe for people to queue up daily at methadone clinics, so rules were relaxed to allow patients to take doses home just like other prescriptions. And, advocates say, the change helped people maintain recovery and ought to become permanent.” Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Chief Medical Director Neeraj Gandotra said, “There has been a great deal of patient satisfaction with regard to increased flexibilities.”

Purdue Pharma Is Dissolved In Conditional Bankruptcy Settlement, Sacklers Pay \$4.5B To Settle Opioid Claims.

The *New York Times* (9/1, A1, Hoffman, 20.6M) reports, “Purdue Pharma, the maker of the highly addictive painkiller OxyContin, was dissolved on Wednesday in a wide-ranging bankruptcy settlement that will require the company’s owners, members of

the Sackler family, to turn over billions of dollars of their fortune to address the deadly opioid epidemic.” However, “the agreement includes a much-disputed condition: It largely absolves the Sacklers of Purdue’s opioid-related liability,” allowing them to “remain among the richest families in the country.” The settlement plan, which Judge Robert Drain of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in White Plains, New York approved, “will end thousands of lawsuits brought by state and local governments, tribes, hospitals and individuals to address a public health crisis that led to the deaths of more than 500,000 people nationwide.”

Opioid Prescribing To US Children And Young Adults In 2019.

The [Pediatrics](#) (9/1, Chua, Brummett, Conti, Bohnert, 192K) reports that researchers “identified opioid prescriptions dispensed to children and young adults in 2019 in the IQVIA Longitudinal Prescription Database, which captures 92% of US pharmacies” and “calculated the proportion of all US children and young adults with ≥ 1 dispensed opioid prescription in 2019.” The researchers found that “3.5% of US children and young adults had ≥ 1 dispensed opioid prescription” in 2019. Furthermore, “of prescriptions for opioid-naive patients, 41.8% and 3.8% exceeded a 3-day and 7-day supply, respectively.” The researchers noted that “the current study made changes to the Monitoring the Future and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance survey questions that could affect whether respondents reported nonmedical prescription opioid use.” The research “supported by US National Institutes of Health grant R01-DA033296 and Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science award U54CA180905 from the National Cancer Institute and US Food and Drug Administration.”

Behavioral Health Risk Factors For Nonmedical Prescription Opioid Use In Adolescence.

In a study published on the [Pediatrics](#) (9/1, Cho, Kelley-Quon, Barrington-Trimis, Kechter, Axen, Leventhal, 192K), researchers concluded, “Behavioral health problems may be associated with increased risk of subsequent nonmedical prescription opioid use during mid to late adolescence, with successively greater risk for those with greater behavioral health comorbidity.” Furthermore, the researchers said, “In pediatric clinical practice or school-based prevention, behavioral health screeners may be useful for identifying youth at high risk for nonmedical prescription opioid use.” The Monitoring the Future survey and National Institutes of Health are mentioned.

This Point-And-Click Game Helps Reduce The Stigma Of Addiction.

Dr. Lynn Fiellin of Yale Medical School spoke to [NBC LX](#) (8/30, Lipkin) about how she is seeking to reduce the stigma of addiction through PlaySmart, a point-and-click game she developed that caters to older teens by simulating life choices resulting

from opioid use. She explained that she was fortunate to receive funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Alarming Amount Of Meth In New Hampshire, Worrying Recovery Advocates And First Responders.

The [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (8/27, Rosenbluth, 27K) reported, “Methamphetamine is flooding into New Hampshire at alarming rates, overwhelming first responders.” Drug Enforcement Agency New England Field Division Agent Jon DeLena “said the new influx of methamphetamine is coming from Mexican cartels who have seized on increasing mental health challenges and pandemic-related law enforcement limitations.” DEA tests found “the new crystal meth coming into New England has been 99 to 100% pure...dramatically higher than the homemade methamphetamine agents are used to seeing in the state.” According to the NIDA, “amphetamines can cause paranoia, hallucinations, and violent behavior.”

Massapequa Park, NY Event Commemorates Those Lost To Opioid Addiction.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (8/29, 776K) reports dozens of people gathered in Massapequa Park Sunday to commemorate National Overdose Awareness Day, which will take place Tuesday. Newsday spoke with Denise Rulli of Bethpage, New York, and Christine Vega of Massapequa Park, two mothers of opioid overdose victims, who both “urged families to educate themselves on the nature of addiction, and to get help for their children as soon as they suspect problems.” The event was organized by Drug Free Long Island. Spokesperson Janice Talento said, “Today’s event was held to honor all those who have lost their child and families that are struggling with addiction. We need to support these families that have nowhere to go.”

South Carolina Governor Holds Ceremonial Bill Signing For Law That Will Expand Access To Life-Saving Overdose Medication.

[WIS-TV](#) Columbia, SC (9/1, Neville, 78K) reports on Tuesday, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster (R) “held a ceremonial bill signing...for a law that will expand access to Naloxone, the life-saving overdose medication.” The bill will require “doctors to co-prescribe Naloxone, available under the brand name Narcan when patients are being prescribed medications that put them at risk of overdose.”

Rhode Island Advocates Urge State Leaders To Dedicate \$3.4M Annually For Life-Saving Overdose Antidote.

The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (8/31, Mulvaney, 376K) reports Rhode Island outreach workers and advocates are pushing “state leaders to dedicate \$3.4 million a year to purchase the life-saving overdose antidote naloxone, which is now in critical shortage.” The group wants “to see 15,000 kits of naloxone, which can be injected or sprayed up the nose under the brand name Narcan, in Rhode Island through the end of 2021.”

Silicon Valley Opioid Overdoses Deadly For Unhoused Individuals.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Spotlight](#) (8/30, Vera) reports, “Seven homeless individuals in San Jose” fatally overdosed on fentanyl-laced methamphetamine “in the past month, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse is mentioned.

New Mexico Sees Number Of Overdoses, Deaths Rise Sharply During Pandemic.

The [AP](#) (8/26, Bryan) reports that New Mexico “is seeing soaring numbers of deadly overdoses from fentanyl and methamphetamine and alcohol-related deaths reached an all-time high in 2020 despite the state tripling spending on treatment over the last several years, according to a report presented to state lawmakers Thursday.” Preliminary figures “show that fentanyl-related deaths alone increased by 129% between 2019 and 2020, legislative analysts said.” That percentage “is expected to climb even higher when final totals for the last year are calculated.”

Biden Signs Overdose Awareness Week Proclamation As Addiction, Overdose Concerns Rise.

[KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/1, Schreiber, 157K) reports, “The White House marked Overdose Awareness Week with a proclamation from President Joe Biden.” In a proclamation signed by President Biden, the White House said, “During Overdose Awareness Week, we recommit to taking bold actions to prevent overdoses and related deaths, and enhance our support for individuals with substance use disorders.” Meanwhile, “a Southern Oregon nonprofit held an ‘Overdose Awareness’ event on Saturday to provide resources and educate residents about the increase in drug-related overdoses in the area.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse is mentioned.

Drug Overdose Deaths In 2020 Were Horrifying.

In an opinion for [Scientific American](#) (8/31, 3.1M), NIDA Director [Dr. Nora Volkow](#) writes that “provisional drug overdose death statistics for 2020 confirmed” that “more people died of overdoses in the United States last year than in any other one-year period in our history.” Volkow argues that what American society is “doing – putting people with drug addiction behind bars, underinvesting in prevention and compassionate medical care – is not working.” She adds, “It is crucial that scientists help policymakers and other leaders rethink how we collectively address drugs and drug use, looking to the evidence base of what improves health and reduces harms across communities, and funding research to develop new prevention and treatment tools.”

Essay Discusses How To Combat Effects Of Pandemic On Substance Abuse.

In a guest essay for [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (8/30, 776K), Dr. Rohan Singh, an addiction medicine internist at Wellbridge Addiction Treatment and Research Center in Calverton, writes [CDC data show “drug overdose deaths rose nearly 30% in 2020, with more than 93,000 Americans dying, the highest annual toll since the opioid epidemic began in the 1990s.”](#) Pandemic lockdowns significantly affected people with substance abuse disorders by increasing isolation, and “the delta variant may impose new social isolation,” bringing a “forbidding challenge.” Singh writes that recovery is possible with a “broad-based community approach,” including education, tracking of demographic data, and investing in mobile teams of trained healthcare professionals.

States Rolling Back Pandemic Workarounds For Clinicians’ Licensing Requirements, Impacting Telehealth.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (8/31, Appleby) reports that due to the pandemic, the majority of states and CMS “temporarily waived rules requiring licensed clinicians to hold a valid license in the state where their patient is located.” Those rules do not “keep patients from visiting doctors’ offices in other states, but problems could arise if those same patients used telemedicine.” Now, Kaiser Health News says, “states are rolling back many of those pandemic workarounds,” and “the ability to conduct certain virtual appointments may be nearing an end.” For example, Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore “recently scrambled to notify more than 1,000 Virginia patients that their telehealth appointments were ‘no longer feasible,’ said Dr. Brian Hasselfeld, medical director of digital health and telemedicine at Johns Hopkins.”

DIA:

FDA Approves Twice-Yearly Injectable Schizophrenia Treatment

[HCPlive](#) (9/1) reports, “The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a 6-month paliperidone palmitate (INVEGA HAFYERA), a long-acting atypical antipsychotic for the treatment of adult patients with schizophrenia,” a [press release](#) announced. The treatment is “the first-and-only twice-yearly injectable treatment for schizophrenia.”

Responding To The Quiet Crisis Of Mental Health In Athletics.

In an opinion for [Newsweek](#) (8/30, 2.67M), former NFL defensive tackle Dominique Easley says that he believes that “there is an impetus behind us re-examining mental health in modern day athletics; an urgency compounded by the opioid epidemic which our country presently faces.” He says, “It is important we respond to what is happening to our athletes who undergo immense stress day-to-day while competing in their respective sports – to address the often unspoken crises taking place within a community commonly portrayed as superheroes.” He adds, “Individuals from all walks of life, who have mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety, are more likely to be prescribed opioids,” pointing to a 2017

National Institute on Drug Abuse report, which “estimated 1.7 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers.”

California Bill To Legalize Psychedelics Possession Put On Pause Until 2022.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (8/26) reports that “a California bill to legalize possession of a wide range of psychedelics such as psilocybin and ayahuasca will not advance further this year following a decision by the sponsor that more time is needed to build the case for the reform and solidify its chances of being enacted.” The bill, “sponsored by Sen. Scott Wiener (D), previously cleared the full Senate and then moved through the Assembly Public Health and Public Safety Committees.” While Wiener “expressed disappointment that his proposal won’t be enacted this year, he said the extra time will enable supporters to further refine the legislation and generate broader buy-in.” [Marijuana Moment](#) says report provisions of separate, House-passed spending legislation “urged the National Institute On Drug Abuse (NIDA) to support expanded marijuana studies” and “further says that federal health agencies should pursue research into the therapeutic potential of psychedelics for military veterans suffering from a host of mental health conditions.”

National Institute On Drug Abuse To Research Ayahuasca’s Active Ingredient DMT In Partnership With Psilera Inc.

[Benzinga](#) (8/26, Poniemann, 152K) reports that [Psilera Inc.](#) “announced a ‘research and development agreement’ with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) for the launch of a series of preclinical studies on Psilera’s psychedelic drug pipeline.” [Benzinga](#) says “the pipeline includes an intranasal formulation of N, N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT), the active ingredient in ayahuasca, a ceremonial hallucinogenic drink from the Amazon basin.” [Benzinga](#) reports “Dr. Michael Baumann, Director of the Designer Drug Research Unit at NIDA, and postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Grant Glatfelter, will collaborate with Psilera to research the company’s new chemical entities.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[PAR-22-027](#)

[Mechanism for Time-Sensitive Drug Abuse Research \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-21-320](#)

[NIDA Research Education Program for Clinical Researchers and Clinicians \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-AA-21-015](#)

[Collaborative Partnership between Research Centers in Minority Institutions \(RCMI\) and Alcohol Research Centers \(U54 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[FY 2022 UC CoM OoR Funding Opportunities](#)

Click the link above to view the many UC CoM Office of Research funding opportunities, recognition awards, and grant writing support offered throughout the fiscal year.

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