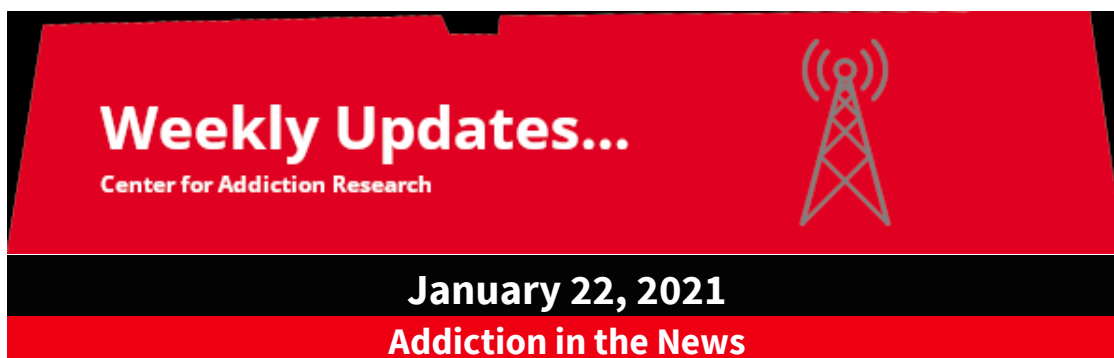


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 1.22.2021

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 as well as “CAR Member New Publications”.

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**

**Lorain County recovery board offers free training to help those with opioid addiction.**

[MorningJournal.com](http://MorningJournal.com)

As the novel coronavirus pandemic developed, Lorain County drug overdose deaths last year surpassed the numbers of 2019, prompting new warnings -- and training available to help those who need it. “The epidemic of opioid ...

### **National News**

**Heavy Marijuana Use By Teens, Young Adults With Mood Disorders May Be Tied To Increased Risk Of Self-Harm, Suicide Attempts, And Death, Study Indicates.**

[CNN](http://CNN) (1/20, LaMotte, 89.21M) reports, “Heavy use of marijuana by teens and young adults with mood disorders – such as depression and bipolar disorder – is linked to an increased risk of self-harm, suicide attempts and death,” investigators concluded in a study that used “Ohio Medicare data to identify both cannabis use disorder and self-harm attempts and outcomes in youth between the ages of 10 and 24 years old.” The findings were published in JAMA Pediatrics.

**Women Who Use Cannabis May Have Harder Time Conceiving.**

[Healio](http://Healio) (1/15, Michael, 40K) reported new research indicates “women who use cannabis may be less likely to conceive than women who do not.” The findings were

published in Human Reproduction. Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Epidemiology Branch investigator Sunni L. Mumford, PhD, told Healio Primary Care, “The key clinical takeaway is that though there is a general perception of safety, the use of cannabis while trying to become pregnant may be associated with reduced fecundability, based on data combining both urinary metabolites and self-report. ... It is still unknown whether cannabis use influences the risk of pregnancy loss.”

### **Vaping Doesn't Keep Young People From Smoking Cigarettes Later.**

[Wired](#) (1/20, Harrison, 3.42M) reports on the scientific debate over the potential of e-cigarettes to provide tobacco harm reduction as snus did in Sweden in recent decades. The article cites a paper published in [Pediatrics](#) in which John Pierce, a UC San Diego professor, concludes that some young people who begin to use e-cigarettes are “switching” to cigarettes, potentially undermining their beneficial role in helping adult smokers give up cigarettes. Pierce said newer e-cigarettes that “deliver nicotine more efficiently and may be more satisfying...may be better at helping people quit.” He stated, “We’ve got to do proper science on this and follow the data, not our biases.” The article says “Pierce’s team analyzed data from the US Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) study, a survey of nearly 50,000 Americans conducted annually by the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.”

### **As Drug Overdoses Rise With The Pandemic, Two Studies Show Addiction Medication Can Save Lives.**

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (1/15, Whelan) reports two NIH-funded studies “show how expanding access to medications that treat addiction has become crucial in fighting America’s overdose crisis.” One study “conducted by Duke University researchers and published in the journal *Addiction* this week...followed people taking the opioid addiction treatment drug buprenorphine.” About “20 million Americans live in counties without doctors who can prescribe buprenorphine,” said NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow. Because “nearly everyone lives close to a community pharmacy,” the “researchers transferred the care of 71 patients in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C. area from doctors to local pharmacists.” A second study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* “found that a combination of naltrexone, an opioid-blocking drug, and bupropion, an antidepressant known commercially as Wellbutrin, helped more people with meth use disorder stay off the drug than those in a placebo group.” **[CTN-0075 Pharmacy Screening and Collaborative Opioid Use Disorder Care (Pharm-OU-D-Care) and CTN-0068 Accelerated Development of Addictive Pharmacotherapy Treatment - II - ADAPT 2.]**

### **HHS Eases Rules For Prescribing Opioid Disorder Treatment.**

[NPR](#) (1/15, Diaz, Mann, 3.69M) reported, “The Trump administration introduced new addiction treatment guidelines Thursday that give physicians more flexibility to prescribe” buprenorphine, as “the Department of Health and Human Services is eliminating the requirement that physicians obtain a special federal waiver” to prescribe the “medication to treat opioid use disorder.” Assistant Secretary of HHS Adm. Brett Giroir said, “The medical evidence is clear: access to medication-assisted treatment, including buprenorphine that can be prescribed in office-based settings, is the gold standard for treating individuals suffering from opioid use disorder.”

### **National Spike In Methamphetamine Overdose Deaths.**

[Medscape](#) (1/20, Anderson, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports new research indicates “the national rate of methamphetamine overdose deaths shot up significantly between 2011 and 2018, particularly among non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native communities.” National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow, MD, stated, “While much attention is focused on the opioid crisis, a methamphetamine crisis has been quietly, but actively, gaining steam – particularly among American Indians and Alaska Natives, who are disproportionately affected by a number of health conditions.” Study author Beth Han, MD, PhD, of NIDA, stated, “Identifying populations that have a higher rate of methamphetamine overdose is a crucial step toward curbing the underlying methamphetamine crisis.” The findings were published online in JAMA Psychiatry. **(Article attached.)**

### **Two-Drug Combo May Help Fight Meth Addiction.**

[HealthDay](#) (1/20, Mozes, 11K) reports, “In what may signal a seismic shift in the treatment of methamphetamine addiction,” a combination therapy consisting of “an injectable medication called extended-release naltrexone and a daily generic pill called bupropion” shows promise for helping “patients significantly reduce their stimulant use, or quit altogether.” According to the article, “Between 2017 and 2019, more than 400 adults with moderate-to-severe methamphetamine use disorder participated in a combination treatment trial, and the results suggest the combination works.” National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Dr. Nora Volkow “said the ‘synergistic’ power of the new combination therapy is good news, amounting to the largest effect seen from a large, randomized clinical trial in the treatment of methamphetamine use disorder.” The study was funded by NIDA. **(Another Article on ADAPT 2 from the CTN.)**

## Funding Opportunities



### GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-EY-21-001](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: New Concepts and Early-Stage Research for Recording and Modulation in the Nervous System \(R21\) \(Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-NS-21-024](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: Request for Information \(RFI\) on Development and Dissemination of Human Brain Imaging Technologies](#)

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