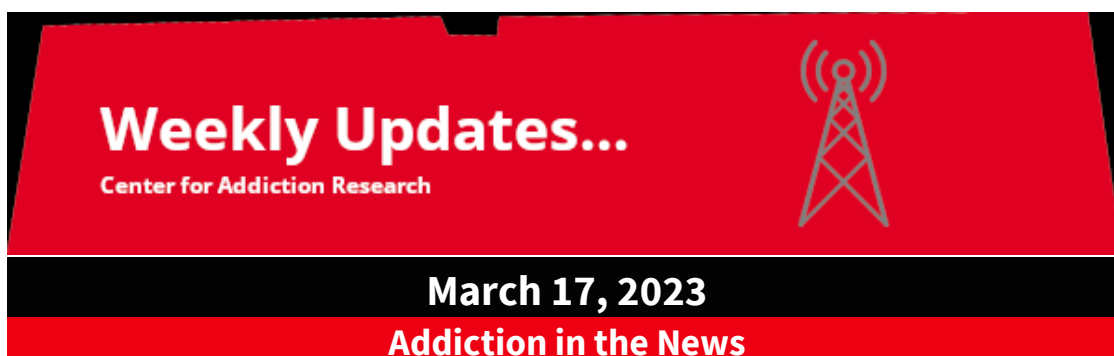


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.17.2023

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

Leaders and addiction specialists urge for immediate action as fentanyl use spikes

HAZARD, Ky. (WYMT) - Fentanyl has grabbed the attention of leaders nationally and statewide. Kentucky House Bill 353, which would decriminalize fentanyl testing strips and other testing tools, passed through the House as the need for action grows. The CDC says fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. "Fentanyl is not long acting in the body, but when you take fentanyl, often the dose is not measurable and people stop breathing and before somebody can figure out what's going on, they're dead," Dr. Al J. Mooney, an addiction medicine physician, said. The CDC says there are two types of fentanyl. One version of the drug is pharmaceutical...

OSU-Newark, Newark Homeless Outreach recognize first responders

NEWARK — By responding to the dramatic rise in overdoses and overdose deaths, first responders often experience a lot of trauma. At a recent event at Ohio State University-Newark, the college, OhioCAN (Change Addiction Now) and Newark Homeless Outreach made sure that their importance to the community was acknowledged. "First responders see the toll addiction can have on those struggling and those left behind. It is important we recognize their daily efforts to save lives, change the tide of addiction and be the link that brings a community together," featured speaker Tom Synan, police chief of the village of Newtown and founder of the Hamilton County Addiction Response...

National News

Blackouts and Your Brain: How To Avoid Memory Loss

You're out celebrating with your pals, throwing back shots and maybe a pint or two from your local brewery. But next thing you know, you wake up feeling groggy, your phone is missing, you can't find your shoes and you don't remember how the evening ended. So-called blackouts and brownouts can lead to temporary and even permanent memory loss. Not to mention, they can put you in danger of serious harm in the moment when you're not quite sure of your surroundings or what's happening. Psychiatrist and addiction specialist David Stroom, MD, discusses how alcohol and substance use aren't...

What is a 'borg'? College drinking TikTok trend is 'very concerning,' can lead to alcohol poisoning

The days of jungle juice and kegs at college parties could be over, as a new "very concerning" drinking trend is all the rage—sending numerous students to the hospital for alcohol poisoning, and worrying officials about potentially fatal consequences. A "borg," or a "black out rage gallon," could easily be spotted at UMass Amherst over the weekend, as wasted students carried their own plastic gallon containers that were jam packed with booze. In a typical borg, the gallon container is half full of water, with a whopping fifth of alcohol (about 17 shots), and a liquid flavor enhancer like Liquid I.V....

An Unrecognized Factor: How Male Alcohol Consumption Impacts IVF Success

According to research conducted in Dr. Michael Golding's laboratory at Texas A&M University, male alcohol consumption has a detrimental impact on the success rates of in vitro fertilization (IVF), leading to increased financial costs and emotional strain for patients. The recently published study is a component of Dr. Golding's research program, which aims to comprehend the role of male alcohol consumption before conception in the emergence of alcohol-related birth defects and illnesses. This specific research underscores the need to broaden fertility and preconception messaging to stress...

Want to Make E-Cigs a Turnoff for Kids? Try Standardized Packaging

Standardized packaging may reduce the appeal of e-cigarettes for potential young users, while still maintaining their appeal among adults trying to quit smoking, a survey study from Great Britain suggested. Youths ages 11 to 18 had significantly higher odds of reporting no interest among their peers in trying e-cigarettes that had standardized green packaging compared with branded packaging (35.8% vs 28.7%; adjusted OR 1.37, 95% CI 1.10-1.71, P=0.005), reported Eve Taylor, MSc, of King's College London, and co-authors. However, this was not significant when youths were shown white...

Is lung inflammation worse in e-cigarette users than smokers, as a new study suggests?

A small study that compared the lungs of cigarette smokers with e-cigarette smokers found that e-cigarette smokers had more lung inflammation than those who smoked tobacco. The pilot study, published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine, is the first to use PET imaging to compare smokers' lungs with vapers' lungs. E-cigarettes are now much more than "new smoking cessation tools", they are big business. The global e-cigarette or "vape" market value has increased from US\$1.7 billion in 2013 (£1.4 billion) to an estimated all-time high of US\$24.6 billion in 2022 (£20.8 billion). This massive increase in...

Life-Saving Telehealth for Opioid Use Disorder Hangs in the Balance

On May 11, the COVID public health emergency (PHE) will end. As a result, prescribing of most controlled substances via telehealth, which was allowed during the PHE, will no longer be permitted without an in-person visit. If adopted, proposed rules released by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will permanently restrict prescribing of controlled substances via telemedicine. Many in the medical and advocacy communities are alarmed. Controlled substances are a category of drugs that are more tightly regulated by the government because they may be dangerously misused or...

Implementation of post-overdose programs associated with decrease in opioid fatality rate

New research from Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Public Health found that municipalities with high numbers of opioid-related emergencies that introduced post-overdose programs were associated with lower opioid related death rates over time when compared to those that did not implement these programs. Published in JAMA Psychiatry, the study showed that implementation of these outreach programs was also associated with a significant and gradual reduction of opioid emergency response rates. Driven by fentanyl's presence in the illicit drug supply, annual...

Comparison with Canada highlights poor access to US methadone treatment

People living in the United States must travel significantly farther to access methadone treatment for opioid addiction than Canadians, suggests a new study led by Washington State University researchers. Published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence, the researchers' analysis showed that the average driving distance to the closest methadone clinic accepting new patients was more than three times greater in the U.S. compared to Canada. When limiting their analysis to clinics that could provide treatment within 48 hours the difference was even larger, with those in the U.S. having to travel more than five times farther than their neighbors north of the border.

US sues Rite Aid for missing opioid red flags

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Reuters) - The U.S. government on Monday sued Rite Aid Corp (RAD.N), accusing the pharmacy chain of missing "red flags" as it illegally filled hundreds of thousands of prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids. In a complaint filed in Cleveland federal court, the Department of Justice said Rite Aid repeatedly filled prescriptions from May 2014 to June 2019 that were medically unnecessary, for off-label use, or not issued in the usual course of professional practice. "The Justice Department is using every tool at our disposal to confront the opioid epidemic that..."

U.S. opioid crisis best viewed as a connected ecosystem

The nation's opioid crisis, which kills thousands of Americans annually, is best viewed as an ecosystem where all parts of the vexing problem are interconnected, underscoring the need for holistic solutions that address the broad needs of those battling addiction, their families and the communities where they live, according to a new report from the nonprofit RAND Corporation. Too often different actors in the ecosystem focus primarily on addressing just one part of the problem, with each component of the system having its own priorities and initiatives that may not adequately consider other aspects...

Antidepressant medication may be key to help people stop use of cocaine while in treatment for opioid use disorder

For some people receiving methadone for treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD), the co-use of opioids and stimulants such as cocaine is an issue. Now, a new study led by Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers found that bupropion, an antidepressant medication also used for smoking cessation, may help people stop using cocaine while in treatment for OUD. The results of the study were published March 15 in JAMA Network Open. For this double-blind randomized study, the researchers used an adaptive treatment design, meaning that it allowed modifications to the trial and its statistical...

New tests for designer drugs could help save lives

With a deluge of designer drugs hitting the streets, researchers from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are racing to develop new drug testing methods that can quickly and accurately identify these drugs, along with better tests for traditional drugs. "The number of Australians who are hospitalized or die from accidental drug overdoses continues to rise, and treatment can be complicated because it's not always known what substances have been taken," said UTS Professor of Forensic Toxicology Shanlin Fu. "There is a flood of the new substances reaching our shores because the illicit drug..."

Do Estrogen and Progesterone Influence Addictive Behavior?

Female hormones—namely progesterone and estrogen—are underrecognized contributors to addictive behavior in women. Women are more vulnerable to

developing addictions than men. In particular, women develop substance use disorders (SUD) faster than men, going more quickly from first use to heavy use, and then to a full-fledged use disorder. This is termed the telescoping effect, and it appears to hold true for a variety of substances including alcohol, cannabis, opioids, stimulants, and nicotine. In preclinical studies—meaning studies in animal models—female rodents develop addiction-like...

20M People Worldwide Received HIV Treatment Through U.S.-Led Program

Approximately 20 million people with HIV in 54 countries have received antiretroviral therapy (ART) through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as of September 2022, the CDC reported. This represents an increase of 300-fold from the 66,550 reported in September 2004, according to Helen M. Chun, MD, of the Division for Global HIV and TB, Center for Global Health at the CDC, and colleagues. From 2015 to 2022, viral load coverage increased from 24% to 80%, and viral load suppression increased from 80% to 95%, they noted in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Although...

Funding Opportunities



[PAR-23-125](#)

[Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV \(DP2 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-019](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Inviting input on use of a term like preaddiction for identifying and intervening in substance misuse and mild/early-stage substance use disorder](#)

[NOT-MH-23-210](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Biotypes of CNS complications in people living with HIV \(P01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@uc.edu **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

Positive Action Community Grants Aim to Support Prevention, Reduce Stigma of HIV

Deadlines: Quarterly

Positive Action Community Grants are made available by ViiV Healthcare, a pharmaceutical company specializing in HIV therapies. The purpose of these awards is to support community-led efforts to increase engagement in prevention and care, address stigma, and build trust in HIV care among communities most disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS. Organizations applying for project support can request multi-year grants, up to three years. Project specific requests should include project budgets and implementation plans. Award range is dependent upon budget. The most commonly awarded grants range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Organizations applying to Positive Action Community Grants may request funding in three categories:

- General operating support for core support and mission-driven community-based work.
- Special events sponsorships for conferences and events that foster networks, create awareness, and amplify the voices of people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Project support for organizations implementing innovative projects within ViiV Healthcare's three focus areas: Linkage and Engagement; Networks for PLWHA or Vulnerable to HIV and for Organizations; and Advocacy.

ViiV Healthcare is particularly interested in efforts that:

- Expand harm reduction services and advocacy to successfully engage people who use drugs in care and support their families and communities.
- Support the decriminalization of HIV at the local and national level. Increase access to quality and culturally responsive sexual health education.
- Activate arts and culture as a tool for community engagement, connection, and reducing stigma.
- Increase access to and awareness of the mental health needs of people living with or vulnerable to HIV.

At minimum, eligible nonprofit organizations must meet all the following criteria, and/or engage a Fiscal Sponsor that meets all of the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service (IRS)-designated non-profit organization;
- Be located in the U.S. or Puerto Rico;
- Provide programs and support primarily to those persons or communities impacted by or affected by HIV in the U.S.
- Organizations, including fiscal sponsors, cannot receive more than 25% of your total 2022 operating budget (total annual revenue) from ViiV Healthcare

- Organizations applying for the grant must be the same organization receiving the funds and must be responsible for the implementation and management of the project.

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