

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

Tri-State agencies hopeful Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center can jump-start stalled investigations

WEST CHESTER, Ohio — Law enforcement agencies across the region are seeing tools change the way they investigate drug cases and help overdose survivors around Cincinnati. Intelligence analysts with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center caught a prison inmate dealing drugs in Ohio from California. Still, the ONIC's dark web and cryptocurrency savvy teams armed with an array of high-tech tools expect much more. "You're going..."

University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic Join Forces to Prevent Substance Misuse and Overdose Deaths by Hosting Drug Take Back Day on April 30

Substance misuse and unintentional overdose deaths continue to be serious problems in the United States. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed most misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from a home medicine cabinet. The best way to dispose of unused or expired medications is to take them to an official disposal location. As part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's...

National News

Support Systems Help People With Addiction Recovery, Experts Say.

The [Scripps](#) (4/15, Ruiz) reported, "According to a study conducted by Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry Dr. John Kelly, roughly 10% of Americans are in recovery from an alcohol- or drug-use disorder." Kelly "said it may take a few or

many years for someone to recover from addiction, but the latest data from the CDC and National Institute on Drug Abuse shows a majority of people who battle addiction eventually recover.” National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow “said the more time a person is in remission, the greater their chances are of staying that way.” Volkow said that a key component to recovery, “that is extraordinarily important, like our backbone, is those social support systems that can help the person stay in recovery.”

Drug And Alcohol Abuse Is Slowing Labor Force Recovery, Study Finds.

[Bloomberg](#) (4/14, Matthews, 3.57M) reports, “Federal Reserve policy makers and researchers who have been puzzled by the slow return of US workers to the labor force during the COVID-19 pandemic” have found that alcohol and drug abuse may help to explain this trend. Bloomberg adds, “Increased substance abuse accounts for between 9% and 26% of the decline in prime-age labor-force participation between February 2020 and June 2021, according to” the new study.

Opinion: Ending Opioid Crisis Will Require Perception Paradigm Shift, “All-Of-The-Above” Approach.

In an opinion for [Newsweek](#) (4/18, 2.67M), former Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Chief Of Staff Jim Crotty writes that ending the opioid crisis “will require a paradigm shift in the perception of opioids, especially among young people.” Crotty says, “The US must employ an ‘all-of-the-above’ approach to the drug crisis that includes counterdrug measures like supply reduction, harm reduction and treatment.” He adds, “[While] the US continues to explore and debate new strategies to combat the opioid crisis, it must not neglect perhaps the oldest and most effective strategy of all: prevention.”

Opinion: Special Care Needs To Be Taken In Taking People Off Opioids.

In an opinion for [STAT](#) (4/19, 262K), Haider Warraich, a physician at the VA Boston Healthcare System, writes that her new book, “The Song of Our Scars: The Untold Story of Pain,” seeks to encapsulate “the sordid entanglement of America, chronic pain, and opioids.” Warraich says that opioids “carry well-documented harms,” and “they aren’t that effective at treating chronic pain: An expansive review of studies conducted by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that opioids were no better for treating chronic pain than safer painkillers like ibuprofen or acetaminophen.” However, Warraich adds, “Even with this knowledge, a blunt approach toward taking people off opioids can be dangerous.”

Americans Suffer Deadly Fentanyl Overdoses In Record Numbers.

[ABC News](#) (4/19, Tienabeso, Delawala, Luna, Yamada, 2.44M) reports, “In the new series ‘Poisoned,’ which explores the devastation caused by fentanyl, ABC News Live examines how many parents are learning the deadly reality of the drug only after their children have suffered a fatal overdose.” ABC adds, “According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.”

University Of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Testing Mobile App For Those With Opioid Use Disorder.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18, Cohn, 629K) reports, “[With] fatal overdoses spiking in Maryland and nationally, leaders of the Center for Addiction Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus turned to an extra measure that is becoming a bright spot in their efforts.” reSET-O is “a mobile app they began testing about a year ago specifically for those with opioid use disorders.”

Meanwhile, the reSET app “is for those being treated for use of alcohol and other substances.” These apps “were the first prescription apps approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for substance use disorders, in 2018 and 2017, respectively.”

Companies Developing Non-Opioid Pain Drugs Question If FDA’s Latest Guidance Raises The Bar.

[Endpoints News](#) (4/18, Brennan) reports, “[Companies] developing new non-opioid pain drugs are questioning the FDA on its new draft guidance” providing “industry with some parameters around which it can work to develop these potentially less addictive pain meds.” According to Endpoints News, “The guidance addresses FDA’s current thinking on 3 specific topics: development of non-opioid analgesics for acute pain, labeling claims and expedited programs.” Commenters “sought more specifics, particularly on what some see as more stringent requirements than for past pain drugs that won approvals.”

Tacoma Needle Exchange Workers Distributing Smoking Supplies To Reach Fentanyl, Meth Users.

The [Seattle Times](#) (4/19, Beekman, 1.19M) reports, “Once a week, outreach workers from the Tacoma Needle Exchange distribute pipes like bubbles, hammers and stems out of a van parked near downtown Tacoma, placing them into brown paper bags along with soap, condoms, socks and naloxone, a medication that can reverse opioid-related overdoses.” These workers “say they’re using ‘safer smoking supplies’ to engage with and reduce certain risks for drug users.”

UT Health San Antonio, Seattle Tech Company Partner To Offer Uninsured Texans Free Substance Abuse Treatment Through App.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/17, Carballo, 982K) reports, “UT Health San Antonio said Friday it is partnering with a Seattle-based health care technology company to provide free counseling services and support groups through a mobile app for people with substance use disorders, including those who are underinsured and uninsured.” According to the Chronicle, “WEconnect Health Management created the app that offers daily mobile support meetings, have access to one-on-one peer counseling and earn rewards through tracking and completing self-care activities, such as going to the doctor or therapy.”

New York City Overdose Deaths Have Nearly Doubled From Pre-Pandemic Levels, Data Show.

The [New York Post](#) (4/16, Skelding, 7.45M) reported, “Overdose deaths have nearly doubled from pre-pandemic levels in New York City, according to new” data from the Department of Health. The data indicate “that 1,233 people died from drug overdoses during the first half of 2021, the most recent period available,” which is “a startling 78% increase from the same period in 2019, and a 28% increase from the same period in 2020.”

Niagara Falls Library To Build Telehealth Booths For Customer Use.

The [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (4/19, Prohaska, 436K) reports, “The Niagara Falls Public Library announced it will build two soundproof booths in the next two to three weeks, equipped with computers, cameras and microphones for telehealth visits and other video calls” thanks to “a \$28,937 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Library of Medicine.”

FDA Draft Guidance

Please find [attached](#) the draft guidance from the Food and Drug Administration for increasing enrollment of diverse populations in clinical trials.

Experts Hope Psilocybin Could Be Therapeutic Breakthrough For Addiction.

[TIME](#) (4/18, Law, 18.1M) reports, “[To] many medical science researchers,” psilocybin – “the substance that gives ‘magic mushrooms’ their psychedelic qualities” – represents “a promising treatment for a range of health issues.” According to Time, “In particular, experts increasingly see the chemical as a potentially effective, low-risk tool to help patients break their dependencies on other substances.”

Military Veterans Push Lawmakers To Consider Medical Uses Of Psychedelics.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Whitehurst) reported veterans are encouraging state lawmakers to consider allowing psilocybin – the chemical associated with “magic mushrooms” – to be used in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. According to experts, research shows psilocybin may be a promising treatment for “conditions ranging from PTSD to quitting smoking, but caution some serious risks remain, especially for those with certain mental health conditions.” Still, multiple state legislatures have been responsive to efforts to legalize the substance: “Rhode Island lawmakers are weighing a proposal to decriminalize psilocybin this year, and in Colorado there’s an effort to get statewide decriminalization on the ballot.” And even Texas, which “has yet to legalize medical marijuana,” approved “a bill last year to use \$1.4 million to fund a study of psilocybin for treating PTSD.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-AA-22-001](#)

[Specialized Alcohol Research Centers \(P50 Clinical trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-AA-22-002](#)

[Comprehensive Alcohol Research Centers \(P60 Clinical trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-004](#)

[Notices of Special Interest \(NOSI\): High Priority Areas in Genetics, Epigenetics, and Developmental Neuroscience Branch in the Division of Neuroscience and Behavior](#)

[NOT-DA-22-055](#)

[Notice of Change to section for PAR-21-320, "NIDA Research Education Program for Clinical Researchers and Clinicians \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

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