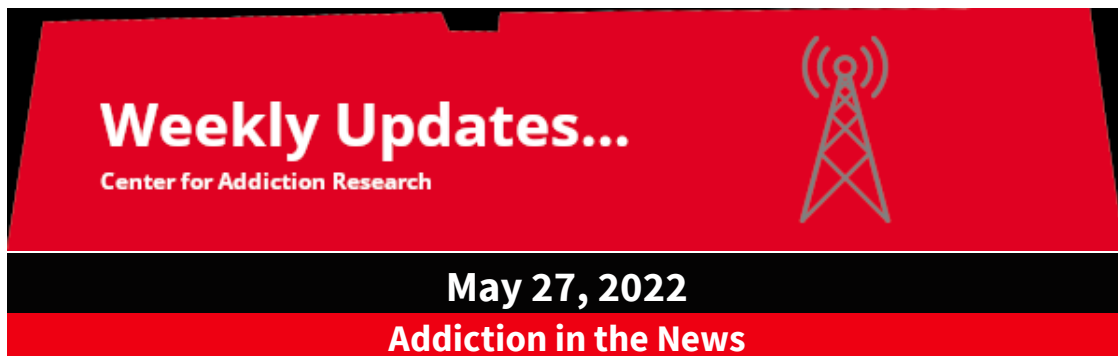


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) 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

New Ohio bill would decriminalize fentanyl drug testing strips

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Thousands of Ohioans die every year from overdosing on drugs, and a new bill in the House is trying to save some of those lives. House Bill 456 would decriminalize fentanyl drug testing strips. Ohio has been referred to as "ground zero" for the opioid epidemic. For at least the past decade, Ohio ranks in the top five in the country for drug overdose death rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and ...

Kentucky to get more than \$36 million to fight opioid addiction

HAZARD, Ky. (WYMT) - The U.S. Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell, announced the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will give \$35,912,100 to the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the State Opioid response grant Program on Friday. Senator McConnell said this program directs resources to states with the highest overdose mortality rates, like Kentucky. "Substance abuse and overdose deaths have spiked..."

Opinion: Fentanyl has changed the way we view, deal with addiction

When fentanyl became a staple in the drug supply in 2016, Carfentanil appeared in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and we no choice but to change our approach to addiction. Overdose rates doubled from an average of 10-25 a week with the organic opiate of heroin to 50-70 a week with the introduction of synthetic opiates. The latter numbers have become the new normal, even after stabilizing the rates. As illicit fentanyl spreads across the...

Portman: OSU deaths example of terrifying rise of counterfeit drugs. National action needed.

Republican Rob Portman represents Ohio in the US Senate. We have a surging epidemic of drug overdoses in Ohio and across the country that has resulted in a record number of overdose deaths, and it threatens to get even worse if we don't act. According to the Ohio Department of Health in 1999, there were 327 overdose deaths in Ohio. In 2021, Ohio is set to report more than 5,200. Nationwide, the numbers are just as discouraging. According...

National News

Top Federal Drug Agency Seeks New Suppliers Of Marijuana For Research.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (5/23) reports that the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#) “wants to find new partners who can supply marijuana for research purposes.” NIDA “posted a ‘sources sought’ notice on Friday, explaining that it’s looking for capability statements from eligible facilities that are authorized to cultivate the plant by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and can aid with the ‘acquisition and/or production of cannabis and related materials.’” However, “it’s not just the supply of government-grown cannabis that’s impeded research; scientists also say that the Schedule I status of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act is prohibitive on its own, discouraging researchers from taking on cannabis studies.” NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow “said that she’s personally reluctant to go through the onerous process of getting approval to study Schedule I drugs like marijuana. Volkow has been repeatedly pressed on cannabis research issues, as well as the agency’s work with respect to other substances like kratom and various psychedelics.”

Marijuana ‘Strain’ Labels Often Mislead Consumers, Study Of Nearly 90,000 Samples Shows.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (5/24, Jaeger) reports, “The commonly used marijuana strain labeling system can be highly misleading for consumers, a new study that analyzed the chemical composition of almost 90,000 cannabis samples across six states found.” Marijuana Moment says that the study “provides an in-depth look at just how inaccurate cannabis product labeling seems to be.” The findings were published in the journal PLOS One last week. National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow is quoted on cannabis research issues.

Minnesota Approves Sale Of Small Doses Of Hemp-Derived THC.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/24, Johnson, 855K) reports, “The Minnesota Legislature passed a sweeping set of hemp industry reforms Sunday night that will allow, among other things, small amounts of hemp-derived THC to be legally sold in edibles and drinks to those 21 and older.” The reforms now allow “hemp-derived THC – including delta-9 THC – in concentrations of up to 5 milligrams per serving and 50 mg per package” to be sold.

Delaware Governor Vetoes Bill Legalizing Marijuana.

The [AP](#) (5/24, Chase) reports, “Delaware Gov. John Carney on Tuesday vetoed a bill to legalize possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by adults for recreational use, drawing the wrath of fellow Democrats who have fought for years to make weed legal.” In vetoing this “measure, Carney reiterated his previously expressed concerns about legalizing recreational pot – concerns that did not dissuade fellow Democrats from pushing the legislation through the General Assembly.”

HHS Rolls Out Opioid Response Program To Provide Almost \$1.5B In Grants For States.

[Healthcare Finance News](#) (5/20, Lagasse, 93K) reported, “In response to the ongoing opioid addiction and overdose epidemic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has rolled out a State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding opportunity that will provide nearly \$1.5 billion to states and territories.” The SOR program, “along with the Tribal Opioid Response grant funding opportunity that was also announced recently, are a part of President Joe Biden’s inaugural National Drug Control Strategy that was released last month, as well as HHS’ Overdose Prevention Strategy.” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said: “The State Opioid Response grant program delivers crucial aid to states and territories to help address in the crisis of overdose and death in our nation’s communities. And, in line with HHS’ Overdose Prevention Strategy, this funding helps facilitate state- and territory-level efforts to ensure the full continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and long-term recovery supports are in place and accessible to all who need them.”

Blackfeet Nation’s Fentanyl Crisis Dilemma Underscores Crisis On Other Native American Reservations.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (5/25, Bolton) reports, “Fentanyl has taken root in Montana and in communities across the Mountain West during the pandemic, after formerly being prevalent mostly east of the Mississippi River,” said Keith Humphreys of the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis.” According to KHN, “Montana law enforcement officials have intercepted record numbers of pale-blue pills made to look like prescription opioids such as OxyContin” or oxycodone hydrochloride extended-release tablets. Political leaders of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana “declared a state of emergency in March after the fentanyl overdoses,” underscoring the fentanyl crisis on Native American reservations.

Gabapentin May Be An Effective Alternative To Opioids For Patients With Head And Neck Cancer Receiving Radiation.

The [ASCO Post](#) (5/24) reports, “Patients with head and neck cancer undergoing radiation therapy may be less likely to require opioids or a feeding tube if they received a higher dose of prophylactic gabapentin before their treatment, findings from a team of radiation oncologists showed.” The study was supported by the NCI.

Experts' Advice On Staying Safe Amid Rise In Drug Overdose Deaths Attributed To Fentanyl Highlighted.

The [New York Times](#) (5/19, Wenner Moyer, 20.6M) reports, “Drug overdose deaths reached record highs in the United States last year, among both adults and teens – even though, according to surveys, the use of illicit drugs other than marijuana has actually declined in recent years among adolescents.” The rise in drug overdose deaths is largely attributed to “the potent synthetic opioid drug fentanyl.” The Times reports on how experts advise readers that they can “ensure that your loved ones, including your children, stay safe.”

Naloxone Helps Prevent Opioid Deaths. Here's How To Find And Use It.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Healey, 3.37M) reports, “Over the past 20 years, opioid-related deaths rose 850% in the United States, reflecting the surge in addictions to narcotic painkillers and the influx of fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids.” Los Angeles County officials and community groups “have tried to prevent deaths with proven harm-reduction strategies, most notably putting the drug naloxone in the hands of drug users and the people close to them.” According to the Times, “Naloxone is an ‘opioid antagonist,’ according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which means it blocks chemicals in the opioid family (such as heroin, oxycodone, morphine and fentanyl) from attaching to receptors in the nervous system. If administered soon after someone goes into an opioid-related medical emergency, it is remarkably effective at reversing the drug’s effects.” State and county officials have been seeking to ensure “that people have it when they or someone around them needs it” through “broad, grass-roots distribution efforts, although the cost of the drug has limited their reach.”

Opinion: Drug-Induced Homicide Laws Do Not Result In Less Demand Or Supply, Go Against Medical Science.

In an opinion for the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (5/23, 587K), Gretchen Burns Bergman, co-founder and executive director of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), writes, “Twenty states have drug-induced homicide laws on their books, and as the opioid overdose crisis continues to escalate, with many of these deaths related to fentanyl, more prosecutors are looking at implementing these dangerous and destructive laws.” She argues that “research consistently shows that neither increased arrests nor increased severity of criminal punishment for drug law violations results in less use (demand) or sales (supply). And treating drug use as a criminal behavioral issue goes against medical science.”

California Organizations Press Lawmakers For Stricter Penalties For Dealers Amid Rise In Drug Overdose Deaths.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/20, 3.37M) reported that “fentanyl, the powerful synthetic opioid...helped drive drug overdose deaths in the U.S. to more than 100,000 last year.” In response, Drug Induced Homicide and other organizations have joined “a

nationwide movement of parents-turned-activists fighting the increasingly deadly drug crisis – and they are challenging California’s doctrine that drugs should be treated as a health problem rather than prosecuted by the criminal justice system.” These organizations “seek to raise public awareness and influence drug policy,” pressing “state lawmakers for stricter penalties for dealers and lobby technology companies to allow parents to monitor their kids’ communications on social media.”

They’re Not Trying To Die’: How Drug Checking Aims To Protect Users In A Messy Market.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/22, 3.37M) reports that Tara “Stamos-Buesig began hitting the streets last year with a testing kit, purchased online from the nonprofit DanceSafe, as her own nonprofit was getting off the ground.” Stamos-Buesig is the “founder and executive director of the Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego, which runs a mobile program that provides clean syringes and other supplies to protect the health of people who use drugs.” Stamos-Buesig said, “They’re not trying to die. ... They’re attempting to keep their use at a manageable level and stay alive.” National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow is quoted concerning the “very, very lethal combination” of meth and opioids that can hinder breathing.

Nora D. Volkow, MD: Advancing Clinical Research For Treating Use Disorders.

[HCPLive](#) (5/24, Kunzmann) reports, “In the second segment of an interview with HCPLive during the American Psychiatric Association (APA) 2022 Annual Meeting in New Orleans this week, National Institute on Drug Abuse...Director Nora D. Volkow, MD, highlighted the pharmacological pursuits of the National Institutes of Health...in better addressing substance use disorders (SUDs).” According to HCPLive, “As Volkow explained, there is a growing understanding that poly-SUD may be adequately addressed in patients – those who may suffer from use disorders in both alcohol and opioids, or otherwise.” Volkow said, “Because we frequently see individuals that are taking multiple substances, and they may have a use disorder that goes for more than one of them. ... And yet at the same time, particularly from brain imaging studies, we have started to understand common neurocircuitry that is engaged whether you have an alcohol use disorder or you have a cocaine use disorder.”

Overdose Deaths Increased During Pandemic, But Harm Reductionists See Hope In Policy Shifts.

[TODAY](#) (5/19, Breen, 2.24M) reports, “During the coronavirus pandemic, the overdose crisis in the United States has only continued to worsen, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting last week that overdose deaths increased by 15% from 2020 to 2021.” However, harm reductionists still “see some hope as policies meant to reduce overdoses change.” Today adds, “However, many of those policies are connected to the coronavirus pandemic and government

leaders, leading to concern that they may only be temporary. ... Harm reductionists interviewed for this story agreed that there have been major policy shifts since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020.”

Female Veterans Embrace Psychedelic Therapy.

The [New York Times](#) (5/21, A1, Londoño, Kohut, 20.6M) reported that some female veterans are seeking psychedelic therapy to deal with trauma linked to war and sexual assault. The Times explained, “measures to decriminalize psychedelics, fund research into their healing potential and establish frameworks for their medicinal use have been passed with bipartisan support in city councils and state legislatures across the United States in recent years,” driven in part “by veterans of America’s wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.” In fact, after turning “to experimental therapies to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, addiction and depression, many former military members have become effusive advocates for a wider embrace of psychedelics.”

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-DA-22-061](#)

[Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Notice: Clinical Research Organization \(CRO\) Support for Blueprint MedTech \(BPMT\) Regulatory Affairs Support and Related Services](#)

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 either of the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and facilitate assistance with approaches.

[Little Giraffe Foundation to Consider Proposals for Neonatal Research](#)

[Deadline: June 24, 2022 \(Letters of Intent\)](#)

The Little Giraffe Foundation invites applications for its 2022 Neonatal Research Initiative. Through the initiative, grants ranging between \$5,000 and \$10,000 will be awarded to scientists, doctors, and nurses at universities, hospitals, and nonprofit institutions to support research that addresses both the immediate and long-term health needs caused by premature birth. Possible research subjects identified by the foundation include basic biological processes governing development, genetics, clinical studies, reproductive health studies, environmental toxicology, and social and behavioral studies. Studies related to the development of educational interventions or addressing quality improvement initiatives will not be considered for funding. Applicants must be based in the United States and represent a U.S.-

based institution. The foundation does not award grants to individuals or families. Applications will be evaluated by the funding committee, with awards to be announced during September.

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