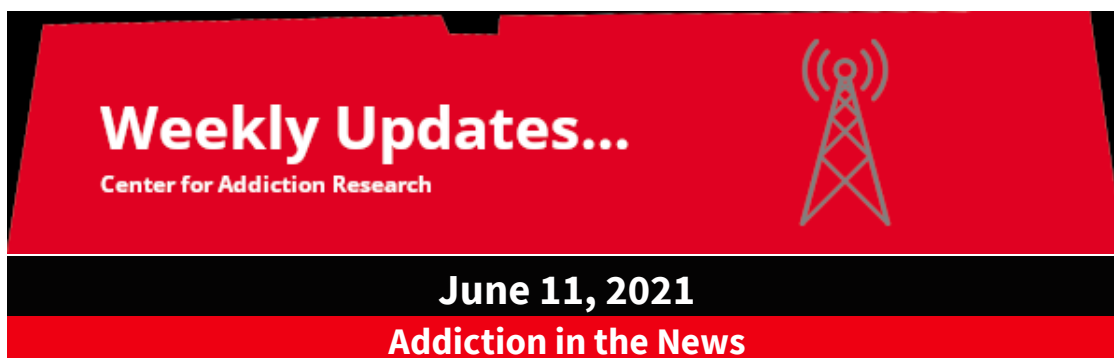


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Indiana County Commissioners Vote To End Needle Exchange Program.

The [AP](#) (6/3) reports that on Wednesday, an Indiana county voted "to end the state's first needle exchange program." Scott County commissioners voted "to end the program by the end of this year." The needle exchange authorized Indiana to provide clean needles to drug addicts, in an attempt to curb an HIV outbreak in 2015. County health officials say the program helped drive down the number of new HIV cases to less than five last year.

[The Hill](#) (6/3, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, "Commissioners Mike Jones and Randy Julian defended their votes striking down the program Wednesday by arguing that access to needles has caused more drug overdoses in the county." Former US Surgeon General Jerome Adams, a supporter of the program, attended a Scott County meeting in May. He said, "I've seen syringe service programs all over the nation; I've been to Canada and seen how they do it over there...and the way you're doing it here is the way it's supposed to be done."

Congress must resolve to act on opioid alternatives: Greg McNeil

HUDSON, Ohio -- My life changed forever in October 2015 when my youngest son, Sam, overdosed on heroin laced with fentanyl. I never could have imagined that this would be his destiny. Sam had a big heart. In fact, he was introduced to opioids

after plastic surgery to address injuries he received while defending a young woman at a party. It took just weeks for him to become addicted. And, as often...

Open Source: Medication-based addiction treatment available in Mansfield

MANSFIELD -- Substance abuse **remains a pressing issue** in Richland County. Fortunately, there are resources available. According to the **Richland County Opiate Board**, 2,686 people received treatment in Richland County for substance use disorder during fiscal year 2020 -- 1,673 of those people received treatment for an opiate use disorder. Joe Trolan confirmed that between...

DeWine signs bill designating Overdose Awareness Day

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WKBN) – Ohio Governor Mike DeWine [signed a bill Tuesday](#) that sets aside a special day to recognize those who have lost their lives to the drug epidemic. August 31 has been designated as Overdose Awareness Day. On that day, the state building will fly its flags at half-staff from sunrise until sunset.

Boardman doctor convicted of 79 counts in painkiller prescription case

A Boardman podiatrist has pleaded guilty to a 79-count indictment with maximum penalties of 108 years in prison and \$345,000 in fines. However, under a plea agreement, the Ohio Attorney General is recommending that 58-year-old Dr. James Prommersberger be placed on probation for one year when he is sentenced in August. State prosecutors say Prommersberger improperly...

National News

Emotional Responses to Alcohol May Predict Alcohol-Related Problems

Alcohol can induce temporary positive feelings such as elation and happiness and reduce negative feelings like distress. These emotional responses to alcohol are believed to contribute to drinking behaviors that lead to alcohol use disorder or that make abstaining from drinking more difficult for some people. A new study funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) now sheds more light on the link between emotional responses to alcohol and drinking behaviors. It also reveals that **emotional responses may be a predictor of alcohol-related problems**. [Read more...](#)

Women Now Drink As Much As Men And Suffer Health Effects More Quickly.

[NPR](#) (6/9, Pattani, 3.69M) reports, that **women have been closing the gender gap in alcohol consumption, binge-drinking and alcohol use disorder,**” and **“the latest U.S. data from 2019 shows that women in their teens and early 20s reported drinking and getting drunk at higher rates than their male peers** – in some cases for the first time since researchers began measuring such behavior.” The article points out that **“this trend parallels the rise in mental health concerns among young women, and researchers worry that the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could**

amplify both patterns.” National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Senior Scientific Adviser Aaron White said that an overall decline in drinking among teens and young adults may sound like progress, but could also be indicative of underlying issues. White said that he is concerned that “many of those who are drinking might be doing so specifically to try to cope. ... And that is problematic.”

NFL To Provide Funding For Research On Pain Management.

The [AP](#) (6/8, Walker) reports, “The NFL will spend up to \$1 million funding up to five studies that will examine how to better help players ease their pain and find alternatives to opioids.” Among the potential alternatives are “marijuana and other cannabis-derived products.” The NFL “wants initial proposals studying how cannabinoids can help players manage pain daily and after surgery, how cannabis or cannabinoids affect players’ athletic performance, and how other non-pharmaceutical treatments can benefit players.”

Washington State Allows Licensed Marijuana Retailers To Swap COVID-19 Vaccine For Cannabis.

[Newsweek](#) (6/8, Crump, 2.67M) reports, “The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board on Monday announced that it would waive rules to allow licensed retailers to swap a [COVID-19] vaccine for cannabis in a program it is calling ‘Joints for Jobs.’” The decision, which “was in response to marijuana stores making a request to the board to give away free cannabis to help boost uptake of the jabs,” is “open to any adults over the age of 21 in the state.”

Cannabis Derivative Delta-8 Sparks Controversy.

[Bloomberg](#) (6/7, Kary, 3.57M) reports, “Delta-8, the controversial cannabis derivative, has recently been banned in more than a dozen states.” However, “some in the industry say the substance’s benefits shouldn’t be overlooked in the rush to crack down.” Cannabis science, “still in its infancy, has yet to determine Delta-8’s exact effects. And there are signs it could be useful.” The National Cancer Institute “defines Delta-8 as having anti-nausea, anti-anxiety, appetite-stimulating, pain-relieving and neuroprotective properties,” and “the institute also says Delta-8 is less potent than Delta-9, and there are reports that Delta-8 creates highs that don’t come with a side dose of paranoia.”

Studies Suggest E-Cigarettes Likely As Harmful To Brain As Regular Smoking.

[Forbes](#) (6/6, Silva, 10.33M) reports that “an ever accumulating volume of scientific and preclinical data is suggesting that e-cigarettes are at least as harmful as regular smoking, i.e. combustible cigarettes you light up, and not a safe alternative.” Forbes says that “understandably, most of the focus has been on the effects on the lungs, cardiovascular disease, and addiction. But recently, a growing body of scientific studies are starting to show the serious potential negative effects e-cigarette use

may have on the brain.” Forbes examines several studies, concluding that more research is needed, “But there seems to be every reason to anticipate that e-cigarette effects on brain function and cognition will likely be as bad as regular combustible cigarettes.”

Maine Company Receives Contract To Create Device That Treats Drug-Affected Babies.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/9, Russell, 178K) reports that a Maine infant health company “working with Tufts Medical Center has received a \$2.5 million contract to treat drug-affected babies.” The National Institute on Drug Abuse “awarded Tufts and Biddeford-based Prapela a contract to develop the SVS Hospital Bassinet.” The bassinet “helps treat newborns diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, as part of the Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative.”

Opinion: Safe Injection Sites Will Not Lessen Substance Abuse, Help Stem Homelessness In California.

In an opinion piece for [USA Today](#) (6/4, 12.7M), author Michele Steeb and recovering heroin addict Thomas Wolf wrote, “California lawmakers, so quick to lock down the economy, issue stay-at-home orders and mandate masks, are taking a very different approach to the opioid epidemic – giving people with drug addictions a so-called safe place to inject their drugs.” They wrote, “Advocates say the Golden State’s efforts to reduce the harms of drug abuse will set a model for other states to emulate. Based on our collective experience – one of us was addicted to drugs and lived on San Francisco’s streets, the other has worked with homeless women and children for more than a decade – we believe that this proposal will not lessen the substance abuse epidemic that California cities face, nor will it help homeless individuals.”

NIH-funded study tests “one-stop” mobile clinics to deliver HIV, substance use care A clinical trial is underway in five U.S. cities to determine whether delivering integrated health services through mobile clinics can improve HIV and substance use outcomes among people with opioid use disorder who inject drugs. If effective, mobile clinics could serve as an innovative strategy for expanding access to care and providing uninterrupted treatment in this underserved population that addresses the linked public health crises of addiction and HIV.

(<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funded-study-tests-one-stop-mobile-clinics-deliver-hiv-substance-use-care>)

Missouri To Become Final State To Adopt Prescription Drug Monitoring Database.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Ballentine) reports Missouri Gov. Mike Parson (R) “signed a bill Monday to make Missouri the final state to adopt a prescription drug monitoring database aimed at flagging possible opioid misuse.” For years, Missouri has “been the only state without such a program because of pushback from primarily Republican lawmakers concerned about patient privacy.” Parson in a statement said it will “help provide necessary information to health care professionals and empower them to make decisions that better serve their patients and assist in fighting the opioid epidemic in Missouri.”

ADHD Meds May Help Keep Some Kids From Thoughts Of Suicide.

[HealthDay](#) (6/8, Norton, 11K) reports, “Researchers found that medications like Ritalin and Adderall, commonly prescribed for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), were linked to a lower risk of suicidal behavior among 9- and 10-year-olds with substantial ‘externalizing’ symptoms.” CHOP’s Lifespan Brain Institute assistant professor and the study’s senior researcher Dr. Ran Barzilay said the findings, “based on nearly 12,000 U.S. children taking part in an ongoing study of brain development,” point to a correlation between ADHD medications and reduced suicidal behavior. Barzilay “said it will be” important “to follow this study group over time.” The U.S. National Institute of Mental Health and the Lifespan Brain Institute funded the research.

PharmaTher, TSRL Ally To Create Microneedle Patches To Deliver Psychedelics And Antivirals.

[FiercePharma](#) (6/7, Taylor, 12K) reports PharmaTher and TSRL have reached an agreement to collaborate on co-develop microneedle patches, allowing the partners “to pool resources to create intradermal delivery devices for use in their respective therapeutic areas of focus.” According to the article, “TSRL has worked on prototype patches with the support of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for several years, while PharmaTher licensed microneedle technology from the University of California, Los Angeles last year.” If the companies successfully develop a patch, “PharmaTher will use the patch to deliver psychedelics such as ketamine and psilocybin, and TSRL will use the technology in the administration of antivirals such as influenza medication zanamivir.”

Treatment Of Epilepsy Patients Draws Questions.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (6/8, Hart, 1.46M) reports, “Patients in prolonged, life-threatening epileptic seizures who came to emergency rooms at Grady Memorial Hospital or Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston from 2015 to 2018 were placed in a medical study without their knowledge.” According to the article, “The hospitals were among 58 sites nationwide that randomly assigned patients,

ages 2 to 94, one of three approved anticonvulsant drugs after the patients failed to respond to initial treatment” with the goal of learning which medication was most effective. Watchdog advocacy group Public Citizen “is accusing the researchers and the regulators who approved the study of potentially endangering some patients’ health in order to let the research proceed.” The NIH, “which funded the study, said in a statement that the study was important for the very reason that doctors need to choose the right drug.”

Philadelphia Overdose Deaths Soared In 2020; Black Residents Hit Hardest.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (6/3, Whelan) reports, “Overdoses killed 1,214 Philadelphians in 2020, marking the city’s second-highest drug death toll on record, and one likely worsened by COVID-19 lockdowns, city officials said.” Overall deaths caused by overdose “increased by 9% from the year before,” hitting Black Philadelphians hardest, with overdoses soaring by 29%, “while they decreased by 10% among white Philadelphians.”

Laughing Gas May Help Improve Severe Depression That Fails To Respond To Treatment, Researchers Say.

[STAT](#) (6/9, Lloreda, 262K) reports that the results of a small trial, “published Wednesday in *Science Translational Medicine*, suggest that a low dose of laughing gas could help improve depressive symptoms in patients with a severe form of depression that fails to respond to antidepressants.” Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis “found that a low dose of nitrous oxide, also known as laughing gas, was just as effective at improving depression as a higher dose in patients with treatment-resistant depression, with less adverse side effects after two weeks.” To do this, they “recruited 24 patients with TRMD, who were randomized in a crossover study to receive placebo, the low dose, or the high dose of laughing gas for one hour.”

Many Urge Congress And Administration To Extend The Expansion Of Telehealth.

[USA Today](#) (6/4, Levey, 12.7M) reported that “as the COVID-19 crisis wanes and life approaches normal across the U.S., health industry leaders and many patient advocates are pushing Congress and the Biden administration to preserve the pandemic-fueled expansion of telehealth.” The effort, added USA Today, is “bringing together consumer groups with health insurers, state Medicaid officials, physician organizations and telehealth vendors.” A Harris Poll last year found that “8 in 10 Americans who had used telehealth said they ‘liked it’ or ‘loved it.’”

Traffic Deaths Rose 7% In 2020, Data Show.

The [AP](#) (6/3) reports the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that traffic deaths rose 7% in 2020 to 38,680. The figure is the highest since 2007

despite statistics from the Federal Highway Administration showing that vehicle miles traveled declined by about 430.2 billion miles last year. The number of deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled increased from 1.11 in 2019 to 1.37 in 2020. Motorcycle deaths rose 9%, and both cyclist and pedestrian deaths increased by 5%. NHTSA “said it has data showing that speeds increased through the year, and examples of extreme speeding became more common.”

Reuters (6/3, Shepardson) reports deaths involving drivers not wearing a seat belt rose 15%, speed related crashes increased by 10%, and alcohol-related crashes were up by 9%. The number of deaths in the second half of 2020 increased by 13%. NHTSA published “an open letter to drivers in January” in which the agency wrote, “fewer Americans drove but those who did took more risks and had more fatal crashes. ... It’s irresponsible and illegal to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which not only puts your life at risk but the lives of others.”

Healthcare Innovations Must Ease Burden On Workforce, CEOs Contend.

Modern Healthcare (6/8, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports, “Calls for healthcare to do more to embrace technology as a means to improve care delivery must first address whether such changes add to or ease the burden of a workforce that’s been beleaguered by the pandemic.” Modern Healthcare adds this sentiment “was an overarching message from leaders during Modern Healthcare’s 2021 Transformation Summit held virtually May 18-19.” Modern Healthcare then quotes several CEOs on such innovations.

Canadian Physicians Struggle To Explain Mysterious Brain Syndrome Outbreak In New Brunswick.

The New York Times (6/4, Bilefsky, 20.6M) reported 48 people from the small Canadian province of New Brunswick have been “struck with a baffling mix of symptoms including insomnia, impaired motor function and hallucinations such as nightmarish visions of the dead.” As COVID-19 “ragged across the country the past 15 months, the medical enigma was initially slow to gain national attention.” Physicians “investigating the disease say the sluggish response underlines the challenge for other medical conditions to compete for the spotlight during a global pandemic.” At the same time, “medical experts said the murkiness surrounding the illness also reflected how, despite extraordinary advances in medical science, some conditions, in particular neurological diseases involving dementia, can puzzle even the world’s best scientific brains.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-22-016](#)

[Exploratory Studies to Investigate the Mechanisms of Interrelationship Between Sleep and Substance Use Disorders \(R61/R33 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-NS-21-072](#)

[Notice of a Pre-Application Informational Webinar for PAR-21-168 "Summer Research Education Experience Program \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

[RFA-NS-21-029](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Planning Studies for Initial Analgesic Development \[Small Molecules and Biologics\] \(R61 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-21-026](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: New Technologies and Novel Approaches for Recording and Modulation in the Nervous System \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-NS-21-027](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: Optimization of Transformative Technologies for Recording and Modulation in the Nervous System \(U01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

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