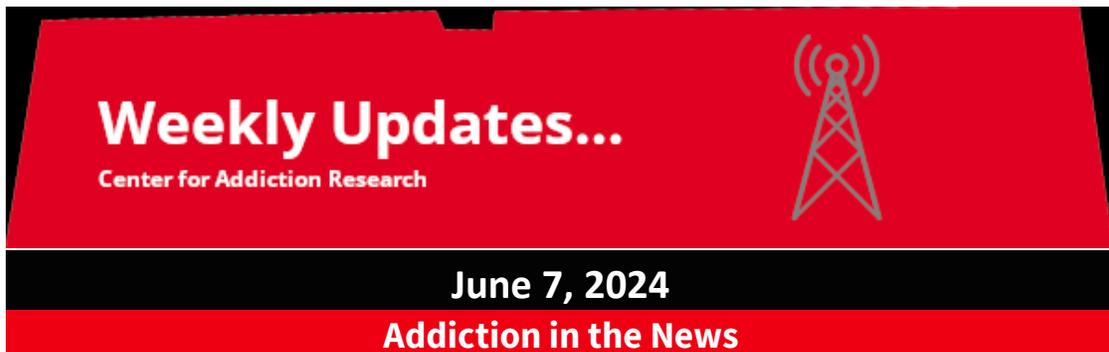


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 6.7.2024

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

Center for Addiction Research Upcoming 2024 Summer Speaker Series

Back by popular demand, the Center for Addiction Research will hold its first 2024 virtual Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, June 12 at 12pm on "Risk Reduction in Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorders: Bringing Education, Testing and Treatment to the Community" with presenter, **CAR member, and CAR Core Co-Leader Population Health and Health Services, Dr. Caroline Freiermuth**. The series is sponsored by Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training. All presentations will be held virtually and are free and open to the public. [\(PDF event flyer attached\)](#)

[>> Register for any of the presentations](#)

'Extremely dangerous substances;' DeWine signs order banning 9 synthetic opioids in Ohio

OHIO — Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order on Tuesday that banned the sale and use of nine synthetic opioids in Ohio. The order authorizes the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to classify them as Schedule I controlled substances, banning their sale and use in Ohio, according to the governor's spokesperson. DeWine said these nine synthetic opioids are also known as nitazenes. They were initially developed decades ago as potential alternatives for morphine that were never approved for medical use. Now, the new nitazine compound is increasingly being found in the illicit drug supply in Ohio. "These are extremely dangerous substances being designed by clandestine chemists in an attempt to skirt the law..."

2 people were sent to Ohio jails just miles apart. One received treatment. The other died

The difference between life and death for people arrested and sent to jail can be a matter of miles and county lines. Ohio has 181 standards for full-service jails meant to ensure a minimum of care for inmates across the state. But a lack of enforcement and deference to local control mean conditions and treatment in a county jail ultimately come down to the priorities of the county sheriff. For example, there is a stark divide between the approaches of the Butler County Corrections Center and Hamilton County Justice Center though the counties neighbor each other. Cody Bohanan, 24, was arrested in Fairfield and booked into the Butler County jail, where he died from complications related to opioid...

Study finds semaglutide associated with reduction in incidence and recurrence of alcohol-use disorder

A new study by researchers at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine reveals that the popular diabetes and weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic are linked to reduced incidence and recurrence of alcohol abuse or dependence. The team's findings, recently published in the journal *Nature Communications*, may suggest a possible new treatment for excessive alcohol use—including alcohol-use disorder (AUD), a health condition that causes about 178,000 deaths in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control. To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved only three medications to treat AUD. The active ingredient in Wegovy and Ozempic is...

National News

Study finds cannabis use common among patients, with most using it to manage a symptom or health condition

One in six patients in primary care reported cannabis use, with 35% of those using at levels indicating moderate- to high-risk for cannabis use disorder, new UCLA research finds. The findings, published June 5 in *JAMA Network Open*, suggest that most patients reported using cannabis for symptom management, despite identifying as recreational users, indicating the need for routine cannabis screening. Currently, few health care systems offer this screening in primary care settings. "Patients may not tell their primary care providers about their cannabis use, and their doctors may not ask about it," said lead author Dr. Lillian Gelberg...

Nicotine marketing still targets adolescents just as it did decades ago, says researcher

About 37 million children ages 13 to 15 around the world use tobacco, according to a 2024 report from the World Health Organization. In 2023, e-cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product in the U.S., with 7.7% of middle school and high school students reporting e-cigarette use. Cigarettes were the next most common, with 1.6% of middle- and high school students saying they had consumed them in the past month. Research shows that most people who use tobacco start in

childhood. I am a public health researcher who studies the different ways in which corporations influence adolescent health, with...

Smoking Isn't the Only Source of Nicotine Addiction in Town

E-cigarettes were introduced in the early 2000s as a way for smokers to manage their nicotine addiction without exposing themselves to the well-documented harms associated with the toxins and carcinogens in combustible cigarette smoke. These harms include increased risks of cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, and a number of other debilitating or life-threatening diseases. While many people have used e-cigarettes to quit smoking, other non-smokers have taken up e-cigarette use, particularly young adults. However, the use of e-cigarettes, commonly known as vaping, is not without harm. Based on a review of the...

There is no 'lesser evil' when it comes to tobacco use, says doctor

From the traditional cigarette to the modern electronic cigarette, from the communal hookah to the discreet pinch of smokeless tobacco, each has proven to be detrimental to a person's health. Dr. Jon Ebbert, medical director of the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center, discusses why there is no "lesser evil" when it comes to tobacco use. Smoked tobacco has the strongest association with cancer, and it goes beyond cigarettes. "Hookah, which is a smoked and inhaled tobacco, has a similar cancer risk because it's the process of smoking and inhaling those 7,000 chemicals that increases the risk for cancer," says Dr. Ebber...

Zyn is following Big Tobacco's playbook for teens

Zyn's synthetic nicotine offers the kick of a cigarette or dip without the cancer-causing smoke and chemicals of tobacco, packaged in a pouch that can be discreetly tucked into the upper lip. But that doesn't mean they're risk-free. Very little is known about how nicotine pouches could affect health or addiction trends in the U.S. Moreover, tobacco companies are selling the products in dosages and flavors that seem very clearly designed to appeal to younger users, even though buyers are supposed to be at least 21. Even without a ton of data, researchers can already tick off reasons for teens to steer clear of Zyn. The most obvious...

Urged on by LGBTQ+ activists, California cities weigh stricter smoking rules

California has long been at the forefront of the fight against smoking, but some local officials in the San Francisco Bay Area, backed by activists who are especially concerned about high rates of smoking in the LGBTQ+ community, are spearheading proposals to further restrict how tobacco is sold and where it is smoked. In the city of Vallejo on the northeastern edge of San Pablo Bay, Council member Peter Bregenzer is leading an effort to crack down on smoke shops, which he says make it much too easy for children to smoke and vape. In Oakland, Council member Dan Kalb is weighing a new ordinance that would extend smoking bans...

Hong Kong announces blanket ban of e-cigarettes

Hong Kong announced plans on Thursday for a blanket ban on e-cigarettes, citing a "consensus" on the need for action and their impact on the health of young people. The move came about two years after the Chinese city banned the import, manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. "We will fully ban all alternative smoking products," Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau said at a news conference, using the government term for products such as e-cigarettes. Hong Kong already bans possession of e-cigarettes "for commercial purposes" and Thursday's proposal would extend the ban to retail buyers...

Almost 1 in 3 Americans know someone who's died from a drug overdose

As the opioid addiction crisis continues to lay waste to American life, a new survey finds that nearly a third of U.S. adults now know someone who's died of a drug overdose. Conducted in the spring of 2023, the survey of 2,300 Americans found 32% saying they'd dealt with the loss of someone they knew due to fatal overdose. Expanded into the full U.S. population, that's the equivalent of nearly 83 million people now personally affected by such tragedies, said a research team led by Alene Kennedy-Hendricks. "The drug overdose crisis is a national tragedy," said Kennedy-Hendricks, an assistant professor of health policy and...

Myelination in the brain may be key to 'learning' opioid addiction

In adaptive myelination, more active brain circuits gain more myelin -- the fatty insulation that allows electrical signals to travel faster and more efficiently through nerve fibers. Learning to juggle or practicing the piano, for example, gradually increases myelination in the brain circuits involved, optimizing for these abilities. But the same adaptive myelination that is essential to learning, attention and memory has a dark side. In the new study in mice, researchers found that a single dose of morphine was enough to trigger the steps leading to myelination of dopamine-producing neurons -- part of the brain's reward circuitry...

Recovery programs to focus on Vt. inmates with opioid addiction

BURLINGTON, Vt. (WCAX) - Vermont corrections officials are ramping up efforts to get addiction recovery coaches in more prisons. It comes as data shows 70% of inmates in Vermont are battling addiction. Recovery centers across the state are working with the Vermont Department of Corrections to make sure inmates can access the care they need to get clean. The recovery coach model has been seen as a success since it was implemented at the UVM Medical Center. Now, advocates at the Turning Point Center of Chittenden County want to bring the program behind bars. "Statistics show that a high percentage of...

Tiny worm helps uncover long-lasting prenatal effects from amphetamines

The neurological effects caused by acute or chronic use of amphetamine have been broadly investigated and several studies have shown that proteins involved in the synthesis, storage, release and reuptake of dopamine (DA), a neurotransmitter that

plays a role as in the "reward" center, are either direct targets of or are indirectly affected by these drugs. During pregnancy, the effects of therapeutical doses of amphetamine have been investigated on birth outcomes in humans. However, a thorough investigation of the mechanisms underlying the long-term effects of embryonal exposure to addictive doses of amphetamine remains...

Study finds US drug-related infant deaths more than doubled from 2018 to 2022

A new study by Florida Atlantic University's Schmidt College of Medicine has uncovered a disturbing trend in drug-related infant deaths in the United States from 2018 to 2022. Infant deaths are those that occur between the time a child is born and age 1. Drug-involved deaths are those in which drugs are either the primary cause of death or a contributing factor and may occur due to maternal drug use, inadvertent or accidental intake of specific prescriptions, illicit or non-medical use of drugs and other incidents where drugs were linked to death. Results of the study, published in the Journal of Perinatal Medicine, show...

Childhood stress linked with earlier substance use in male and female teens

Stress during childhood is associated with earlier substance use in male and female adolescents, according to a study presented Saturday at ENDO 2024, the Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Boston, Mass. Traumatic events may increase substance use risk for males, while environmental stress and early puberty may increase the risk for females, the researchers found. Early life stress is children's experiences of abuse, neglect and conflict. Approximately 20% of adolescents in the United States have experienced early life stress at some point, and these experiences influence adolescent and adult health behavior...

Co-Locating COVID Vaccines, Infection Testing With Syringe Services Shows Success

Co-locating COVID-19 vaccination and infectious disease testing with a syringe services program boosted engagement among people who injected drugs, according to an analysis of the Baltimore-based initiative. Among 347 participants across 10 co-located clinics participating in the Baltimore City Health Department Syringe Services Program from April 2021 to June 2022, 63% received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine and 58% received one infectious disease test, reported Omeid Heidari, PhD, MPH, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and co-authors in Health Affairs. "The most important finding for us is that..."

Internet addiction affects the behavior and development of adolescents

The findings, published in PLOS Mental Health, reviewed 12 articles involving 237 young people aged 10-19 with a formal diagnosis of internet addiction between 2013 and 2023. Internet addiction has been defined as a person's inability to resist the urge to use the internet, negatively impacting their psychological wellbeing, as well as their social, academic and professional lives. The studies used functional

magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to inspect the functional connectivity (how regions of the brain interact with each other) of participants with internet addiction, both while resting and completing a task. The...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-25-056](#)

[Establishing a Center for the Advancement of Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Pharmacotherapeutics \(U54 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

Other Funding Opportunity:

AACAP is seeking applications for the inaugural [Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Research Institute \(CAPRI\)](#) at AACAP's 2024 Annual Meeting, October 14-19, 2024, in Seattle, Washington.

[Application Deadline: June 17, 2024](#)

This two-day event at AACAP's Annual Meeting is the beginning of a two-year journey for up to 12 early research career child and adolescent psychiatrists to receive ongoing mentorship from leaders in the field AND career development planning through exposure to skills and strategies to bolster the chances of independent grant funding as a principal investigator (PI) of a career development (K) award or other equivalent National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. Designed for MDs, DOs, MD/PhDs, or DO/PhDs who are child and adolescent psychiatrists or triple board trained, or general psychiatry residents with a strong interest in child and adolescent psychiatry research, and interested in submitting a K or equivalent grant application in the next three years, the program includes:

- Networking and informational sessions with NIH officers NIH's strategic plan and relevant funding priorities
- Break-out groups led by nationally recognized and experienced research faculty on topics such as career development and identifying mentors.
- Review and critique of participants' research proposals
- Networking opportunities
- Travel support provided up to \$2,000 to the AACAP Annual Meeting

For further details, eligibility requirements, and access to application information, please visit AACAP's webpage on the [Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Research Institute \(CAPRI\)](#).

For additional information, please email research@aacap.org.

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