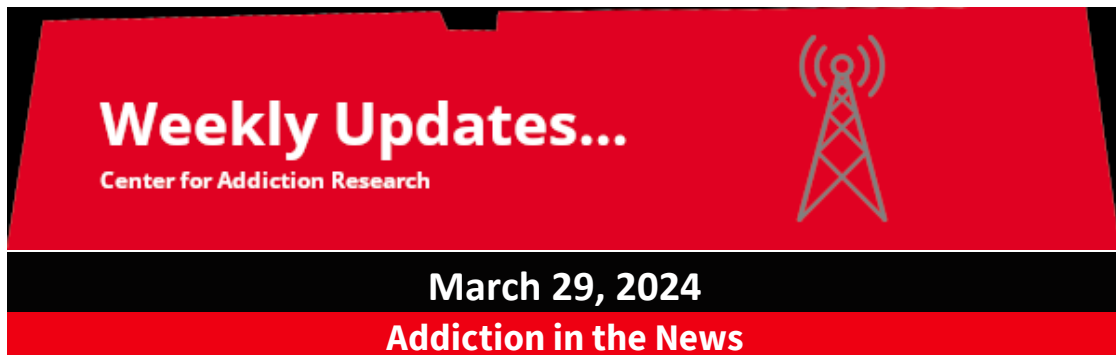


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.29.2024

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

Governor DeWine Announces Change in Reporting Non-Fatal Overdoses

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine applauded a change made today to the state's administrative rules that require emergency departments to report non-fatal drug overdoses to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) approved the addition of rule 3701-3-16 to the Ohio Administrative Code. The rule will take effect April 8. "We must continue to work tirelessly to address the overdose crisis, to support those in recovery, and to encourage wellness to prevent addiction in the first place," said Governor DeWine. The new rule will give state officials a more accurate and current view of non-fatal overdoses in Ohio. It will enhance ODH's ability to identify trends, including...

Governor DeWine Announces One Million Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed Statewide

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that the State has distributed one million fentanyl test strips in an initiative to combat the opioid crisis. The strips serve as crucial tools in harm reduction efforts, allowing users to test substances for the presence of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid that has been increasingly found laced in various street drugs, contributing significantly to overdose fatalities. "By providing access to fentanyl test strips, we empower individuals to make informed decisions and potentially avert tragic consequences associated with opioid use," said Governor DeWine. Unintentional drug overdose fatalities among Ohio residents decreased by 5% in 2022...

More children overdosing on fentanyl: A concerning trend in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — A new casualty is emerging in the drug crisis that is ravaging our community. A growing number of young children are accidentally overdosing on opioids. "We're seeing quite a bit of this right now," said Dr. Greg Faris, the assistant medical director for Indianapolis EMS. "Medics are going into homes and finding kids overdosed or are in respiratory distress from overdose. And then we're also seeing it in the emergency department as well." Over the last five years, Indianapolis ambulance crew have seen a 59% increase in dispatch calls for possible drug overdoses involving kids 17 and younger, according to IEMS. And medics have been giving the anti-overdose drug...

National News

Alcohol raises heart disease risk, particularly among women

Young to middle-aged women who reported drinking eight or more alcoholic beverages per week—more than one per day, on average—were significantly more likely to develop coronary heart disease compared with those who drank less, finds a study presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session. The risk was highest among both men and women who reported heavy episodic drinking, or "binge" drinking, and the link between alcohol and heart disease appears to be especially strong among women, according to the findings. The study focused on 18- to 65-year-old adults and is...

App can help people reduce their alcohol intake

A free smartphone app, Drink Less, can help people who would benefit most from reducing their alcohol consumption to do so successfully, according to a large randomized controlled trial led by UCL researchers and involving University of Bristol academics. The study, published in *eClinicalMedicine*, found that people randomly recommended to use the Drink Less app reduced their drinking by 39 units a week at six months—two more units a week on average than a control group who were referred to standard NHS advice. The 5,602 participants of the study were all increasing or higher-risk drinkers...

Lab tests show THC potency inflated on retail marijuana in Colorado

Cannabis flower sold in Colorado claims to contain much more tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, than it actually does, according to my findings published in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS One*. THC is the psychoactive compound that is derived when cannabis flower—commonly referred to as "bud"—is heated through smoking or cooking. Why it matters Accurate THC reporting is a linchpin for medical patients, recreational consumers and the overall integrity of the cannabis industry. Medical and recreational flower is generally the same—the difference is in testing requirements, price, taxes and...

A genetic difference in THC metabolism may explain why some young adults have negative experiences with cannabis

Differences in how young adults metabolize THC, the main part of cannabis that makes people feel "high," can influence how they feel after taking the drug as well as their potential risk for developing cannabis use disorder, or CUD. These findings were recently published in *Addictive Behaviors* by MUSC researcher Rachel Tomko, Ph.D., and former psychology intern Christal Davis, Ph.D., who is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as other MUSC colleagues and collaborators at the University of Florida and the University of Colorado. Tomko and Davis also explored whether the...

How genes work together to shape how much you smoke

Take a puff of nicotine for the first time, and your DNA plays an important role, alongside social and environmental factors, in shaping what happens next. In recent years, scientists have identified thousands of genetic variants believed to influence everything from when people first try smoking to how good that first cigarette feels to how often they light up and how hard it is to quit. Some variants influence how quickly we metabolize nicotine, while others underlie how sensitive we are to it. But little is known about how they interact with each other and with other genetic differences. A new University of...

Study suggests that estrogen may drive nicotine addiction in women

A newly discovered feedback loop involving estrogen may explain why women might become dependent on nicotine more quickly and with less nicotine exposure than men. The research could lead to new treatments for women who are having trouble quitting nicotine-containing products such as cigarettes. Sally Paus is a doctoral student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in Lexington. She led the project. "Studies show that women have a higher propensity to develop addiction to nicotine than men and are less successful at quitting," said Paus, who is working under the supervision of Terry...

Study uncovers the hidden dangers of secondhand vape exposure to children

In homes across America, an invisible threat may be lurking—one that could affect the health of our youngest and most vulnerable. Recent findings presented this month at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners conference in Denver shed light on the often-overlooked danger of secondhand e-cigarette vapor, particularly its impact on children. For years, electronic cigarettes have been marketed as a safer alternative to traditional smoking. However, as these devices gain popularity among adults, there is growing concern over the unintended consequences for children exposed to the exhaled...

Rural Americans are going without meds to fight opioid, alcohol addictions

Less than 9% of rural Americans who abuse both opioids and alcohol are prescribed medications to treat both disorders, new research reveals. Naltrexone treats both

opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder. Other drugs such as buprenorphine, acamprosate or disulfiram treat one or the other. And researchers who reviewed medical records of close to 1,900 adults who visited a rural primary care provider between October 2019 and January 2021 found that most with a dual diagnosis were being treated for only one disorder, not both. The new study findings published in Journal of Substance Use...

Study examines facilities' low use of monthly injections for treating opioid addiction

Compared to taking a daily pill, a monthly dose of long-acting injectable (LAI) buprenorphine can be a simpler and more effective treatment for people with opioid use disorder. But do substance use treatment facilities in the United States take advantage of this highly effective medication? To answer that question, researchers from the University of Chicago spent nearly a year analyzing data from the National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey. They found that only 32.6% of substance use treatment facilities that offered medications for opioid use disorder offered LAI buprenorphine to...

Switzerland had a drug overdose crisis. Then it made methadone easy to get

ZURICH — The lobby of this addiction clinic is unremarkable, really, except for the network of metal chutes and tubes that hug the walls as they snake downward from a pharmacy on the upper floors. Every few minutes, a new prescription comes clattering down, delivering a bottle full of powerful and effective pills used to treat opioid addiction to a waiting patient at the front desk. Sometimes, it's methadone. Other patients prefer slow-release morphine. In rare cases, for those at high risk of overdose or infectious disease, this clinic even prescribes pharmaceutical-grade heroin. This scene is typical of a Monday afternoon...

Crackdown on illicit drugs detects rise in 'designer' drug substitutes

As authorities crack down on illicit drugs, University of South Australia experts have issued an alert on the use of the synthetic stimulant pentylone, as new research finds a 75% increase in detections across Australia. In a new study as part of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, researchers identified 20 different novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in wastewater treatment plants across Australia (between Feb 22-23) with pentylone detected at every collection site. Other NPS, eutylone, and phenibut were also commonly detected. Pentylone...

RaDPi-U: Fast and convenient drug screening with urine samples

Drugs, both legal and illegal, cause millions of cases of severe intoxication every year, leading to health complications and even fatalities. Often, they are also implicated in violent and sexual harassment crimes, as well as accidents. Obtaining detailed information about the drugs consumed by a criminal or victim is often challenging. Forensic professionals rely on drug screening techniques performed

on biological samples, such as blood or saliva, to gather crucial evidence. Today, various types of practical drug screening methods exist, each with their own unique advantages and drawbacks. For example...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-AA-24-007](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Specialized Alcohol Research Centers \(P50 Clinical trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AA-24-008](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Comprehensive Alcohol Research Centers \(P60 Clinical trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-019](#)

[Notice of Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinar for RFA-DA-25-060](#)

[RFA-NS-25-012](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Studies to Enable Analgesic Discovery \(R61/R33 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-OD-24-079](#)

[Notice of Special Interest: Womens Health Research](#)

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 opportunity, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

Serious Emotional Disturbance Central to Psychological Foundation Research Awards

Deadline: April 24, 2024

The American Psychological Foundation invites applications for the John and Polly Sparks Early Career Grant for Psychologists Investigating Serious Emotional Disturbance. Grants of up to \$22,000 will be awarded to early-career psychologists conducting research in early intervention and treatment for serious emotional disturbance in children. Applicants must be early-career psychologists with a degree from an accredited university and no more than 10 years postdoctoral.

CAR Member New Publications

Impact of the Communities That HEAL Intervention on Buprenorphine-Waivered Practitioners and Buprenorphine Prescribing

Thomas J. Stopka, PhD, MHS; Denise C. Babineau, PhD; Erin B. Gibson, MPH; Charles E. Knott, MPA; Debbie M. Cheng, ScD; Jennifer Villani, PhD, MPH; Jonathan M. Wai, MD; Derek Blevins, MD; James L. David; Dawn A. Goddard-Eckrich, EdD; Michelle R. Lofwall, MD; Richard Massatti, PhD, MSW, MPH; Jolene DeFiore-Hyrmer, MPH; Michael S. Lyons, MD; Laura C. Fanucchi, MD, MPH; Daniel R. Harris, PhD; Jeffery Talbert, PhD; Lindsey Hammerslag, PhD; Devin Oller, MD; Raymond R. Balise, PhD; Daniel J. Feaster, PhD; William Soares, MD, MS; Gary A. Zarkin, PhD; LaShawn Glasgow, DrPH; Emmanuel Oga, MD, MPH; John McCarthy, MS; Lauren D'Costa, BS; Rouba Chahine, PhD; Steve Gomori, MS; Netrali Dalvi, MPH; Shikhar Shrestha, PhD; Chad Garner, MS; Aimee Shadwick, MA; Pamela Salsberry, PhD; Michael W. Konstan, MD; Bridget Freisthler, PhD; John Winhusen, PhD; Nabila El-Bassel, PhD; Jeffrey H. Samet, MD, MA, MPH; Sharon L. Walsh, PhD

JAMA Network Open

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.0132>

ABSTRACT

Importance: Buprenorphine significantly reduces opioid-related overdose mortality. From 2002 to 2022, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) required qualified practitioners to receive a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Agency to prescribe buprenorphine for treatment of opioid use disorder. During this period, waiver uptake among practitioners was modest; subsequent changes need to be examined.

Objective: To determine whether the Communities That HEAL (CTH) intervention increased the rate of practitioners with DATA 2000 waivers and buprenorphine prescribing.

Design, Setting, and Participants: This prespecified secondary analysis of the HEALing Communities Study, a multisite, 2-arm, parallel, community-level, cluster randomized, open, wait-list-controlled comparison clinical trial was designed to assess the effectiveness of the CTH intervention and was conducted between January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2023, in 67 communities in Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio, accounting for approximately 8.2 million adults. The participants in this trial were communities consisting of counties (n = 48) and municipalities (n = 19). Trial arm randomization was conducted using a covariate constrained randomization procedure stratified by state. Each state was balanced by community characteristics including urban/rural classification, fatal opioid overdose rate, and community population. Thirty-four communities were randomized to the intervention and 33 to wait-list control arms. Data analysis was conducted between March 20 and September 29, 2023, with a focus on the comparison period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Interventions: Waiver trainings and other educational trainings were offered or supported by the HEALing Communities Study research sites in each state to help build practitioner capacity.

Main Outcomes and Measures: The rate of practitioners with a DATA 2000 waiver (overall, and stratified by 30-, 100-, and 275-patient limits) per 100 000 adult residents aged 18 years or older during July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, were compared between the intervention and wait-list control communities. The rate of buprenorphine prescribing among those waived practitioners was also compared between the intervention and wait-list control communities. Intention-to-treat and per-protocol analyses were performed.

Results: A total of 8 166 963 individuals aged 18 years or older were residents of the 67 communities studied. There was no evidence of an effect of the CTH intervention on the adjusted rate of practitioners with a DATA 2000 waiver (adjusted relative rate [ARR], 1.04; 95% CI, 0.94-1.14) or the adjusted rate of practitioners with a DATA 2000 waiver who actively prescribed buprenorphine (ARR, 0.97; 95% CI, 0.86-1.10).

Conclusions and Relevance: In this randomized clinical trial, the CTH intervention was not associated with increases in the rate of practitioners with a DATA 2000 waiver or buprenorphine prescribing among those waived practitioners. Supporting practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine remains a critical yet challenging step in the continuum of care to treat opioid use disorder.

Trial Registration: ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: [NCT04111939](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04111939)

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