

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Year of Ozempic](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/2023-in-review/the-year-of-ozempic>

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**Tweet:** GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic may revolutionize healthcare in the US, especially for the economically disadvantaged. They offer notable weight loss benefits and, anecdotally, reduce cravings for alcohol and tobacco. @DhruvKhullar

**Summary:** GLP-1 produces all sorts of cascading effects; the human body has receptors for it not only in the gut but also in the liver, muscles, and brain. Studies keep turning up surprises: some of the medications appear to reduce the incidence of heart attacks and strokes, slow the progression of kidney disease, and shrink dangerous fat deposits in the liver. People who take them have reported diminished cravings for alcohol and tobacco; some have reported feeling less compelled to gamble, compulsively pick at their skin, and engage in other addictive behaviors. “It’s an unprecedented situation,” Christian Hendershot, a University of North Carolina clinical psychologist who is studying semaglutide’s effect on alcohol use, told me. “The anecdotal reports of people saying these drugs are helping them cut back on drinking or smoking have come much faster than our clinical studies can confirm.” Lizard venom helped to turn an obscure hormone into potent diabetes medications, and then into the most promising weight-loss treatments in history. We’re still discovering how much they’ll change our lives.

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**Primary Topic:** Innovation/Research

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