

ABOUT US

The Addiction Policy Forum (APF) is a diverse partnership of organizations and stakeholders committed to working together to implement a comprehensive response to addiction. We represent over 1,200 families impacted by substance use disorder who work to elevate awareness around addiction and to improve national policy.

OUR MISSION

We envision a world where fewer lives are lost and help exists for the millions of Americans affected by addiction every day.

Substance abuse has had a devastating impact on families nationwide -- 144 people per day die of drug overdoses. In 2014, 21.5 million people needed substance abuse treatment, but only 10% of them received it. **We can do better.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Overdose Interventions

- Screen all Emergency Departments patients for substance use disorder. Establish screening and assessment protocols and a cascade of care.

2. Resources for Families in Crisis

One of the biggest gaps in the substance use disorder community is the lack of resources and education when an individual or family is in crisis and in need of treatment and proper care.

- Create a public awareness campaign coupled with early intervention resources will equip families with tools to prevent substance use and connect them to resources to help their child when there's a problem.

3. Advance Treatment

- Educate providers, patients and their families on the nature of opioid addiction as a chronic, relapsing brain disorder and to reduce the stigma associated with evidence-based medication assisted treatment options
- Commission an Institute of Medicine report on how to restructure the SUD treatment system to address pervasive systemic issues (workforce shortages, billing models, lack of training, lack of credentialing, lack of coordination within general healthcare, etc.).
- Remove addiction from the IMD Exclusion
- Partner with medical schools to train clinicians to identify and treat SUDs.

4. Prevention

- Require schools to deliver evidence based prevention approaches
- Pilot program to implement and test Student Assistance Programs (SAP) in middle and high school settings.

5. Create Recovery-Ready Communities

- Expand funding and support for recovery programs and framework in each community.

6. Protect Children Impacted by Parental Substance Use

- Provide funding for programs to support children impacted by parental SUD.
- Provide education and assistance to foster parents and guardians caring for children impacted by addiction on coping skills and addiction prevention education.
- Create a Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) national child welfare intervention pilot.

7. Reframe the Criminal Justice Response to Addiction

- Expand the sequential intercept model, with evidence-based interventions at each point of the criminal justice system to intercept individuals with substance use disorders and place in treatment.