



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
Washington, D.C. 20503

## ONDCP Circular: National Drug Control Assessment

September 9, 2021

**TO: THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS**

**FROM: REGINA M. LABELLE, ACTING DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL ASSESSMENT**

1. **Purpose.** This circular provides guidance to National Drug Control Program agencies (NDCPA) on the information they are required to provide to the Office of National Drug Control Program (ONDCP) under 21 U.S.C. § 1705(g), related to the development of the annual *National Drug Control Assessment (Assessment)*. This includes information and guidance on the timing, process, and content of the *Assessment* and its relation to the Performance Measurement System.
2. **Rescission.** This circular rescinds and replaces the ONDCP Circular, National Drug Control Assessment, dated October 22, 2019.
3. **Authority.** *The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-271, dated October 24, 2018) requires ONDCP to produce a report for Congress assessing the contribution of agencies to accomplishing the goals of the *National Drug Control Strategy (Strategy)*. In relevant part, this law has been codified at 21 U.S.C. §§ 1701 *et seq.*
4. **Definitions.** As used in this circular, -
  - a. **National Drug Control Program** means, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 1701(10), “programs, policies, and activities undertaken by National Drug Control Program agencies pursuant to the responsibilities of such agencies under the National Drug Control Strategy, including any activities involving supply reduction, demand reduction, or State, local, and Tribal affairs.”
  - b. **National Drug Control Program agency** means any agency designated by the ONDCP Director as meeting the definition pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 1701(11), as an agency (or bureau, office, independent agency, board, division, commission, subdivision, unit, or other component thereof) that is responsible for implementing any aspect of the *Strategy*, including any agency that receives Federal funds to implement any aspect of the *Strategy*, but does not include any NDCPA that receives funds for drug control activity solely under the National Intelligence Program or the Joint Military Intelligence Program.

- c. **Bureau** means any component of an agency.
  - d. **Performance Review System (PRS) Report** describes the goals, objectives, and targets contained in the *Strategy* (as required by 21 U.S.C. § 1705(c)(1)).
  - e. **Performance Measurement System** (as identified in 21 U.S.C. § 1705(g)(3)(D)) includes, for the purposes of this circular, the goals, objectives, and targets reflected in the *Strategy* and the PRS, and any standardized output or outcome measure data reported by the NDCPA or bureau that helps describe the agency's or bureau's contribution to achieving a goal, objective, or target.
5. **Coverage.** The provisions of this circular apply to all NDCPAs in the Executive Branch as defined by ONDCP Circular, *Budget Formulation*, dated September 9, 2021, Section 4.b.
6. **Purpose of the Annual Drug Control Assessment.** The *Assessment* is intended to assess progress in achieving the *Strategy/PRS* goals and objectives for the most recently completed fiscal year (21 U.S.C. § 1705(g)(1)).
- a. The Assessment will be evaluation of each NDCPA's success in achieving the goals of the National Drug Control Strategy (21 U.S.C. § 1705(g)(2)), including progress with respect to—
    - (1) success in reducing domestic and foreign sources of illegal drugs
    - (2) success in expanding access to and increasing the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatment;
    - (3) success in protecting the borders of the United States (and in particular the Southwestern border of the United States) from penetration by illegal narcotics;
    - (4) success in reducing crime associated with drug use in the United States;
    - (5) success in reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug use in the United States;
    - (6) implementation of evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and prevention programs in the United States and improvements in the adequacy and effectiveness of such programs; and
    - (7) success in increasing the prevention of illicit drug use.
  - b. Given the broad range of efforts supported by the NDCPAs to achieve the goals, objectives, and targets of the *Strategy/PRS*, not every measure will be applicable to every agency.
  - c. Each program represented in the National Drug Control Budget shall have performance measure targets and results.

7. **Submission of the Annual Drug Control Assessment.** The head of each agency or bureau shall submit to the ONDCP Director an evaluation of progress by that agency or bureau toward achieving the goals of the *Strategy*.
  - a. The annual Drug Control Assessment shall include the following:
    - (1) **Mission.** A narrative description of the component(s) of NDCPAs included in the drug budget, summarizing the drug-related portion of its mission.
    - (2) **Relevant PRS Performance Measures.** The PRS presents the performance targets associated with specific performance measures that illustrate the policy priorities and the objectives of the *Strategy*. Each agency or bureau shall identify the PRS performance measures that may be impacted by the activities undertaken by the agency or bureau in support of the *Strategy*, and provide a narrative, including the evidence-based approaches used, to describe how the agency's work or priorities advance these goals.
    - (3) **Evaluation Plan and Performance Measures.** For each relevant PRS performance measure identified under Section 7.a.(2) of this circular, the *Assessment* shall present an evaluation of progress, based on the contributions of the agency or bureau, in achieving the goal. This shall include:
      - (A) A narrative summary that describes an agency or bureau's contributions to achieving the performance measures in support of the Administration's policy priorities and the *Strategy* identified above, identifies the programs, projects, or activities that contribute to achieving each goal identified, and provide a specific evaluation of whether the agency's applicable goals, objectives, and targets for the previous year were met (including an explanation if they were not met).
      - (B) A chart which displays the agency's annual outcome or output targets and results for the specific performance measures that are used to demonstrate how the programs, projects, or activities identified in Section 7.a.(2) contributed towards achieving the goals, objectives, and targets of the *Strategy*. This can be any standardized output or outcome measure data reported by the NDCPA.
      - (C) As applicable, a discussion of any identified changes in documented or reported agency performance measures, targets, and data since the previous *Assessment* submission.
  - b. **Due Date.** Agency or bureau *Assessments* shall be submitted to ONDCP no later than November 1 of each year (21 U.S.C. § 1705(g)(2)).
8. **ONDCP Point of Contact.** The point of contact for all matters referenced in this circular is the Performance Budget Coordinator at [performancebudgetcoordinator@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:performancebudgetcoordinator@ondcp.eop.gov).