

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



“You must be the
change you wish to
see in the world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi





5 Years of Service



About Us

Founded in 2015, the Addiction Policy Forum works in states and communities across the country to help patients and families in crisis; end addiction stigma; advance prevention; increase the uptake of evidence-based practices; and advance patient-led research.

The Addiction Policy Forum community is changing the way the world responds to addiction. A 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit, APF is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland and provides services are provided in 50 U.S. states.

Board of Directors

District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, Essex County, Massachusetts, **Board Chair**

Susan Thau, Prevention Policy and Advocacy

Blake Norton, Philadelphia Police Department's Chief Strategy Officer

Robert Rancourt, Minnesota District Court Judge

Our vision is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem.

Mission

We lead the fight against the deadly consequences of addiction and help patients, families, and communities affected by the disease.

The Addiction Policy Forum was created by families impacted by this disease. Founded in 2015, we are working in states and communities across the country to end stigma, help patients, and families in crisis, and translate the science around addiction.

Strategic Priorities

1

Help Patients and Families in Crisis

Provide new, effective resources and support for patients and families in crisis.

2

End Addiction Stigma

Address stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination associated with substance use disorders through education and advocacy.

3

Advance Prevention

Helping communities and families take steps to prevent addiction or find it at its earliest, most treatable stage.

4

Increase Uptake of Evidence-Based Practice

Address barriers to adoption of scientifically proven evidence and interventions around the prevention and treatment substance use disorders.

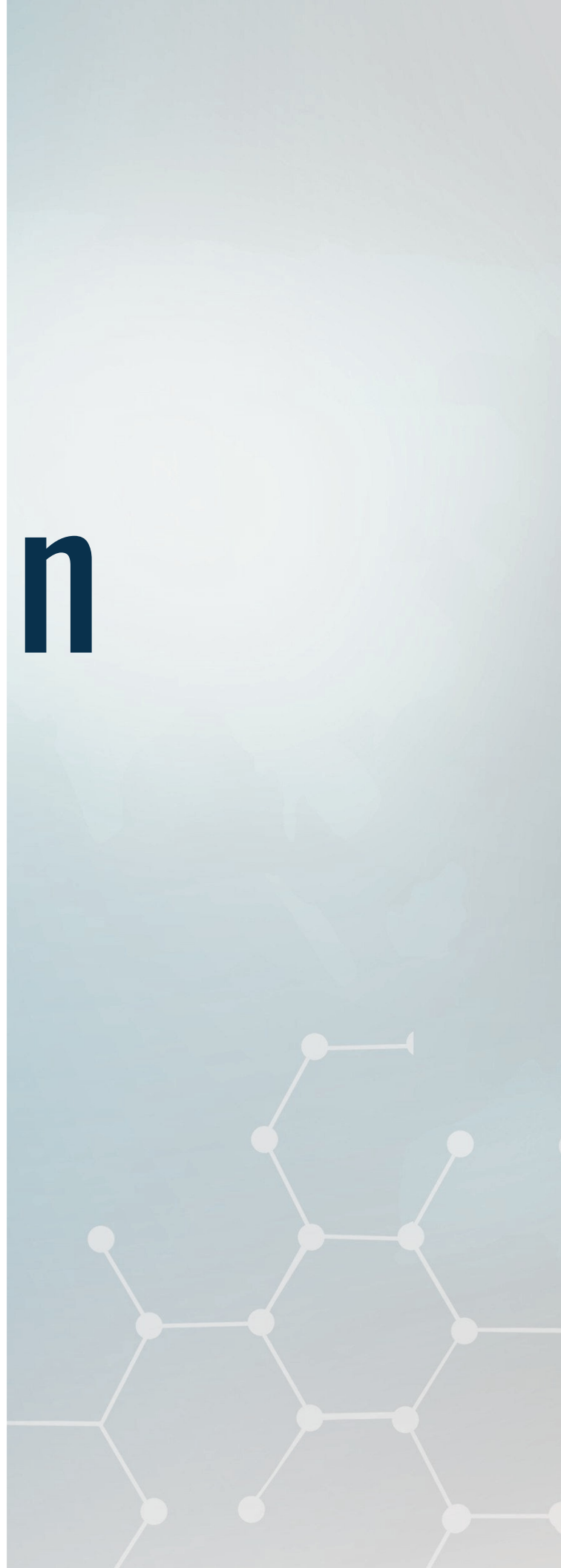
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Advance Research

Facilitate patient-led research and accelerate the translation of research findings to the SUD community.

3.2 million

patients, families, and practitioners
impacted -- and counting



Impact Overview



Stigma Initiative

2.9 million

APF is dedicated to **ending addiction stigma**, which prevents patients and families from engaging in needed services. To date, we have reached 2,956,724 individuals through our stigma initiative.



Prevention Projects

175,000

APF creates **audience-specific prevention materials, resources, and awareness campaigns** to prevent substance use disorder. To date, we have reached over 174,959 individuals through our prevention initiative.

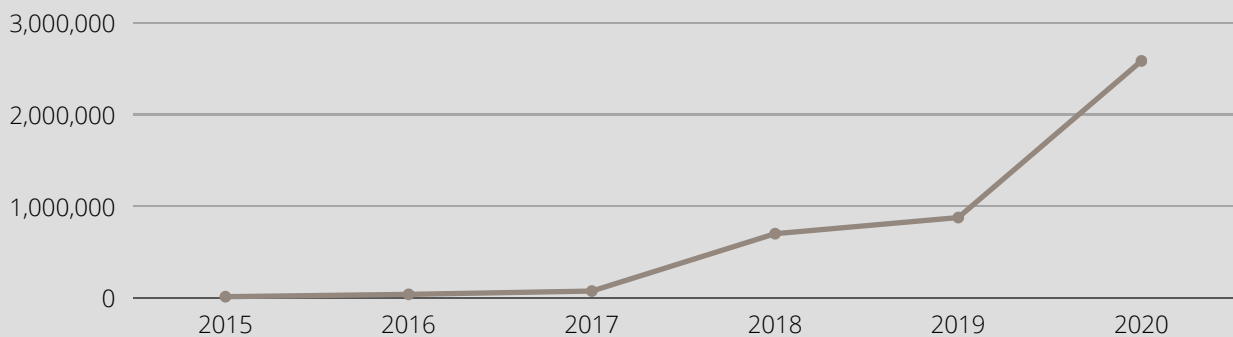


Crisis Services

126,000⁴

APF has provided **support and guidance** to 125,994 families, patients, key stakeholders, and healthcare providers from 2015 to 2021.

Lives Impacted



110 Countries



All 50
US States

Crisis Services

1



Helpline

Addiction Policy Forum's Alcohol and Drug Helpline helps patients and families in crisis navigate substance use disorder by connecting them with treatment resources. Our trained counselors provide evidence-based information, connection to local resources, and compassionate support.

2



Navigating Addiction

APF developed the Navigating Addiction program to help families navigate the complex world of addiction and help loved ones achieve recovery.

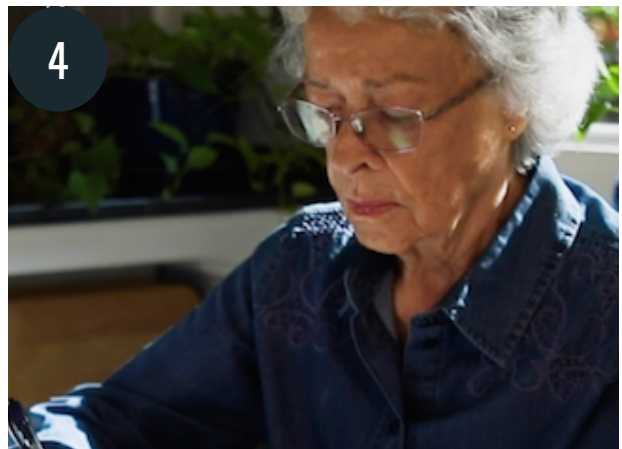
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Connections App

In March 2020, Addiction Policy Forum launched a free smartphone app to support patients in recovery by reducing relapse and promoting pro-social engagement. In clinical studies, Connections has been proven to reduce rates of relapse and heavy substance use.

4



A Message from Gramma PSA

APF released a national PSA on the risks of COVID-19 complications for individuals struggling with a substance use disorder and addiction called A Message from Gramma. In addition, APF released a national advisory advising high-risk individuals during the pandemic.

Stigma Initiative

APF's anti-stigma initiative projects include science translation, awareness campaigns, a stigma research portfolio, distribution of education materials and toolkits, community trainings, and deployment of a free, online addiction school.



Science Translation

APF creates content that **simplifies the science of addiction**. Our leading translation series include ADDICTION: Dispelling the Myths, Language Matters, What is Addiction, and the ABCs of Addiction.



Awareness Campaigns

APF creates **campaigns to address stigma and myths around addiction**, as well as advance prevention and treatment. Our campaigns include #StopOverdose, Stop the Stigma, Naloxone Awareness, and A Message from Gramma.



Education Toolkits

Our toolkits help educate communities on key topics from overdose reversal to prescription drug disposal.



Community Trainings

Community trainings are available in-person and virtually and bring the science of addiction and other key topics to your doorstep or computer screen.

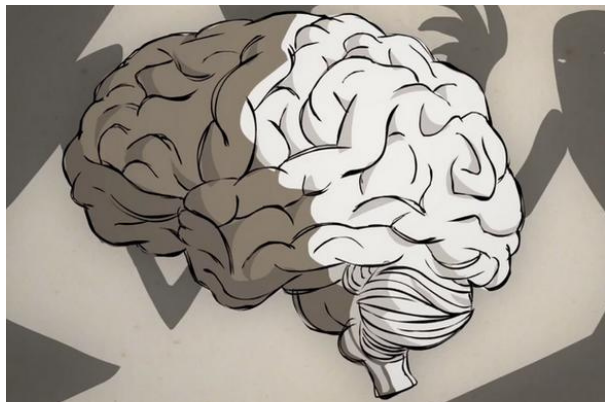


Addiction School

Our free, online school features courses on critical topics for patients, families, and practitioners.

Science Translation

APF translates scientific evidence about addiction into stories that patients and families struggling with addiction can understand.

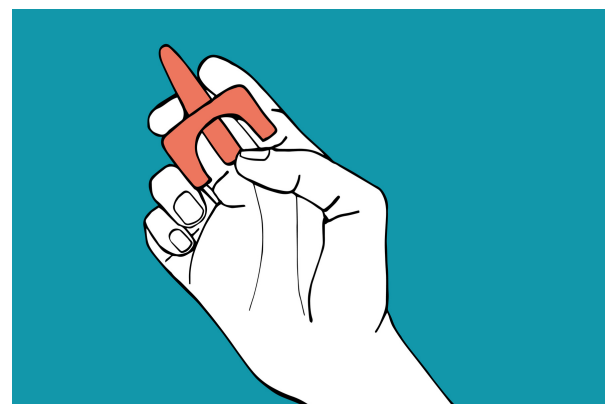


Addiction: Dispelling the Myths

The animated series aims to expand public understanding about addiction and replace the myths and misinformation that keep substance use disorders (SUDs) from being treated like any other medical condition.

ABCs of Addiction

In the “ABC’s of Addiction” provides information on prevention, treatment of substance use disorders, as well as the risk and protective factors associated with addiction.



What is Addiction?

The What is Addiction campaign and video explainer outlines the brain science of addiction. The project aims to address the stigma around addiction by explaining how substance use disorder is a health condition that affects two primary parts of the brain in an accessible manner.

Naloxone Facts

Naloxone Facts was developed in partnership with the University of Waterloo to help explain overdose reversal and how naloxone saves lives.

Prevention Projects



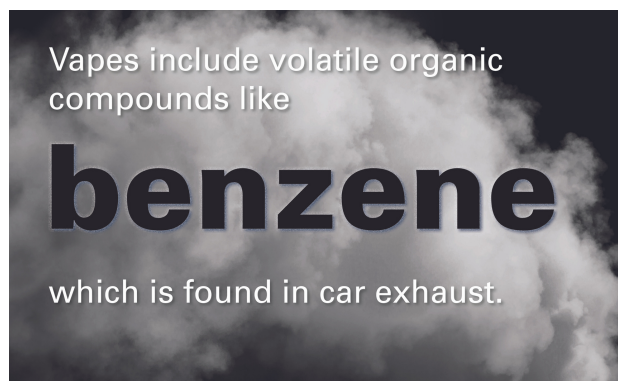
Opioid Prevention Campaign

The Opioid Prevention Campaign features information about opioids and guidance for parents and teachers on how to prevent opioid misuse. This evidence-based toolkit translates the science of addiction and provides critical prevention information on prevention.



10 Things Parents Can Do

The campaign for parent's and caregivers includes a toolkit and explainer video on prevention.



Vaping: Know the Facts

A free, open-source toolkit that explains the harms associated with adolescent vaping and empowers audiences with the tools to take action.



What is Prevention?

The campaign explains the fundamentals of evidence-based prevention strategies and seeks to empower everyone to play a role in preventing substance use --at home, at school, and throughout our communities.



Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

APF tackles the barriers to the adoption of scientifically proven evidence around the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders through targeted interventions.



Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network

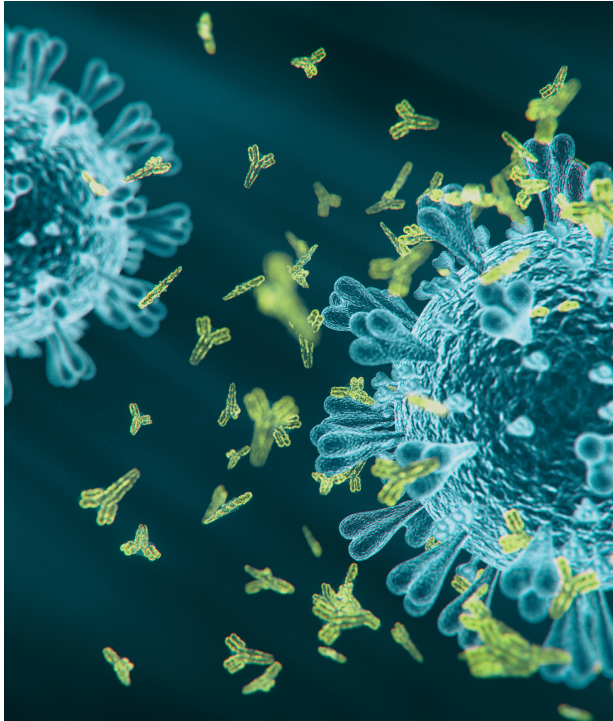
The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) initiative is led by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and funded through the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative. JCOIN is designed to advance scientific knowledge on effective policies, practices, and interventions to improve care for individuals that are justice-involved with opioid use disorder (OUD) and expand the use of these approaches into daily practice within health and justice settings.

The Addiction Policy Forum is part of JCOIN's Coordination and Translation Center and responsible for engagement with practitioners and other key stakeholders in the justice and behavioral health fields, the dissemination of products and key research findings, and translates promising interventions and approaches to improve the capacity of the justice system.

JCOIN grants were awarded to 13 clinical research centers ("Research Hubs"), that are studying evidence-informed approaches to ensure quality care is provided to individuals with opioid use disorder in justice settings, and two resource centers that conduct complementary studies and provide supportive infrastructure: the Coordination and Translation Center and the Methodology and Advanced Analytics Resource Center.

Research Initiatives

In 2020, APF conducts patient-led research on the effects of COVID-19 on the SUD population, trust in healthcare providers and vaccine readiness.



COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Patients, Families & Individuals in Recovery from a SUD

This report from the Addiction Policy Forum sheds light on the experiences of patients and impacted individuals on the emotional and health consequences of COVID-19, overdose rates, and barriers to safely accessing care during the pandemic. The report was supported in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Results show that:

- More than one in three (34%) of the 1,079 respondents reported changes or disruptions in accessing treatment or recovery support services.
- 14% reported they were unable to receive their needed services and 2% reported they were unable to access naloxone services.
- 24 % of respondents indicated that their/their family member's substance use has changed because of COVID-19, with 20 % reporting increased substance use.



Trust in Healthcare and COVID-19 Readiness Among Individuals with SUD

Addiction Policy Forum conducted interviews with a small sample of individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) and nearly half reported that they are hesitant to take a COVID-19 vaccine, despite research that indicates people with SUD face more severe outcomes from COVID-19 and a higher risk of contracting the SARS- CoV-2 virus. Results show that:

- Nearly half of participants reported that they are unwilling to take a vaccine for COVID-19.
- While respondents reported their trust in healthcare providers declined during the pandemic, they cited healthcare providers as still the most trusted sources of information used to inform their health decisions, followed by information shared by family members, and information reported from TV/newspapers.



info@addictionpolicy.org
addictionpolicy.org

office 301.769.5966
helpline 833.301.HELP