“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-- Margaret Mead
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.
824,000
patients, families, and practitioners impacted -- and counting
Impact Overview

Stigma Initiative

730,000
APF is dedicated to ending addiction stigma, which prevents patients and families from engaging in needed services. To date, we have reached 733,494 individuals through our stigma initiative.

Prevention Projects

48,000
APF creates audience-specific prevention materials, resources and awareness campaigns to prevent substance use disorder. To date, we have reached over 48,544 individuals through our prevention initiative.

Crisis Services

34,000
APF has provided crisis services and support to 34,501 families, patients, key stakeholders and healthcare providers.

Lives Impacted

2015
2016
2017
2018
0 250,000 500,000 750,000

Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

7,849 practitioners educated about proven policies and programs
34,000+ patients and families received crisis services
Peer Support Specialists

Our peer support specialists are a critical element to the crisis services provided to patients and caregivers. Research on the effectiveness of peer recovery support for individuals with SUD has found improved relationships with providers and social supports, reduced rates of relapse and increased treatment retention.

Treatment Provider Database

APF’s treatment provider database provides comprehensive, unbiased addiction resources mapped across the United States based on state and county. We utilize a comprehensive vetting and research processes with strict standard and criteria to vet the 56,351 treatment and recovery providers included in the database.

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.

Addiction A-Z

Our patient resources provides tools to help people in crisis such as resources on how to find treatment, how to help a loved one engage in treatment, how to talk to a doctor, and getting an assessment.
Anti-stigma projects delivered to
733,494 individuals worldwide
Stigma Initiative

Projects in APF's anti-stigma initiative 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 Rx Disposal, Naloxone Awareness and 174aDay.

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.
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

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 boils down the brain science of addiction. The project aims to tackle the stigma around addiction by explaining in easy to understand terms about how substance use disorder is a health condition that affects two primary parts of the brain.

Naloxone Facts

Naloxone Facts was developed in partnership with the University of Waterloo’s School of Pharmacy to help explain overdose reversal and how naloxone saves lives.
The #174aDay awareness campaign honors individuals lost to addiction -- parents, siblings, children, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.
48,544
reached through our prevention initiative
10 Things Parents Can Do

The campaign for parents and caregivers includes a toolkit and explainer video on prevention.

From the moment our children are born, keeping them safe is second nature: we hold them close as they get their first shots, teach them to look both ways before crossing the street, and help them develop healthy habits that will nurture them throughout their lives. We hear very little, though, during the critical early years about how to protect our kids from addiction, despite the fact that the disease tends to begin in adolescence.

“When prevention works, it is the only treatment that is 100% safe and effective. Families are front-and-center in successful prevention efforts.”

-Dr. Mark Gold, Addiction Psychiatrist and Professor, Washington University School of Medicine
7,489 practitioners have received resources on evidence-based practices
Emergency Medicine Initiative

Addiction Policy Forum partnered with the Yale School of Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to implement evidence-based interventions in Emergency Departments across the nation to reduce harm from opioids, support EDs with best practice interventions, collect data on and assess interventions.

The opioid epidemic has resulted in rapidly escalating utilization of health system inpatient and emergency medicine services. Between 2005 and 2014, the national rate of opioid-related Emergency Department (ED) visits increased 99.4 percent, and ED visits for suspected opioid overdoses increased 30 percent from July 2016 through September 2017.

Patients who have had a nonfatal overdose are at heightened risk for fatal overdose. Recognizing the critical need for ED interventions for patients with substance use disorder, the Addiction Policy Forum launched the Emergency Medicine Initiative to support health systems and patients. With the necessary protocols, assessment tools, and referral paths, a nonfatal overdose can become an intervening opportunity for connection with treatment and recovery.
The National Leadership Conference and gala brought together our network of patients, families and grassroots leaders from across the country to learn more about strategies to address addiction and recognize individuals who are fundamentally transforming the ways we address substance use disorder in our communities and across the nation.

General Barry McCaffrey provided the keynote address for the event. General McCaffrey served in the United States Army for 32 years and retired as a four-star General. For five years after leaving the military, General McCaffrey served as the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health, received Addiction Policy Forum’s Research Award. As a research psychiatrist, Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate how substance use affects brain functions. In particular, her studies have documented that changes in the dopamine system affect the functions of frontal brain regions involved with reward and self-control in addiction.

Dr. Volkow has published more than 800 peer-reviewed articles, written more than 100 book chapters, manuscripts and articles, co-edited “Neuroscience in the 21st Century” and edited four books on brain imaging for mental and addictive disorders.
Pillar of Excellence Awards

Addiction Policy Forum recognizes the following awardees with the 2018 Pillar of Excellence Awards.

Dr. Nora Volkow
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett
Essex Massachusetts

First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum
North Dakota

Amy Haskins
Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition, West Virginia

Chief Eric Guenther
Mundelein Police Department, Illinois

Vicky Cornell
Advocate of the Year