

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



"You have been assigned
this mountain so that you
can show others it can be
moved."

-- Mel Robbins

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**6 Years
of Service** >>>



About Us

Founded in 2015, the vision of the Addiction Policy Forum is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem. We work 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 solutions, and advance 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 services are provided in 50 U.S. states.

Leadership

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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

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

4

Evidence-Based Practice

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

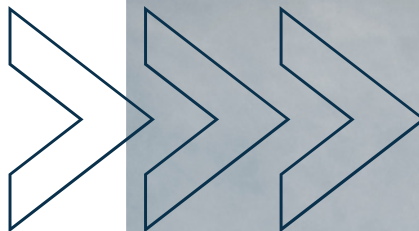
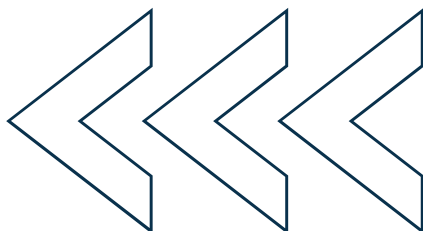
5

Advance Research

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

4.4 million

patients, families, and practitioners
impacted -- and counting



Impact Overview



Crisis Services

140,000

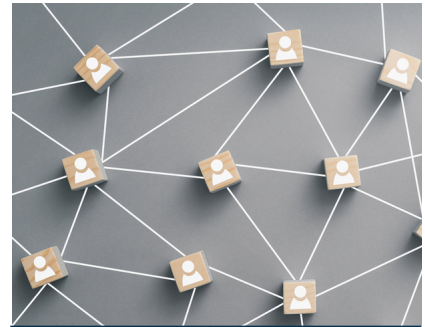
APF has provided **support and guidance** to 139,611 families, patients, key stakeholders and healthcare providers from 2015 to 2021.



Stigma Initiative

3.95 million

APF is dedicated to **ending addiction stigma**, which prevents patients and families from engaging in needed services. To date, we have reached 3,946,652 individuals through our stigma initiative.



Prevention Projects

317,000

APF creates **audience-specific prevention materials, resources and awareness campaigns** to prevent substance use disorder. To date, we have reached over 317,478 individuals.

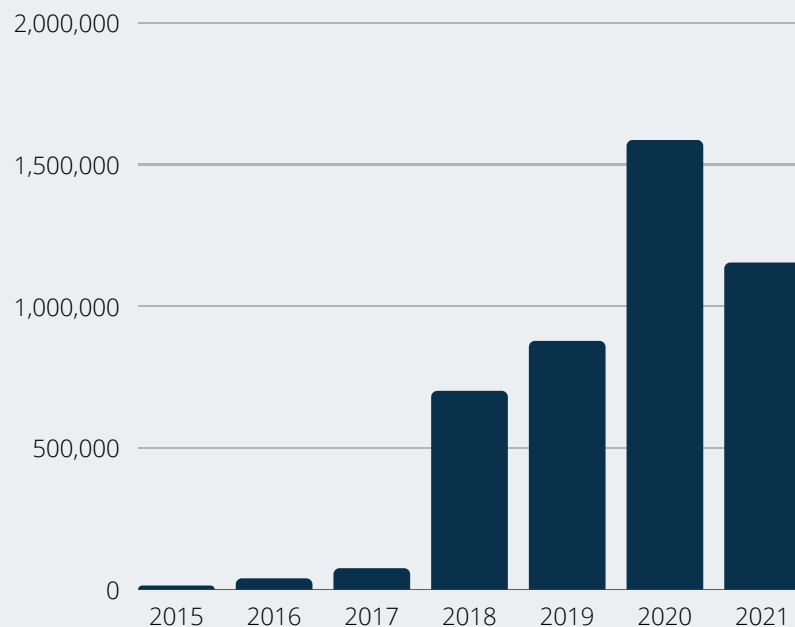


Evidence-Based Practice

33,115

APF has educated and trained over 30,000 practitioners about proven policies and programs to increase the uptake of evidence-based practices and programs to address addiction.

Lives Impacted



200 Countries



All 50
US States

Top 5 Countries Receiving Services

US



Canada



UK



Phillipines



India



Countries Served through APF Programs and Services

Andorra	Cuba	Iraq	Mauritius	Sierra Leone
United Arab Emirates	Curaçao	Iran	Maldives	Senegal
Afghanistan	Cyprus	Iceland	Malawi	Somalia
Antigua & Barbuda	Czechia	Italy	Mexico	Suriname
Anguilla	Germany	Jersey	Malaysia	South Sudan
Albania	Denmark	Jamaica	Mozambique	El Salvador
Armenia	Dominica	Jordan	Namibia	Sint Maarten
Angola	Dominican Republic	Japan	Niger	Eswatini
Argentina	Algeria	Kenya	Nigeria	Turks & Caicos Islands
American Samoa	Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan	Nicaragua	Togo
Austria	Estonia	Cambodia	Netherlands	Thailand
Australia	Egypt	St. Kitts & Nevis	Norway	Tajikistan
Aruba	Western Sahara	South Korea	Nepal	Turkmenistan
Azerbaijan	Spain	Kuwait	New Zealand	Tunisia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ethiopia	Cayman Islands	Oman	Turkey
Barbados	Finland	Kazakhstan	Panama	Trinidad & Tobago
Bangladesh	Fiji	Laos	Peru	Taiwan
Belgium	Faroe Islands	Lebanon	French Polynesia	Tanzania
Burkina Faso	France	St. Lucia	Papua New Guinea	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Gabon	Sri Lanka	Philippines	Uganda
Bahrain	United Kingdom	Liberia	Pakistan	United States
Burundi	Grenada	Lesotho	Poland	Uruguay
Benin	Georgia	Lithuania	Puerto Rico	Uzbekistan
Bermuda	French Guiana	Luxembourg	Palestine	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Brunei	Guernsey	Latvia	Portugal	Venezuela
Bolivia	Ghana	Libya	Palau	British Virgin Islands
Brazil	Gibraltar	Morocco	Paraguay	U.S. Virgin Islands
Bahamas	Gambia	Monaco	Qatar	Vietnam
Bhutan	Guinea	Moldova	Réunion	Kosovo
Botswana	Greece	Montenegro	Romania	Yemen
Belarus	Guatemala	St. Martin	Serbia	South Africa
Belize	Guam	Madagascar	Russia	Zambia
Canada	Guyana	Marshall Islands	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Congo - Kinshasa	Hong Kong	North Macedonia	Saudi Arabia	
Switzerland	Honduras	Mali	Solomon Islands	
Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia	Myanmar (Burma)	Seychelles	
Chile	Haiti	Mongolia	Sudan	
Cameroon	Hungary	Macao	Sweden	
China	Indonesia	Northern Mariana Islands	Singapore	
Colombia	Ireland	Martinique	Slovenia	
Costa Rica	Israel	Mauritania	Slovakia	
	India	Malta		

Crisis Services

139,000+

patients and families
received crisis services



Crisis Services

APF provided support and guidance to 139,611 families and patients over the last six years.



Helpline

Calls and texts to APF's helpline come in from professionals, loved ones of someone with a substance use disorder, people in recovery, and people struggling with their substance use are answered by social workers and peer support specialists.



Digital Therapeutics

Individuals in recovery rely on APF's smartphone app for digital recovery services and an online therapeutic community. In 2020, telehealth services were expanded to justice-involved individuals with a substance use disorder.



enCompass

enCompass: A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction is a resource for family members who are trying to navigate the complex world of addiction and help loved ones achieve recovery.



Navigating Addiction Guide

APF developed Navigating Addiction for family members and other concerned significant others. This free resource guide and toolkit is grounded in science and explains substance use disorders, treatment options, self-care and important tools to improve confidence and knowledge in how to respond to addiction.



enCompass:

A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction

enCompass: A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction is a resource for family members who are trying to navigate the complex world of addiction and help loved ones achieve recovery. The training includes in-depth information about substance use disorders, treatment options, communication strategies, and self-care tips. This training was created by the Addiction Policy Forum.

Like CPR training, the 8-hour course is designed to build the skills to support and respond to someone who needs help and teaches participants how to navigate and access the resources that are available in their community. In addition, by building addiction knowledge, the training can also help to reduce stigma around substance use disorders.

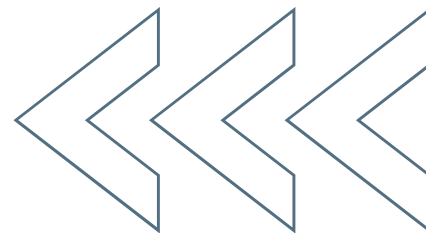
What participants learn

- Signs and Symptoms of Addiction
- How to Start the Conversation
- Getting an Assessment and Treatment Options
- How to Set Healthy Boundaries
- Recovery Support
- Medications to Treat Addiction

Who should get trained?

- Families, Friends & Caregivers
- Clergy
- Law Enforcement & First Responders
- Employers
- Educators
- Community-Based Service Providers

enCompass: Ohio Pilot Study

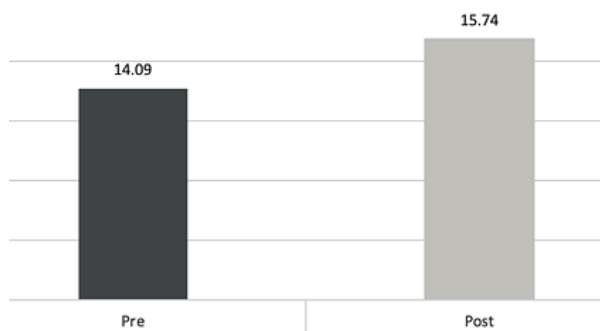


Ohio enCompass Pilot

In 2021, the Addiction Policy Forum, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and RecoveryOhio Initiative partnered to deploy the enCompass training program to more than 1,600 Ohioans. Locations were selected to prioritize the top 23 counties in Ohio that experience 80% of the overdoses in the state and coordinated with Ohio's county-operated, state supervised behavioral health system made up of area behavioral health authorities.

The evaluation of the Ohio enCompass initiative was conducted by the University of Delaware. Preliminary results from the first cohort of training sites included 312 pre- and post-matched participants. The evaluation measured addiction knowledge, confidence in how to respond to a substance use disorder (SUD), and levels of stigma, including stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination.

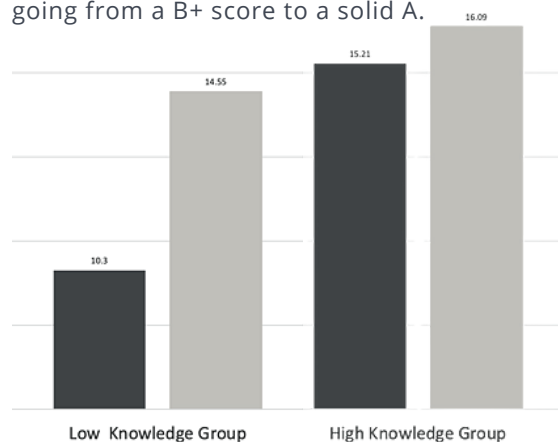
Increased Addiction Knowledge Overall



Data shows that knowledge improved from the pre- to the post-test – with participants recording an average of 14 out of 17 of the items on the pre-test correct, and an average of 15.74 on the post-test correct. The University of Delaware created a 17-point scale to measure knowledge of substance use disorders. Scores include how many items participants got correct of the 17 total, with higher scores indicate more knowledge. Participants were invited to complete surveys before and after they participated in the enCompass training.

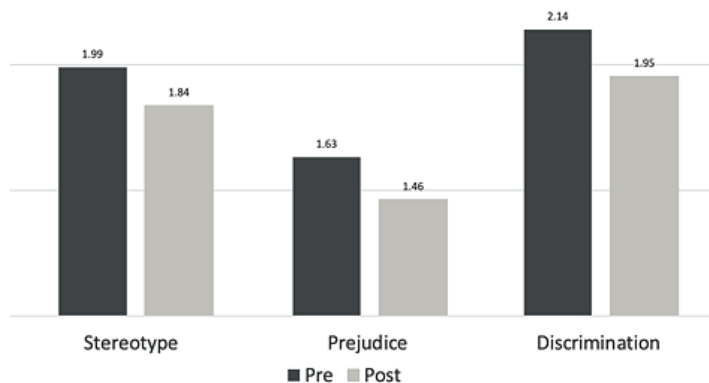
Significant Improvements for Participants with Lower Knowledge Scores

Twenty-five percent of the sample consisted of individuals who scored a 12 and below on the addiction knowledge pre-test. For this lower knowledge group, knowledge scores increased from 10.3 items, or 59 percent correct in the pre-test, to 14.5 items, or 85 percent correct in the post-test. This improvement would equate to going from a failing grade to a solid B. The medium and high knowledge groups showed smaller gains after the intervention – going from a B+ score to a solid A.

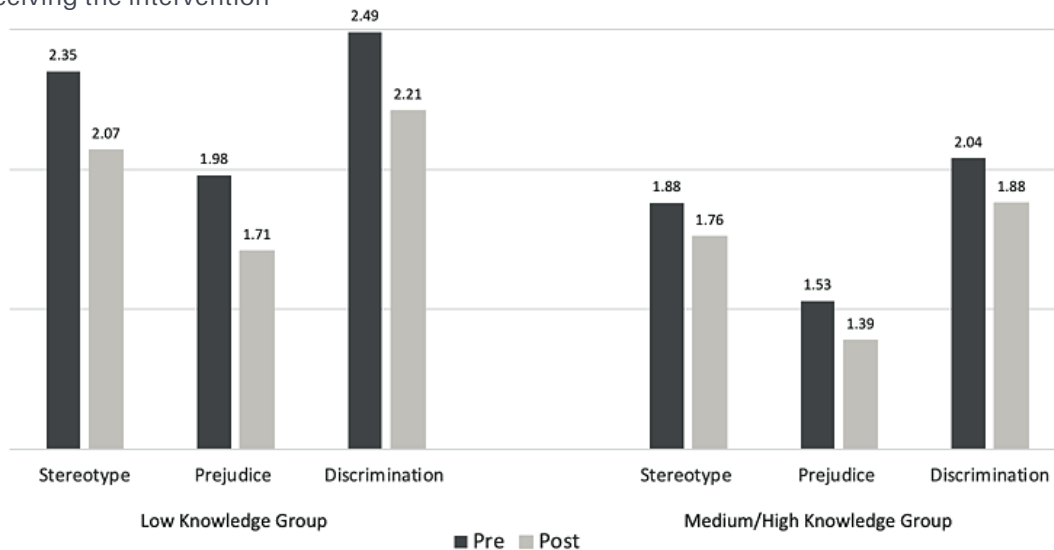


Reductions in Stigma

Manifestations of stigma -- including stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination -- reduced from pre to post test. Previously validated scales were utilized for the stigma constructs and participants generally indicated how much they agreed or disagreed with stigma items on 1 to 5 point scales. Higher scores indicate more stigma.



When examining differences in stigma among the low knowledge 25% of the sample, and the medium to high knowledge 75% of the sample, the data show that stigma is higher among the low knowledge group overall. While each stigma manifestation goes down in both groups, the low knowledge group shows a bigger change after receiving the intervention



Conclusion

In summary, the pilot evaluation showed that knowledge about addiction increased across the board for all enCompass participants, with the greatest improvement among people that entered the training knowing the least about addiction. Stigma decreased across the board for all participants, with the greatest decrease among participants with lower knowledge scores on addiction.

Key Partners



Demographics

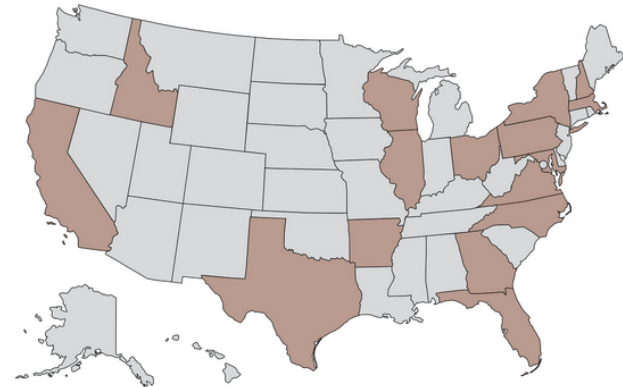
Evaluation Participants	312
Gender Identity	
Female	81%
Male	19%
Age	
18 - 29	12%
30 - 44	40%
45 - 59	32%
60+	16%
Race/Ethnicity	
Black/African American	12%
White/Non-Hispanic	81%
Education	
High School Degree	7%
Some College or Technical School	18%
College Degree (AA, BA, etc)	48%
Graduate Education	27%

Telehealth Support for Justice-Involved Patients


The COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for those struggling with addiction. Justice-involved patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) are particularly at-risk, and COVID-19 presented further challenges and disruptions in care. The continuous stress, changes to program and recovery support availability, and isolation during the pandemic resulted in increases in relapses and overdoses nationwide.

Justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders are a high-risk subset of the SUD population. To alleviate the sudden disconnect from treatment and recovery services, and to counteract the isolation caused by the COVID-19-related shutdowns for justice-involved populations, APF partnered with 21 criminal justice agencies across 16 states to provide telehealth recovery services to 639 justice-involved individuals.


The project was made possible through support from the FORE Foundation. A grant from the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN), part of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, provided support for research and analysis of program and implementation outcomes for the intervention.




APF provided an evidence-based smartphone app for recovery support; CBT4CBT, a digital therapeutics platform that delivers cognitive behavioral therapy; online support groups, peer/social worker sessions and case coordination with the referring justice agency.




Digital Therapeutics




Recovery Services




Case Coordination



Peer Support Sessions



Weekly Forums



Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Outcomes

Participants reported improved protective factors, including participation in work (7.25%), spiritual activities (6.14%), increased confidence in recovery (2.67%), support group meeting attendance (1.52%), and increased time with supportive people (.2%). Risk factors were also reduced, with reductions in relationship troubles (24.08%), difficulty sleeping (20.21%), reduced depression and anxiety (17.97%), reduced urges and cravings (12.08%), and reduced risky situations (4.65%).

Improved Protective Factors

Improved Participation in Work, School,	7.25%
Increased Participation in Spiritual Activities	6.14%
Increased Participation in Support Groups	1.52%
Increased Time with Supportive People	.2%

Reduced Risk Factors

Reductions in Relationship Troubles	24.08%
Reduction in Difficulty Sleeping	20.21
Reductions in Depression/Anxiety	17.97%
Reductions in Urges/Cravings	12.08%
Reductions in Risky Situations	4.65%

The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of stylized human figures. Most of these figures are light blue with dashed outlines, giving them a paper-cut or stencil-like appearance. They are scattered across the frame in various orientations. In the center of the image, one figure stands out as a solid, vibrant blue color. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo consisting of three white, nested, upward-pointing chevrons or triangles.

Stigma Initiative

Anti-stigma projects delivered to
3.9 million
individuals worldwide



Stigma Initiative

Projects in APF's anti-stigma initiative include science translation, awareness campaigns, a stigma research portfolio, distribution of educational materials and toolkits, community trainings and deployment of a free, online addiction school. To date, we have taken anti-stigma projects to 3,946,652 individuals worldwide.



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.



Stigma Research

APF's stigma research initiatives **measure manifestations of stigma** in the community, including stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, to raise awareness and establish metrics and goals for stigma reduction efforts.



Education Toolkits

Our toolkits help educate communities on key topics from overdose reversal, the science of addiction, 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.



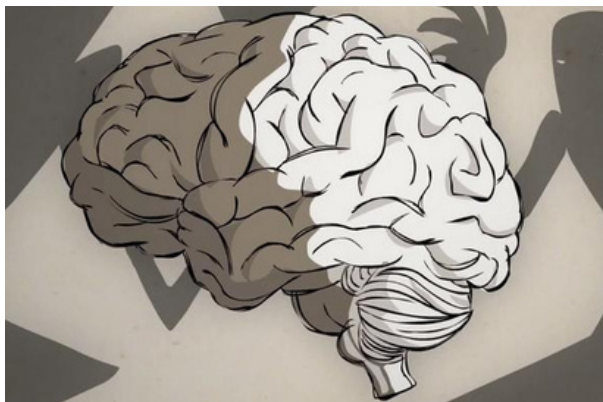
Risks for Justice-Involved Individuals

There are many opportunities to respond to opioid addiction in the criminal justice system, with medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) being the gold standard for treatment.



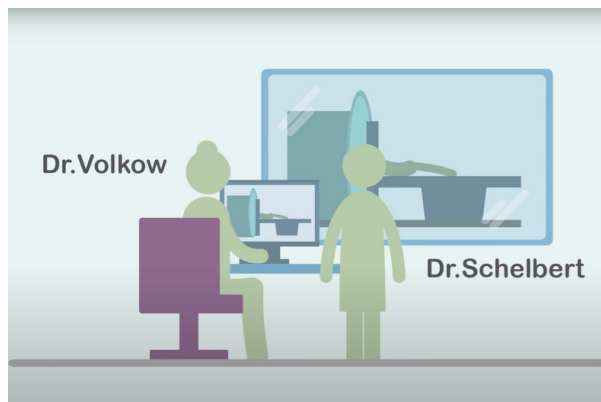
ABCs of Addiction

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.



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.



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.

Awareness Campaigns

APF is dedicated to building public visibility and awareness around prevention, early intervention and treatment of substance use disorders, as well as increased support for patients and families impacted.



Stop Overdose

The Stop Overdose campaign gives families and friends a national platform to share their stories of loved ones lost while also increasing public awareness of the opioid epidemic.



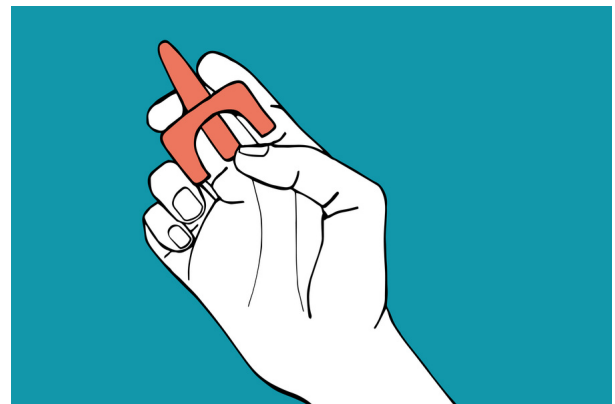
Stop the Stigma

The Stop the Stigma campaign addresses the stigma and discrimination that people with substance use disorders face and solutions to deconstruct stigma.



A Message from Gramma

The public service announcement 'A Message from Gramma' provides important information to individuals with a substance use disorder about their risk of COVID-19 complications.



Naloxone Facts

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

Stop Overdose Campaign

The number of drug overdose deaths has quintupled since 1999. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 107,622 overdose deaths in 2021, the highest annual death toll on record from drug overdose fatalities, and a 15 percent increase from the year prior. Fentanyl was involved in the majority overdose fatalities.

#StopOverdose is an awareness campaign to honor the individuals who die each day from a substance use disorder: parents, siblings, children, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.

STOP OVERDOSE



Sean O.



Tristan T.



Dillan and Matthew B.



Courtney

WE REMEMBER

We can change this national epidemic. Find resources and ways to get involved at stop-overdose.org

Prevention Initiative

317,000

reached through
prevention and education projects



Prevention Projects



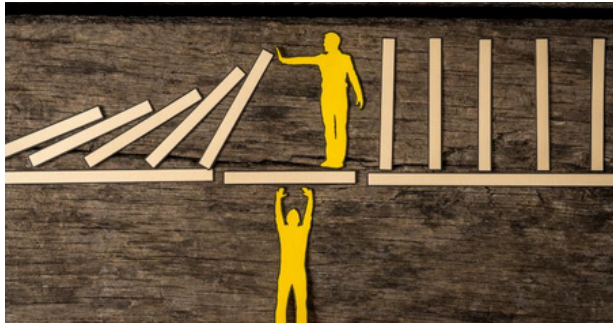
Helping Children Impacted by Parental Substance Use Disorder

The toolkit is designed for adults who come into contact with children impacted by a parent's addiction and provides information about how to help.



La Campaña de Prevención de Opioides

The Spanish language campaign helps prevent adolescent substance use for LatinX communities.



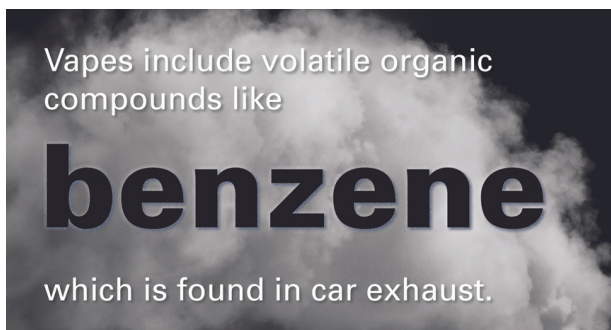
Opioid Prevention Campaign

The Opioid Prevention Campaign is a public health media campaign to help prevent adolescent substance use.



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 nuts and bolts of evidence-based prevention and seeks to empower everyone to play a role—at home, at school, and throughout our communities.

La Campaña de Prevención de Opioides

Given recent increases in overdose deaths among LatinX communities and the dire need for evidence-based, culturally appropriate prevention resources, Addiction Policy Forum created the Opioid Prevention Campaign for LatinX communities. Prevention content is provided in both English and Spanish, and features primary prevention, early intervention, and educational resources, ensuring that the important lessons taught in the Opioid Prevention Campaign are accessible to Spanish-speaking communities.

With this resource, LatinX communities can leverage the science of substance use disorders and integrate prevention efforts into communications with younger members of their community. Campaign resources include video explainers, activity and discussion templates, fact sheets, infographics and social media resources for parents and educators that translates what science says about preventing youth opioid misuse.

This campaign was made possible through funding from the AmerisourceBergen Foundation.



"La Campaña de Prevención de Opioides es una campaña de salud pública en los medios de comunicación para ayudar a prevenir el uso de sustancias en los adolescentes."



Helping Children Impacted by Parental Substance Use Disorder

A Resource for Adults Helping Children Affected by Parental Substance Use Disorder

In the U.S., over 8 million children have at least one parent with a SUD. Children who have a parent with a SUD are more likely to see and hear more fighting, witness more crime, suffer more from poverty, and lose more stable relationships with caring adults. The resulting trauma can last a lifetime, harming physical health, academic performance, employment status, and relationship formation. It also puts children at an increased risk for developing mental health and substance use disorders.

There are many effective ways for adults to respond to children impacted by parental addiction and begin the process of helping them on a better path. There are also innovative programs and services available to help. Healing from trauma takes time, but the support of a caring adult can make an important difference.

Developed in coordination with Warren County, Ohio, *Helping Children Impacted by Parental Substance Use Disorder* is designed for adults who come into contact with children impacted by a parent's addiction and provides information about how to help. It is meant for anyone—teachers, coaches, pastors, relatives, friends, neighbors.

The toolkit offers resources for understanding adverse childhood events, what to look for if you suspect a child might have a parent with a substance use disorder, what you can do to help, and more.



THE 7 CS

• I DIDN'T CAUSE IT •

*I Can't
Control It*

I CAN'T CURE IT

*But I Can Help Take Care of Myself by
Communicating My Feelings*

MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES

and Celebrating Me



Evidence-Based Practice

33,115

practitioners have received resources
on evidence-based practices

Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

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



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.



Innovation Now

Innovation Now recognizes innovators and leaders creating solutions and driving change across different sectors addressing addiction--prevention, treatment, recovery, child welfare, criminal justice, law enforcement and medicine.



Emergency Medicine Initiative

Providing resources, training and technical assistance on substance use disorders to 196 Emergency Departments in partnership with Yale School of Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Engaging Key Practitioners

APF develops customized content for practitioners and key stakeholders.



Prosecutors

In partnership with the National District Attorneys Association, developed the following projects:

- Understanding Overdose Risk and Medication Efficacy e-Course
- District Attorneys Addressing Addiction



Judicial Leaders

In partnership with the National Center for State Courts, developed the following projects:

- MAT Course for Judicial Leaders e-Course
- Addressing the Stigma Around Substance Use Disorder



Corrections

In partnership with the Correctional Leaders Association, developed the following projects:

- MAT Course for Corrections Leaders
- Understanding Stigma



State Governments

In partnership with the National Center for State Courts, developed the following projects:

- MAT Course for Judicial Leaders e-Course
- Addressing the Stigma Around Substance Use Disorder



Physicians

In partnership with Yale School of Medicine, training and technical assistance on SUD provided to 196 Emergency Departments. In partnership with CME Outfitters, APF also assisted with free continuing medical education course on opioid use disorder for physicians.



Child and Family Services

In partnership with the National Association for Children of Addiction, developed the following projects:

- Medications for Addiction Treatment
- Addressing the Stigma Around Substance Use Disorder

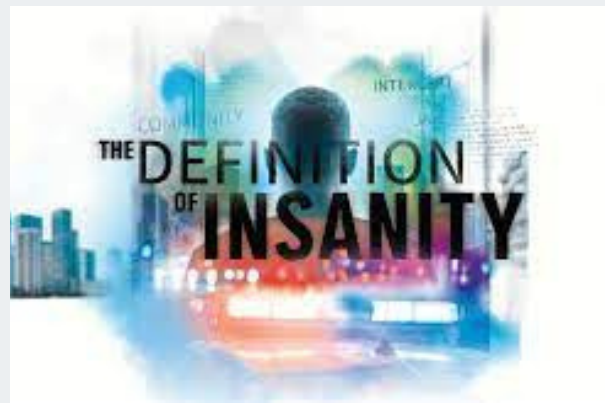
Conferences, Trainings and Events

APF organizes conferences, community trainings, webinars and other events to engage practitioners, policymakers, families and patients.



Addiction and COVID-19: A Conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Nora Volkow

On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, the Addiction Policy Forum hosted a webinar with Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), about the intersection of the disease of addiction and the COVID-19 pandemic.



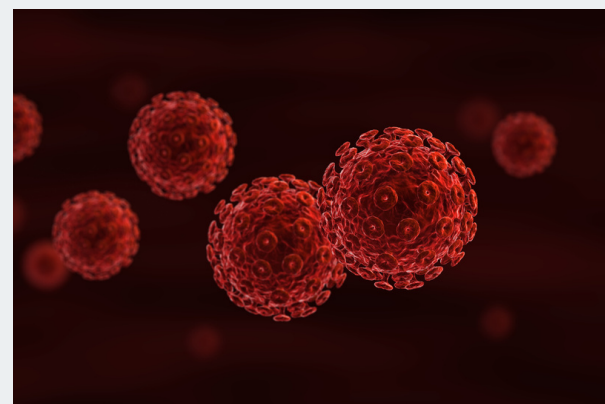
The Definition of Insanity: Virtual Film Screening and Panel Discussion

On Thursday, May 20, 2021 held a special exploration of the PBS documentary The Definition of Insanity, which explored Miami-Dade's humane and effective approach to individuals with mental health and substance use disorder. Speakers included Judge Steven Leifman, Dr. Norm Ornstein, filmmaker Rob Reiner and Dr. Stephanie Le Melle.



JCOIN Speaker Series: Reentry Research

The risk of overdose death significantly increases during the first two weeks during entry into the community. In this webinar, presenters will discuss the latest research, science and innovation around mitigating risk during reentry for people with opioid use disorders. Topics covered will include medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), behavioral interventions, and establishing linkages to community-based support services.



The Role of Syringe Service Programs in Ending HIV and HCV

The escalating opioid epidemic has increased injection drug use, which has contributed to the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and other infectious diseases. Decades of research demonstrates SSPs are a key component to combat the opioid epidemic, prevent the spread of infectious diseases, save costs, and control outbreaks in vulnerable communities.



2021 | NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The National Leadership Conference, held on November 4 - 5, 2021, gathered Addiction Policy Forum's network of patients, families and grassroots leaders from across the country together for two days to build attendees' leadership skills and knowledge around the latest science, innovations and strategies to address addiction. In addition to raising awareness through panels and presentations, the conference served as an opportunity for Addiction Policy Forum to recognize individuals who are fundamentally transforming the ways we address substance use disorder in our communities and across the nation.

Featured Speakers



**GENERAL BARRY
MCCAFFREY**

Retired, Four Star General,
United States Army



DR. NORA VOLKOW

Director, National Institute
on Drug Abuse (NIDA)



DR. GEORGE KOOB

Director, National Institute
on Alcohol Abuse and
Alcoholism (NIAAA)



SEAN FEARN

Chief, Community Outreach Section, Office of
Congressional & Public Affairs, Drug
Enforcement Administration



ALISHA NELSON

Director,
RecoveryOhio



**DR. VALERIE
EARNSHAW**

Associate Professor,
University of Delaware

Pillar of Excellence Awards

Addiction Policy Forum recognizes the following awardees with the 2021 Pillar of Excellence Awards.

Research



DR. NABILA EL-BASSEL

Columbia University

Dr. Nabila El-Bassel is a Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work. She has designed and tested a number of multi-level HIV and drug use intervention and prevention models for women, men, and couples in settings including drug treatment and harm reduction programs, primary care, and criminal justice settings.

Treatment



DR. JAMES BERRY

West Virginia University School of Medicine

Dr. James H. Berry is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at West Virginia University School of Medicine and the Director of Addictions. Dr. Berry has been a dedicated clinician and enthusiastic educator in West Virginia since the early days of the opioid epidemic, developing innovative community-based treatment models in response to the addiction crisis in Appalachia.

Justice



CHIEF JUSTICE LORETTA RUSH

Indiana Supreme Court

Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush serves on Indiana's Supreme after being appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2012. She was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction and is a National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness Executive Committee member.

Public Health



DR. LEANA WEN

George Washington University
Milken Institute School of Public Health

Dr. Leana Wen is an emergency physician and visiting professor of health policy and management at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Previously, she served as health commissioner for the city of Baltimore, where she led the nation's oldest continuously operating health department to combat the opioid epidemic and improve maternal and child health.

Recovery



CATRA CORBETT

Ultra Runner, Author

Catra Corbett strength in sharing her recovery story is inspiring many others to find alternative ways to combat a substance use disorder, showing how running can lead to positive personal growth and help those struggling with their mental health or a substance use disorder.

Children & Families

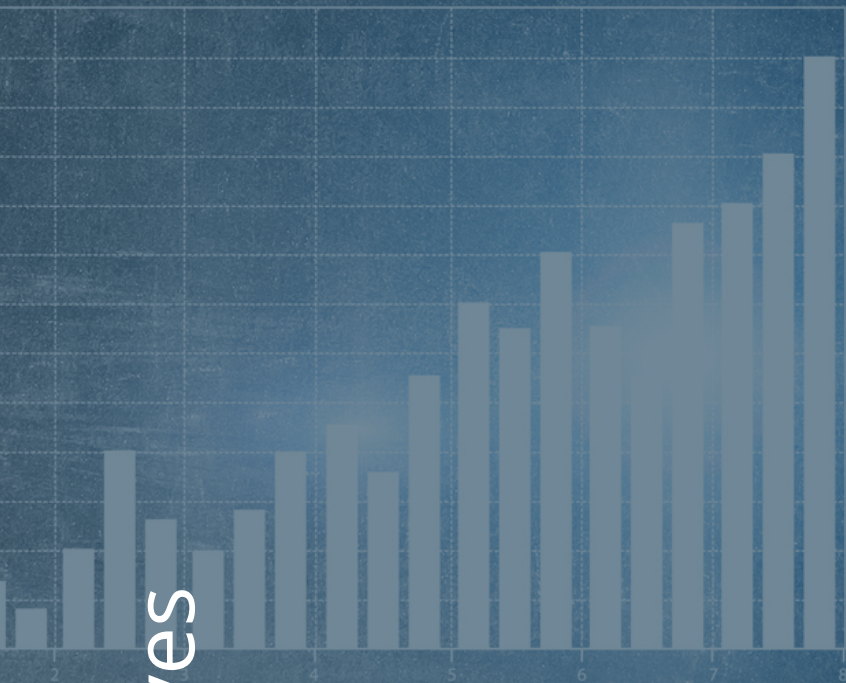


SIS WENGER

National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA)

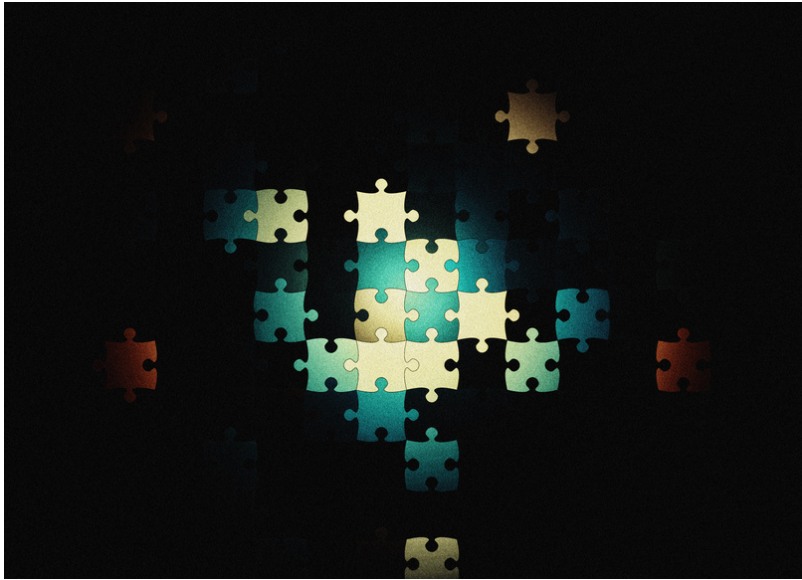
Sis Wenger has been the President and CEO of the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) for most of the last 25 years. Her groundbreaking work and advocacy for children impacted by addiction has had a profound impact nationwide.

Research Initiatives



Research Initiatives

APF conducts original research on emerging issues, often bringing together experts from multiple disciplines to collaborate on complex challenges that affect our community.



Emerging Challenges

APF has conducted research on the effects of COVID-19 on individuals with SUDs, and other topics related to the pandemic.

Research publications to date include:

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



Stigma Research

Measuring levels of stigma in communities and the effects of new interventions are key priorities for APF. Stigma-focused research publications to date include:

- Stigma Survey Report: Findings on Attitudes, Levels of Stigma and Support of Key Policies Around Addiction

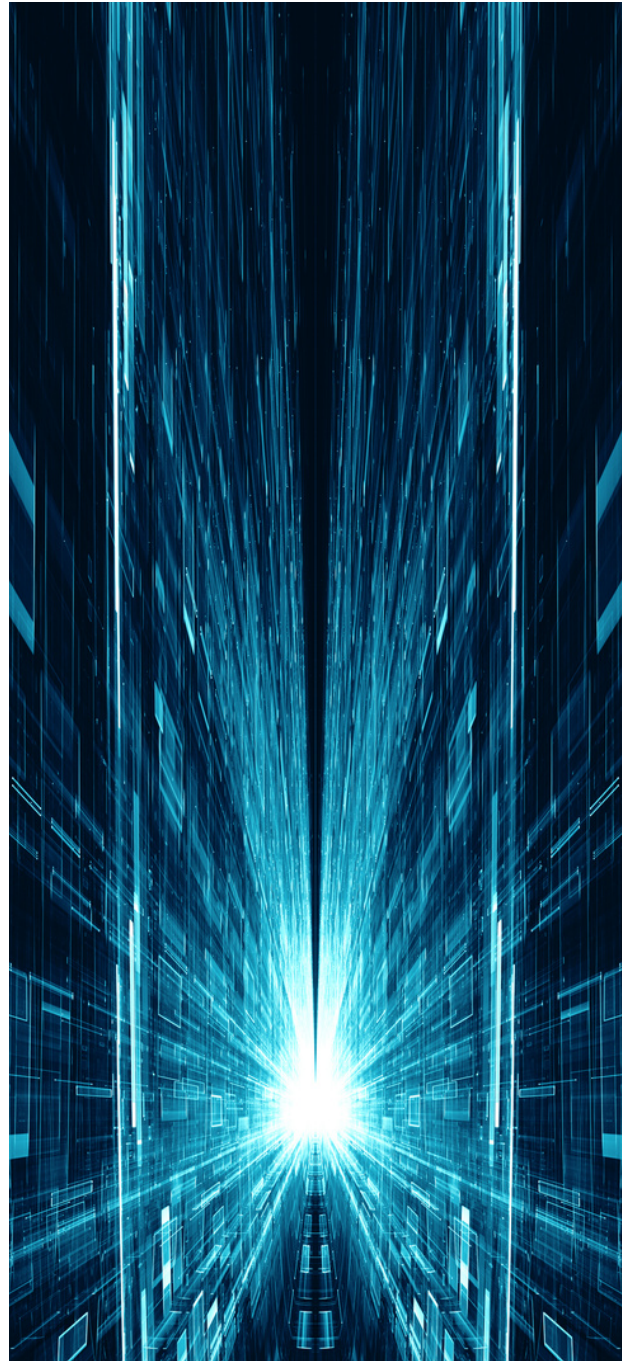
Stigma Survey Report: Findings on Attitudes, Levels of Stigma and Support of Key Policies Around Addiction

Addiction Policy Forum conducted a stigma survey in partnership with North Dakota Office of the Governor's Recovery Reinvented Initiative and the University of Delaware.

The study found that stigma across the state has improved over the last three years, with 74% of North Dakota residents reporting that addiction is a health condition.

Study findings also indicated that public health responses to addiction are preferred over criminal justice penalties, stereotypes and discrimination are low throughout the state while higher levels of prejudice towards individuals with substance use disorders remain, and lived experience and professional expertise are key factors in lower levels of stigma.

Individuals with an SUD are subject to very harsh moral judgments and frequent discrimination. In fact, research shows that individuals with SUDs are viewed in a more critical way than those with severe mental illness. The three major domains of stigma include 1) stereotypes, the inaccurate beliefs or thoughts about a particular group of people; 2) prejudice, negative feelings or emotions towards a particular group; and 3) discrimination intent that includes negative or unjust treatment of a particular group.⁵ Discrimination towards individuals with an SUD or in recovery can be found in healthcare services and quality, employment opportunities, decisions around child custody, and housing.



Support Our Work

Your tax-deductible donation to the Addiction Policy Forum helps patients and families in crisis, end the stigma around addiction and improve our response to the addiction crisis nationwide.

Single Gift

Make a single gift today to support APF's mission of ending addiction as a major health problem.

Make an Online Donation

Visit addictionpolicy.org or scan the QR code below to make a donation today!

Recurring Gift

By giving online monthly, you help APF better save time and resources by providing stable and ongoing support to change the lives of the families and communities we serve.

Corporate Matching

Does your company provide corporate matching? Find out, and you could double the impact of your investment with a company match given to APF.

Planned Giving

Create an enduring impact by including Addiction Policy Forum in your estate plans. Making a planned gift is a meaningful way to contribute to APF's future while providing financial and tax benefits for you and your family.



WANT TO TALK WITH A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM ABOUT INVESTING IN APF? Contact info@addictionpolicy.org with your request.



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