

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.





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

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.

Our strategic priorities include:

- **Ending Addiction Stigma** by addressing stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination associated with substance use disorders through education and advocacy.
- **Advancing Evidence-Based Practice** and removing barriers to adoption of scientifically proven interventions around the prevention and treatment substance use disorders.

124,000

APF is dedicated to **ending the stigma around addiction**, which prevents patients and families from engaging in needed services. Since our founding in 2015, we have reached 124,392 individuals through our events, projects and awareness campaigns.

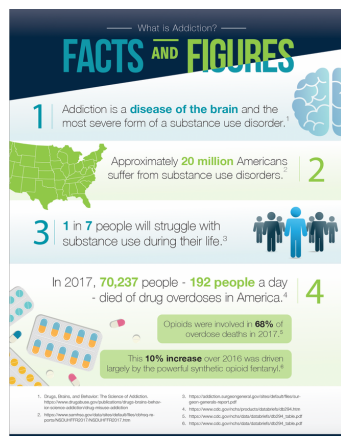
Science Translation

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



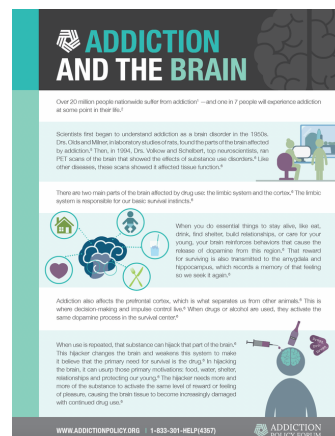
What is Addiction Video Explainer

In 2017, Addiction Policy Forum released a 4-minute explainer video, "What is Addiction?", which explains the brain science of addiction. The explainer video is a tool to educate all audiences across the country on the science and responses to addiction. By equipping families with this resource, they can better understand addiction, educate others, and have better resources to address addiction in their own localities.



Facts and Figures

One in seven people will struggle with addiction during their lifetime. The Facts and Figures handout distills key statistics and data to convey the prevalence of addiction nationwide.



Addiction and the Brain

The addiction and brain fact sheet explains changes to the brain caused by substance use disorders for patients, families and community members.

144aDay Awareness Campaign

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans aged 25 to 64. More than 144 Americans die as a result of overdose every day, the equivalent of two sold-out 747s crashing every week in America. The144aDay awareness campaign honors individuals lost to addiction.

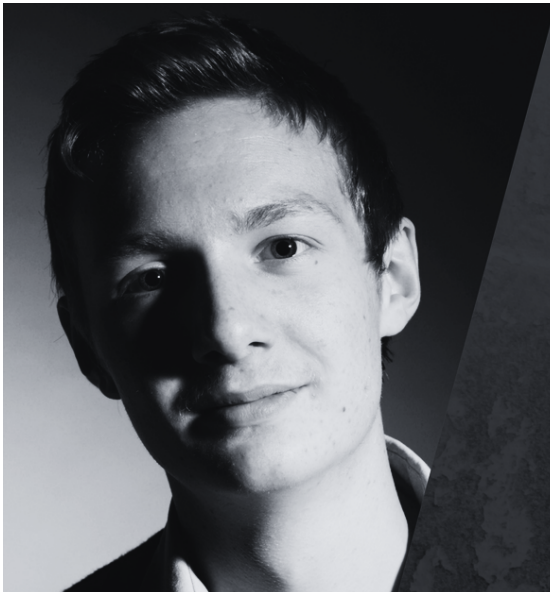


Cassidy was one of the 144 people who die in our country each day from a drug overdose.

We can change this national epidemic.
Find resources at 144aDay.org for addiction prevention, treatment, recovery support, and advocacy.

144aDAY

#144aDay

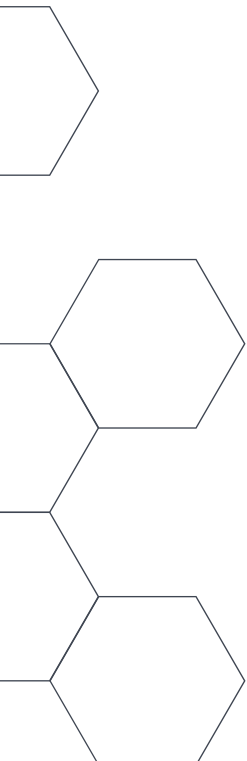


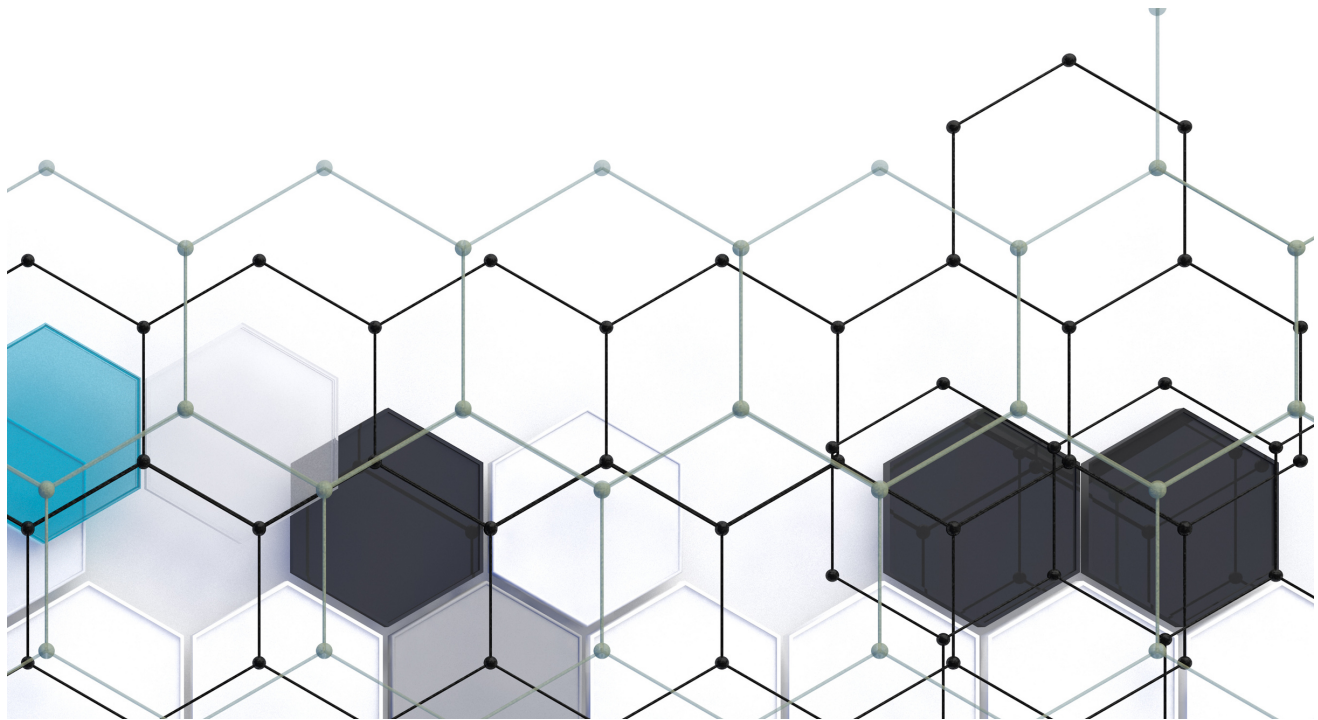
Ryan was one of the 144 people who die in our country each day from a drug overdose.

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144aDAY

#144aDay



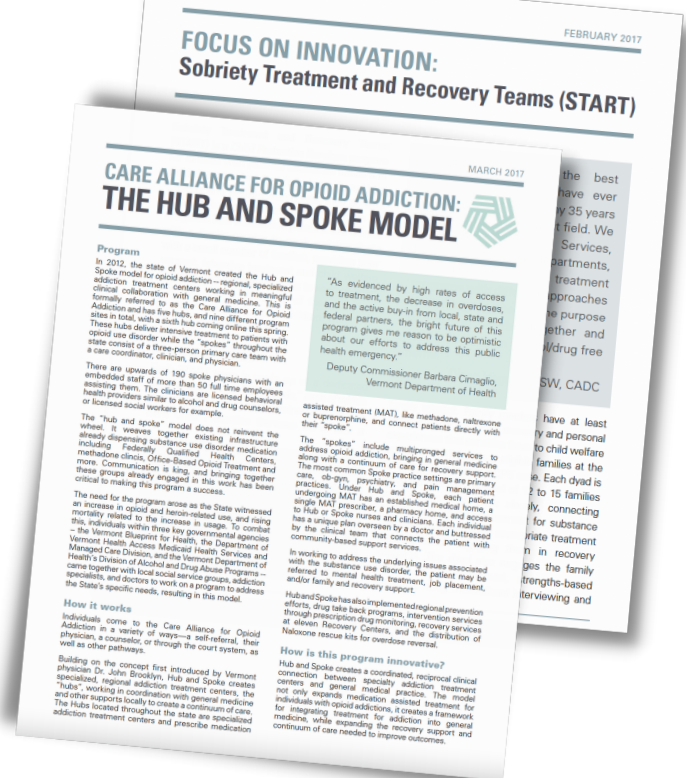


Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

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

Focus on Innovation

Focus on Innovation highlights effective and promising solutions across different sectors addressing addiction—prevention, treatment, recovery, child welfare, criminal justice, law enforcement and medicine.



Raising Awareness

President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis

On June 16, 2017, Addiction Policy Forum President and CEO, Jessica Hulse, testified before The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. Jessica provided recommendations to the committee on how best to implement a comprehensive response to address the opioid crisis. Commission members included Governor Chris Christie; Secretary Tom Price of Health and Human Services, Secretary David Shulkin of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway and White House Innovations Director Jared Kushner.



Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders Congressional Staff Briefing examined research and promising practices for the delivery of evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders. Dr. Wilson Compton with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) presented on the latest science, research and innovative programs currently being implemented in states and localities that have shown promising results, including the use and delivery of patient-centered care, individualized treatment plans and medication-assisted treatment.



Advocacy in Action

Heroin Task Force: 144aDay Hearing



Family members impacted by addiction gave testimony in front of members of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, led by Task Force Co-Chairs Frank Guinta (R-NH) and Ann Kuster (D-NH), including Lorraine McNeil-Popper, Sharon LeGore and Doug Griffin.



Advocates of the Year



Addiction Policy Forum's Advocate of the Year Award recognizes advocates who has excelled in grassroots advocacy and has inspired others to make a difference by engaging in grassroots advocacy, promoting education and action in their communities, and promoting policies that support a comprehensive response to addiction that includes prevention, treatment, recovery support, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform. 2017 awardees include:

- Doug Griffin (New Hampshire)
- Michelle Jaskulski (Wisconsin)
- Lorraine McNeil-Popper (New York)
- Bill Williams (New York)





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