



2015 ANNUAL REPORT





"Power concedes nothing
without a demand. It
never did and it never will."

– Frederick Douglass



Impact Overview

Founded in 2015, the Addiction Policy Forum is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit that works to end addiction stigma and increase the uptake of evidence-based practice to address addiction. Our community is changing the way the world responds to addiction. Our vision is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem.

12,000

In our first year of operation, we reached 12,616 individuals through our education initiatives and Congressional Forums.

Advancing the Federal Conversation around Addiction through Five Congressional Forums on Capitol Hill



Amy Solomon, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice



Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)



Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

Addiction and Criminal Justice Forum

April 2014

The Addiction Policy Forum's first addiction forum highlighted addiction in the United States and how those with substance use disorders interface with the criminal justice system. Experts from around the country joined Washington's leading policymakers to shed light on this difficult subject. Speakers included:

Advancements and Challenges in Addiction, Treatment and Criminal Justice

- Gov. Peter Shumlin (D-VT), Co-Chair of the National Governors Association Prescription Drug Abuse Project
- U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA)
- Former Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV)
- Dr. Redonna Chandler, Acting Director, Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research, National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Bill Nettles, U.S. Attorney for South Carolina
- A.T. Wall, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections and President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators

Addiction and Criminal Justice: Addressing Recidivism, Diversion and Heroin

- U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Michael Botticelli, Acting Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

Recidivism and Addiction

- Mike Thompson, Director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center
- Chief Jim Bueermann, President of the Police Foundation
- John Baldwin, Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections
- Dr. Rebecca Hogamier, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services of the Washington County Health Department
- Dr. Thomas McLellan, CEO and co-founder of the Treatment Research Institute.

Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration

- Pam Rodriguez, President of TASC Illinois
- Chief Jim Pugel, retired, of the Seattle Police Department
- Jim Nettles, U.S. Attorney for South Carolina
- Judge Rancourt, Immediate Past President of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals



Heroin and Opiates

- U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
- State Sen. Richard Sears, Chair of the Vermont Senate Committee on Judiciary
- Joseph Rannazzisi, Deputy Administrator for the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration
- Tom Strickrath, Superintendent, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Leonard Mayo of Ohio
- Dr. Chuck O'Brien, Founding Director of the Center for Studies of Addiction at the University of Pennsylvania, and Sheriff Richard Stanek of Hennepin County, Minnesota
- U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

Women and Addiction Forum

Experts, advocates, and lawmakers convene to discuss the unique challenges and concerns facing women struggling with substance abuse.



July 2014

The Women and Addiction Forum brought together experts, advocates, and lawmakers for a conversation on the unique challenges and concerns facing women struggling with substance abuse. Featured speakers included Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Rob Portman (R-OH), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Michael Boticelli.

Speakers highlighted the unique risks and challenges facing women. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of fatal overdoses among women in America quadrupled between 1999 and 2010. Moreover, access to treatment can be a major issue. As ONDCP Director Boticelli noted, women receive treatment for substance abuse at a lower rate than men.

According to panelists, at the center of the challenge is the need to tailor policies that acknowledge the needs and concerns facing mothers. For instance, fear that pursuing treatment options will place mothers at risk of losing their children can discourage some from using available services. Speakers called for better treatment and support programs to help strengthen families.



The Science of Addiction & Collateral Consequences

December 2014

The Science of Addiction and Collateral Consequences Congressional Forum featured nationally-recognized researchers, practitioners, policymakers and Members of Congress discussing strategies to advance our nation's response to addiction.

From barriers to affordable housing and education to limitations on employment options, collateral consequences can linger years after an individual has committed an offense,” Senator Whitehouse shared. “As a whole, the collateral consequences of drug convictions impose costs not only on those directly affected, but on society as a whole. If education and employment are the best predictors of successful re-entry into society, we all pay the price of limiting their accessibility.”

The forum featured scientists Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who shared: “Addiction is a disease of the brain. in the past, it was dismissed as a problem of moral turpitude, of lack of self-control, of a choice of one's behavior.” Dr. A. Thomas McLellan, Chair of the Board and Co-Founder, Treatment Research Institute, shared with attendees: “We have been wrong in our thinking about addiction and it has hurt us. Addiction is a brain disease and we should treat it the same way as other chronic diseases like diabetes... Recovery is now an expectable result of treatment and continuous monitoring.”



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-Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse



Advancing Prevention, Recovery and Treatment for Youth



April 2015

The Advancing Prevention, Recovery and Treatment for Youth forum highlighted advancing treatment, prevention, and recovery for youth struggling with substance abuse. The event featured experts and leaders on substance abuse from around the country and included keynote remarks from a bipartisan group of four Senators and three members of the House of Representatives.

Speakers highlighted the tremendous cost of substance use disorder, which now claims more lives annually than car accidents. But speakers also talked of the changing attitude toward treatment and recovery and the growing commitment to do better.



Treatment & Recovery for Veterans and Service Members



On July 29, 2015, a group of panelists gathered to discuss advancing treatment, prevention, and recovery for Veterans and Service members struggling with substance use disorder. The event, the fifth in the Congressional Addiction Forum series hosted by the Addiction Policy Forum, featured remarks from leading experts and a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders, including Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH), Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH), Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY), and Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA).

Opioid prescriptions have risen dramatically over the past 20 years and the “silent epidemic” that has followed is indiscriminant in its movement throughout the nation. Approximately 16,000 Americans are lost to an overdose of opioid painkillers each year, according the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Despite the unprecedented reach of the problem, veterans remain more likely than their civilian counterparts to abuse prescription drugs, and the most commonly abused medications by service members are opioid pain relievers.



