



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

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ASAM Applauds ONDCP's 2013 National Drug Control Strategy: Supports Reforms Rooted in Science

CHEVY CHASE, MD, APRIL 24, 2013 – The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) applauds the release of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) 2013 Drug Control Strategy.

The 2013 Drug Control Strategy reflects a more modern approach to drug policy. Rooted in science and evidence-based reforms, the Administration's strategy recognizes that addiction is a brain disease and that addiction treatment is a necessary component of any public health response to drug and alcohol dependence and the health and safety consequences associated with this disease.

ASAM supports the ONDCP's continued focus on addiction prevention, treatment and recovery. In particular, ASAM is pleased that this year's plan includes policies that would support the adoption of evidence-based substance use disorder interventions in all community and healthcare settings and for all patient populations.

"Integrating addiction treatment into mainstream healthcare means that healthcare practitioners in a wide variety of treatment settings, including addiction specialist physicians, can support early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals with addiction," offers Dr. Stuart Gitlow, ASAM President. "This Strategy recognizes that when people recover, communities recover and everyone benefits from that. ASAM looks forward to supporting the implementation of these public health policies."

ASAM is Committed to Improving the Treatment of People Suffering with Addiction

The American Society of Addiction Medicine is an association of physicians dedicated to improving the treatment of alcohol, drug and other addictions, educating physicians and medical students, promoting research and prevention, and enlightening and informing the medical community and the public about these issues. ASAM members practice in a wide range of primary care and specialty care settings and, as such, have firsthand knowledge of the enormous benefits that treatment confers on both the addicted patient and the community in which they live.

The Public Needs to Know

Addiction is a chronic disease and it is treatable like other chronic illnesses. Millions of Americans are living productive lives in recovery. Even so, 23 million Americans currently in need of treatment are unable to access it. The new ONDCP drug strategy outlines an effective national agenda that will provide the treatment resources necessary for individuals in and seeking recovery.