



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

News Advisory/Press Conference

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Effective Rx thwarted for deadly opioid epidemic

New report shows increasing restrictions on addiction medications

WASHINGTON—The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) will release the most comprehensive report on the effectiveness of medications for opioid addiction and how access to these FDA-approved drugs is being restricted by state government and insurance company policies. Lack of physician training in the use of these medications also contributes to the problem. Drug overdoses now kill more Americans than car crashes, an epidemic led by misuse of opioid pain medication and use of heroin. Yet, safe and effective medications to treat opioid addiction are seriously under-utilized, resulting in preventable suffering and death. “This report will show how we could be saving lives and effectively treating the disease of addiction if state governments and insurance companies remove roadblocks to the use of effective, FDA-approved medications,” said Stuart Gitlow, MD, President of ASAM.

The report will be released at a press event at **10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 20, at The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, 20045**

Speakers include:

- **Stuart Gitlow**, MD, President of ASAM
- **Tom McLellan**, PhD, CEO and Founder of the Treatment Research Institute, former Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- **Michael Botticelli**, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- **John O’Brien**, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (invited)
- **Whitney**, patient taking buprenorphine

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American Society of Addiction Medicine

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