

ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

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## THE ASAM ADVOCATE



### ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

#### National

##### **ASAM Releases Overdose Prevention Sites Policy Statement**

On July 22, ASAM's board of directors approved a new policy statement on overdose prevention sites (OPS). [Read more.](#)

##### **ASAM Releases New Reimbursement Toolkit**

On July 16, ASAM and the Provider Clinical Support System (PCSS) released a toolkit to guide addiction medicine clinicians on how to bill third-party payers for treating patients with substance use disorder with medications for addiction treatment. [Read more.](#)

##### **ASAM Urges Congress to Pass the EQUAL Act**

On July 12, ASAM sent a letter in support of H.R. 1693/S. 79, the Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act. This legislation would eliminate the federal crack and powder cocaine sentencing disparity and apply it retroactively to those already convicted or sentenced. [Read more.](#)

##### **AMA CPT Editorial Panel Approves New Codes for Digital**

## Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

At its May 2021 meeting, the American Medical Association's (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)® Editorial Panel created two new category III CPT codes for digital cognitive behavioral therapy services, a step forward toward creating a structure that will allow patients to access these therapies. [Read more.](#)

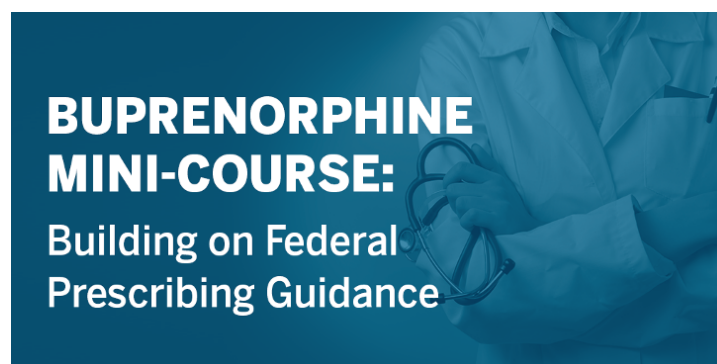
## State

### The AMA Issues Updated Briefs on States and the Overdose Crisis

The American Medical Association has released the following updated issue briefs that can be useful in state advocacy efforts to address the addiction and overdose crisis:

1. [News reports and other information](#) detailing how drug-related overdose and death affect states;
2. [Actions being taken in the states to help](#); and
3. [Updated collection of research](#) regarding treatment for substance use disorders, pain, and harm reduction, as well as reports regarding barriers to care.

## HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND



### ASAM Teams up with the AMA, Shatterproof to Educate Prescribers and Medical Students About Treating Opioid Use Disorder with Buprenorphine

New, free, online training module expands on federal guidance for prescribing buprenorphine for OUD and help America's clinicians and medical students at a critical juncture in the country's overdose epidemic. [Read more.](#)

## ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



### **How Raising Her Hand is Strengthening our Country's Addiction Medicine Workforce**

ASAM committee member, Dr. Cara Poland, discusses her efforts to strengthen the addiction medicine workforce in Michigan and beyond.



### **Senators Warren & Markey Seek Flexibilities That Break Down Barriers to Opioid Treatments**

ASAM president, Dr. William Haning, stresses the importance of removing barriers to addiction care.

## **ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS**

### **State Attorneys General Reach A \$26 Billion National Opioid Settlement**

Brian Mann, NPR

### **Policy Responses to the Addiction Crisis**

Richard G. Frank, Keith N. Humphreys, and Harold A. Pollack, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law

### **Congress Must Invest in Mental Health and Substance Use Care Infrastructure**

Paul N. Samuels and Ron Manderscheid, The Hill

### **Punishing Drug Use Heightens the Stigma of Addiction**

Nora Volkow, STAT News

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



### **Advocate for Addiction Medicine During August Recess!**

While the August Congressional recess began as a way to escape the heat, the tradition has stayed on long past the advent of air conditioning to allow Members of Congress to spend extended time with their constituents. Now is a great time to get the attention of your Members of Congress and ask them to support the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act (H.R. 3441) / Opioid Workforce Act (S.1438) and the Medicaid Reentry Act (H.R. 955/S.285).

**TAKE ACTION TODAY**



#### **The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter**

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