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President Obama Commutes Sentences for Nonviolent Drug Offenses

On July 13, President Obama commuted the sentences of 46 individuals convicted of nonviolent drug offenses. The men and women, 14 of whom were facing life behind bars, had served lengthy prison terms under outdated sentencing guidelines. White House Counsel Neil Eggleston said that "nearly all of them would have already served their time and returned to society if they were convicted of the exact same crime today." See more from the White House blog post [here](#).

Following this action, President Obama made a historic visit to the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution. The President met with inmates and viewed the prison's residential drug treatment facility; his visit was a first for a sitting president. As articulated in the *National Drug Control Strategy*, the Obama Administration remains committed to breaking the cycle of drug use, crime, incarceration, and re-arrest. Click on the following links to learn more about ONDCP's work in criminal justice reform, alternatives to incarceration, and treatment and recovery options for incarcerated people.

Director Botticelli Shares Recovery Stories on White House Blog

Recently, Director Michael Botticelli posted on the White House Blog to reflect on one American's journey toward recovery from substance use disorder. Through the mental health court system, a judge helped 26-year-old Conner Adams get the treatment she needed and begin a life of sobriety. She is now an active student, volunteer, and community member.

Director Botticelli emphasized the importance of sharing stories of recovery, pointing out that "the courage of people like Conner plays a critical role" in changing the way we think about addiction. "Their stories," he wrote, "put faces and voices to substance use disorders, and give hope that recovery is possible."

To read Director Botticelli's blog post, [click here](#). To read another American's story of recovery through drug courts, [click here](#).

Learn more about how drug courts can help individuals get much-needed care and how ONDCP is working to lift the stigma of addiction.

Nurses Association Supports Use of Naloxone in Schools

On June 22, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) issued a position statement supporting the use of the opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone in schools. The statement highlights the "crucial" role of school nurses in responding to emergencies and providing substance use education and care. NASN recommends that school nurses "facilitate access to naloxone" as part of an emergency response plan, stating that "naloxone saves lives and can be the first step towards OPR [opioid pain reliever] abuse recovery."

Read the NASN position statement [here](#).

ONDCP supports the widespread use of this lifesaving drug in preventing overdose deaths. Learn more about ONDCP's overdose prevention strategy [here](#). For resources on establishing a naloxone program, click [here](#) or use [this toolkit](#).

Health Officials Call for Treatment, Prevention, and Partnerships with Law Enforcement



At their annual conference, members of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) called for continued partnerships between health workers and law enforcement to reduce the effects of substance use in communities across the country. Health commissioners from Indiana and New York shared their successes expanding access to naloxone and using syringe service programs to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases.

On NACCHO's podcast, Director Botticelli shared ONDCP's strategies for preventing substance use disorders, helping those who need treatment, and stopping the spread of HIV and hepatitis. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Join Us for a Webinar on Medication-Assisted Treatment

On August 27, ONDCP will host a webinar on [medication-assisted treatment](#) (MAT). FDA-approved medications such as buprenorphine and naltrexone can be administered successfully as part of a comprehensive plan to treat substance use disorders. Dr. Ken Stoller, MD, Director of Johns Hopkins' Broadway Center for Addiction, and Dr. Susan Storti, Ph.D., RN, of Brown University's Addiction Transfer Center of New England, will provide technical advice on implementing successful MAT programs and coordinating care for patients with opioid use disorder.

The webinar will be held at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, August 27.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

Click [here](#) to learn more about treatment for substance use disorders.

Media Shines Spotlight on Synthetics

The Washington Post published a series of [articles](#) detailing the dangers of synthetic drugs, or "synthetics." Often manufactured in order to skirt interdiction laws, synthetics are by nature unregulated and can produce unpredictable

effects when consumed. Responding to the recent spate of synthetics-linked fatalities in the Washington, D.C., area, the *Post* described law enforcement agencies' evolving strategy to keep drugs-synthetic and otherwise-off the streets.

ONDCP has been working with Federal, Congressional, state, local, and non-governmental partners to combat the threat of synthetic drugs and to educate people about the tremendous health risks posed by these substances.

Learn more about ONDCP's work on synthetic drugs [here](#) and [here](#).

ONDCP Celebrates 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For the millions of Americans living with a disability, including men and women in recovery from substance use disorders, the ADA provides protection from discrimination and promotes accommodations that help people lead full, productive lives. Director Botticelli celebrated the anniversary with a [post on the ONDCP blog](#), in which he called on members of the disability community to continue their work breaking down stigma and other barriers to recovery.

David Mineta, ONDCP's Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, spoke at a White House briefing celebrating the achievements of disabled Americans. He recognized the anniversary of the ADA as "a testament of a shift in thinking and a recognition that everyone has the right to opportunity."

Twitter Chat Focuses on Recovery



On July 9, Director Botticelli joined Tom Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and medical reporter Liz Szabo for a Twitter chat focused on the heroin epidemic. The chat, hosted by USA Today, invited participants to ask questions about heroin, opioids, addiction, and treatment. Hashtag #heroinchat reached as many as 4 million unique Twitter users and drew questions and answers from NIDA, SAMHSA, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Senator Ed Markey, and Young People in Recovery.

Director Botticelli tweeted about overdose prevention, heroin use trends, and challenges in getting care. Follow ONDCP's [Twitter feed](#) for news about substance use prevention and recovery efforts.

Observing World Hepatitis Day 2015

World Hepatitis Day 2015, observed on July 28, serves as an opportunity to consider the relationship between infectious disease and substance use disorders. Diseases like viral hepatitis and HIV can be transmitted through injection drug use; in fact, injection drug use is the major driver of new hepatitis C infections. ONDCP is committed to reducing the rising rates of hepatitis infection in the United States and promotes preventative care, rapid screening, and treatment for all.

Read Director Botticelli's blog post on World Hepatitis Day [here](#).

Learn more about hepatitis C prevention and treatment [here](#).

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