

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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Our vision is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem.

Leadership



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Massachusetts



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Board Member, Deputy
District Attorney San
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Ret. District Court Judge,
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Founder & Executive Director,
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Child Study, Yale University
School of Medicine



Jack Stein, Ph.D.
Clinical social worker, health
professional trainer/educator,
policy analyst, and federal manager

Strategic Priorities

Helping Patients and Families

Provide new, effective resources and support for patients and families in crisis.



Ending Addiction Stigma

Address stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination associated with substance use disorders through education and advocacy.



Advancing Prevention & Early Intervention

Help communities and families take steps to prevent addiction or find it at its earliest, most treatable stage.



Bridging the Science to Practice Gap

Address barriers to adoption of scientifically proven evidence and interventions around the prevention and treatment substance use disorders.



Research and Science Translation

Facilitate patient-led research and accelerate the translation and dissemination of research findings to the community.



APF's Impact

In 2023, APF's programs reached over 900,000 people. This achievement reflects APF's unwavering commitment to helping patients and families, ending addiction stigma, improving addiction prevention and early intervention, bridging the science-to-practice gap, and making scientific innovations and advancements related to substance use disorders accessible to the community.

APF released prevention resources translated into 12 languages to improve access for families and communities with limited English proficiency. These multilingual resources support prevention of substance use disorders and reflect APF's focus on expanding early intervention and prevention tools.

APF announced the launch of the "Anti-Stigma Initiative" in October 2023, engaging 100+ pilot sites across the U.S. aimed at reducing stigma around addiction and increasing knowledge about substance use disorders. The project deployed new anti-stigma resources and interventions designed to: identify baseline levels of stigma in communities, increase knowledge about addiction as a health condition, improve helping behaviors, and reduce discrimination.

APF supported the passage of key legislative efforts, including the Halting the Epidemic of Addiction and Loss (HEAL) Act, which the U.S. Senate passed on September 18, 2023. The bill aims to expand access to new opioid overdose reversal agents and update federal grant language. APF joined a large coalition (over 90 organizations) urging Congress to support funding for the Second Chance Act, which supports reentry and treatment services for people exiting incarceration, along with programs for treatment and recovery services for substance use disorders.

APF published a study that examined the imagery used to depict substance use disorders (SUDs) and criminal justice involvement, focusing on how certain images may be triggering or stigmatizing. The study found that participants with lived experience identified specific images as stigmatizing/triggering and suggested alternatives (e.g., hand-holding, group circles) to depict treatment/support in less harmful ways. This addresses one of APF's priority areas: reducing stigma by changing narrative and visuals.

2023



904,000
People Served



184
Countries



43
Projects

184 Countries



All 50
US States

Top 5 Countries Receiving Services

US



Canada



India



UK



Philippines



Countries Served through APF Programs and Services in 2023

Afghanistan	Dem Rep of the Congo	Kazakhstan	Peru	Uganda
Albania	Denmark	Kenya	Philippines	Ukraine
Algeria	Dominica	Kuwait	Poland	United Arab Emirates
American Samoa	Dominican Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	United Kingdom
Andorra	Ecuador	Latvia	Puerto Rico	United States
Antigua and Barbuda	Egypt	Lebanon	Qatar	Unknown
Argentina	El Salvador	Lesotho	Romania	Uruguay
Armenia	Eritrea	Liberia	Russia	Uzbekistan
Aruba	Estonia	Libya	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Australia	Eswatini	Lithuania	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Venezuela
Austria	Ethiopia	Luxembourg	Saint Lucia	Vietnam
Azerbaijan	Fiji	Macau	Saint Vincent and the	Yemen
Bahamas	Finland	Madagascar	Grenadines	Zambia
Bahrain	France	Malawi	Samoa	Zimbabwe
Bangladesh	Gabon	Malaysia	San Marino	
Barbados	Gambia	Maldives	Saudi Arabia	
Belarus	Georgia	Malta	Senegal	
Belgium	Germany	Martinique	Serbia	
Belize	Ghana	Mauritius	Seychelles	
Benin	Gibraltar	Mayotte	Sierra Leone	
Bermuda	Greece	Mexico	Singapore	
Bhutan	Grenada	Micronesia	Sint Maarten	
Bolivia	Guam	Moldova	Slovakia	
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and	Guatemala	Mongolia	Slovenia	
Saba	Guernsey	Montenegro	Somalia	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guyana	Morocco	South Africa	
Botswana	Haiti	Mozambique	South Korea	
Brazil	Honduras	Myanmar	South Sudan	
Brunei	Hong Kong	Namibia	Spain	
Bulgaria	Hungary	Nepal	Sri Lanka	
Burkina Faso	Iceland	Netherlands	Sudan	
Cambodia	India	New Zealand	Suriname	
Cameroon	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Sweden	
Canada	Iran	Nigeria	Switzerland	
Cayman Islands	Iraq	North Macedonia	Taiwan	
Chile	Ireland	Northern Mariana Islands	Tanzania	
China	Isle of Man	Norway	Thailand	
Colombia	Israel	Öland Islands	Tonga	
Costa Rica	Italy	Oman	Trinidad and Tobago	
Croatia	Jamaica	Pakistan	Tunisia	
Curaçao	Japan	Panama	Turkey	
Cyprus	Jersey	Papua New Guinea	Turks and Caicos Islands	
Czech Republic	Jordan	Paraguay	U.S. Virgin Islands	

Patient and Family Services

Programs and resources available to patients, caregivers and loved ones include:

enCompass: A Program for Families



enCompass: A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction is a resource for family members who are trying to navigate the complex world of addiction and help loved ones achieve recovery. Results were published in the Journal of Addictive Diseases and show that individuals who participated in the Addiction Policy Forum's enCompass program saw decreased addiction stigma and improved knowledge about substance use disorders after receiving the intervention.

Disease Awareness & Education



Our education and awareness initiatives are designed to increase understanding of addiction as a chronic, treatable medical condition. We develop and share evidence-based resources that empower families, communities, and professionals to recognize, prevent, and respond to substance use disorders. Through multimedia learning tools, multilingual prevention materials, and community trainings, APF promotes accurate information about the science of addiction and recovery.

Improving Care for Addiction



Improving care and patient outcomes for SUD involves a multifaceted approach that includes preventive care, early detection, tailored therapies, personalized treatment plans, regular monitoring, patient education, lifestyle modifications, and proactive interventions. APF also provides insights and feedback to the clinical and research community to improve care. Our services aim to empower self-management of prevention and chronic disease management.

In 2023, APF's Patient and Family Services reached over 1,800 individuals.



Stigma Initiatives

Projects in APF's anti-stigma initiative include science translation, awareness campaigns, a stigma research portfolio, distribution of educational materials and toolkits, community trainings and deployment of a free, online addiction school.



Responding to Addiction

The 2.5-hour Responding to Addiction curriculum is designed to reduce addiction stigma, increase knowledge, and confidence in how we can help someone in need.



Anti-Stigma Initiative

Addiction Policy Forum's Anti-Stigma Initiative includes over 100 pilot sites nationwide working to reduce addiction stigma, including stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination intent,



Addiction School

Our free, online school features courses on critical topics for patients, families, and practitioners.



Stop Overdose

The Stop Overdose campaign gives families and friends a national platform to share their stories of loved ones lost while also increasing public awareness of the opioid epidemic.



Stigma Research

APF's stigma research explores how language, imagery, and community perceptions impact individuals with substance use disorders, advancing evidence-based strategies to reduce discrimination and promote compassion in care and policy.



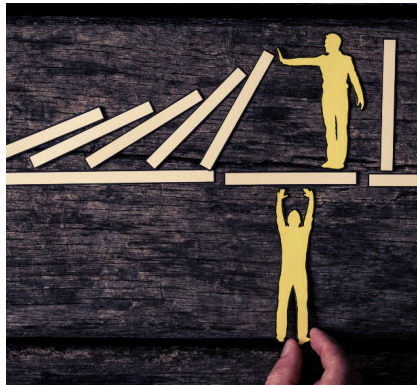
In 2023, APF's
anti-stigma
initiatives
**reached over
500,000
individuals.**

Prevention Projects



Helping Children Impacted by Parental SUD

The toolkit is designed for adults who come into contact with children impacted by a parent's addiction and provides information about how to help.



Opioid Prevention Campaign

The Opioid Prevention Campaign is a public health media campaign to help prevent adolescent substance use.



Vaping: Know the Facts

A free, open-source toolkit that explains the harms associated with adolescent vaping and empowers audiences with the tools to take action.



12 Things Parents Can Do

The campaign for parent's and caregivers includes a toolkit and explainer video on prevention.



Multilingual Prevention Resources

APF created prevention resources translated into 12 languages in partnership with the Cencorra Impact Foundation to help improve language access to prevention resources.



Protect Your Brain

The eCourse and curriculum teach teens how to protect themselves from substance use disorder.



In 2023, APF's prevention initiatives **reached over 200,000 adolescents and caregivers.**

Bridging the Science to Practice Gap

The barriers to translating research into practice have hampered the adoption of new treatments, tests, and clinical standards for everything from flu vaccines to diabetic eye exams to cholesterol screenings. To change the trajectory of the substance use disorder public health crisis, APF works to improve the gap between science and its application in the field.



Knowledge Translation

APF translates and disseminates research findings into easy-to-consume and persuasive formats tailored for distinct audiences, including policymakers, practitioners, caregivers, and the general public. The APF team excels at translating scientific information into consumable, accessible, and actionable products that are tailored for various non-scientific audiences. Our translation process turns complex research into easy-to-comprehend formats for diverse audiences.



Stakeholder Engagement

stakeholder engagement is fundamental for understanding diverse perspectives, gathering insights, and fostering collaboration to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. involving individuals, groups, or organizations that have an interest or are affected by a particular project, decision, or initiative. Being open to feedback and adapting plans or strategies based on stakeholder input. Responsiveness to concerns or changing circumstances is crucial for maintaining stakeholder engagement.



Dissemination

The APF team excels at translating scientific information into consumable, accessible, and actionable products that are tailored for various, non-scientific audiences. The tested translation process turns complex research into easy-to-comprehend formats for diverse audiences. APF's knowledge translation and dissemination expertise can help expand the reach of your research and engage new and diverse audiences.

In 2023, APF's projects to help bridge the science-to-practice gap **reached over 175,000 individuals.**



NIH Projects



Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network

The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) initiative is led by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and funded through the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative. JCOIN is designed to advance scientific knowledge on effective policies, practices, and interventions to improve care for individuals that are justice-involved with opioid use disorder (OUD) and expand the use of these approaches into daily practice within health and justice settings. The Addiction Policy Forum is part of JCOIN's Coordination and Translation Center and responsible for engagement with practitioners and other key stakeholders in the justice and behavioral health fields, the dissemination of products and key research findings and translates promising interventions and approaches to improve the capacity of the justice system.



The National Center for Health and Justice Integration for Suicide Prevention (NCHATS)

The National Center for Health and Justice Integration for Suicide Prevention (NCHATS) is a research center meant to build information bridges between healthcare organizations and justice systems to identify individuals at risk for suicide and connect them to care. The center is led by Michigan State University, Henry Ford Health, and Brown University, with Addiction Policy Forum and 11 other institutions joining the initiative. NCHATS will evaluate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of suicide prevention activities that bridge justice contacts and community care. Specifically, the Center uses contact with the justice system as a novel indicator of suicide risk in the general population, and connects individuals at risk for suicide to community care. The Center includes more than 100 stakeholders, 30 investigators, and 15 institutions.

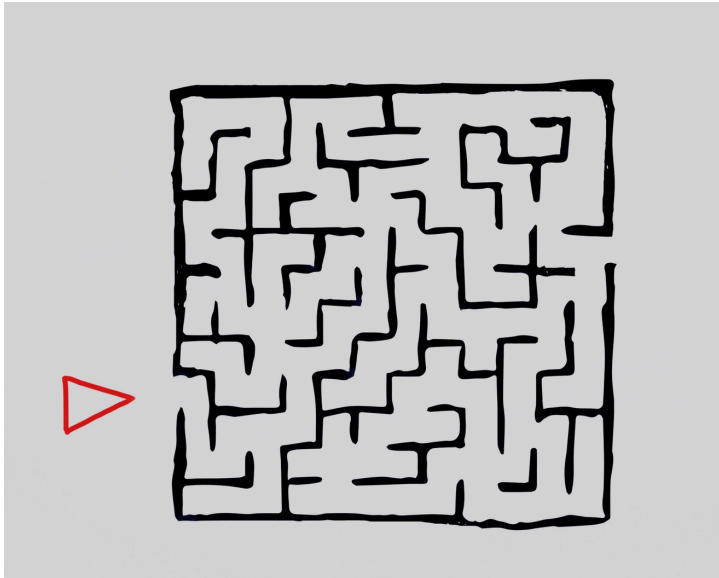


NIH HEAL Connections

The Addiction Policy Forum received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, or NIH HEAL Initiative, to support the creation of HEAL Connections, a new center to deliver lay-friendly, culturally-appropriate information of the latest scientific findings to communities most affected by the pain, opioid and overdose crises. The center will work closely with HEAL-funded scientists and community partners to translate data and findings to address the needs and priorities of communities standing to benefit most from HEAL research. This will form the foundation for meaningful, two-way communications throughout the life cycle of HEAL projects—from developing research ideas to sharing findings. A focus on health equity will underpin the center's work at every level.

Research Initiatives

APF conducts original research on emerging issues, often bringing together experts from multiple disciplines to collaborate on complex challenges that affect our community.



Emerging Challenges

APF has conducted research on the effects of COVID-19 on individuals with SUDs, and other topics related to the pandemic.

Research publications to date include:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Patients, Families & Individuals in Recovery from a SUD
- Trust in Healthcare and COVID-19 Readiness
- Patient Journey Map: Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Experiences



Stigma Research

Measuring levels of stigma in communities and the effects of new interventions are key priorities for APF. Stigma-focused research publications to date include:

- Stigma Survey Report: Findings on Attitudes, Levels of Stigma and Support of Key Policies Around Addiction
- Stigmatizing imagery for substance use disorders: a qualitative exploration
- Program evaluations for novel anti-stigma interventions for caregivers and key professionals.

Support Our Work

Your tax-deductible donation to the Addiction Policy Forum helps patients and families in crisis, end the stigma around addiction and improve our response to the addiction crisis nationwide.

Single Gift

Make a single gift today to support APF's mission of ending addiction as a major health problem.

Make an Online Donation

Visit addictionpolicy.org or scan the QR code below to make a donation today!

Recurring Gift

By giving online monthly, you help APF better save time and resources by providing stable and ongoing support to change the lives of the families and communities we serve.

Corporate Matching

Does your company provide corporate matching? Find out, and you could double the impact of your investment with a company match given to APF.

Planned Giving

Create an enduring impact by including Addiction Policy Forum in your estate plans. Making a planned gift is a meaningful way to contribute to APF's future while providing financial and tax benefits for you and your family.



WANT TO TALK WITH A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM ABOUT INVESTING IN APF? Contact info@addictionpolicy.org with your request.

