Federal Drug Control Policy and Priorities: How the Biomedical Research Community Can Help

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National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse

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Office of National Drug Control Policy
Office of National Drug Control Policy

• Component of the Executive Office of the President

• Coordinates drug-control activities and related funding across the Federal Government

• Produces the annual *National Drug Control Strategy*
National Drug Control Strategy

- The President’s science-based plan to reform drug policy:
  1) Prevent drug use before it ever begins through education
  2) Expand access to treatment for Americans struggling with addiction
  3) Reform our criminal justice system
  4) Support Americans in recovery

- Coordinated Federal effort on 112 action items

- Signature initiatives:
  - Prescription Drug Abuse
  - Prevention
  - Drugged Driving
Main ONDCP Priorities

- Non-medical prescription drug use and heroin use
- Overdose & medical consequences
- Marijuana issues
- Supply-related measures focusing on heroin
- Treatment access (MAT)
Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan

• Coordinated effort across the Federal Government

• Four focus areas:
  1) Education
  2) Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
  3) Proper Disposal of Medication
  4) Enforcement
Source of Prescription Pain Relievers

How different misusers of pain relievers get their drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods and sources for obtaining pain relievers</th>
<th>Recent Initiates</th>
<th>Occasional Users</th>
<th>Frequent or Chronic Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bought from friend/relative, dealer, or internet</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed from 1 or more doctors</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtained from friend/relative for free or w/o asking</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2009-2010
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Research Questions

• What PDMP indicators or patterns are a red flag for prescriber intervention?

• When a provider notices a red flag, what clinical intervention should occur?

• What training is needed for prescribers to manage risks while maintaining their duty to their patients and staying within the bounds of the law?

• How can technology help (e.g., electronic health records, doctor shopping algorithms, and pharmacy benefit lock-in programs)?
Prescriber-Related Research Questions

• How do we get the opioid prescriber community to engage in risk management and educational activities? What tools can we give them that work?

• We need:

  – Research that shows risks are not confined to bad patients or rogue prescribers; and

  – Trials demonstrating the effectiveness of risk management tools like PDMP checks, urine testing, and adherence interventions; safe storage; pain management contracts; safe prescriber courses; naloxone prescription and overdose education; drug call-backs.
Heroin Use or Non-Medical Use of Pain Relievers in the Past Year among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2002 - 2012

Source: SAMHSA, 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 2013).
Perceived Need for and Effort Made to Receive Specialty Treatment Among Persons Aged 12 or Older Needing But Not Receiving Treatment: 2012

8,040,000 Needing Treatment for Illicit Drug Problem

- 74% Did Not Feel They Needed Treatment (5,919,000)
- 19% Felt They Needed Treatment and Did Make an Effort (204,000)
- 5% Felt They Needed Treatment and Did Not Make an Effort (385,000)

Source: SAMHSA, 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 2013).
Reasons Given for Not Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment

- No Health Coverage and Could Not Afford Cost: 38.2%
- Not Ready to Stop Using: 26.3%
- Had Health Coverage But Did Not Cover Treatment or Did Not Cover Cost: 10.1%
- Might Have Negative Effect on Job: 9.5%
- Did Not Know Where to Go for Treatment: 8.9%
- No Transportation/Inconvenient: 8.2%
- Might Cause Neighbors/Community to Have Negative Opinion: 7.9%
- Did Not Have Time: 7.1%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-46, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4795. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013. Figure 7.11, 2012 NSDUH 2009-2012 Combined
Ways ONDCP & Federal Partners Are Working To Expand Access to Evidence-Based Treatment

- Working with State Policy Teams to expand medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for treatment of substance use disorders as the standard of care (i.e., buprenorphine/naltrexone [Suboxone], methadone, Vivitrol).

- Working with health plans and pharmacy organizations to offer adequate coverage for screening and treatment for substance use disorders, including MAT.

- Working with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to inform states of substance use disorder health benefits that insurance policies should contain.

- Inventory treatment availability and work within Affordable Care Act/state-run health marketplaces to ensure proper resourcing.
Marijuana Research Questions

• What are the effects of marijuana and other cannabinoids on health and mental health?
• How, why, and to what extent do individuals differ in marijuana addiction susceptibility? Access vs. genes?
• What are marijuana’s effects on society, including:
  – Educational attainment?
  – Employment & disability?
  – Work achievement?
  – Parenting?
  – Earnings?
  – Injury?
  – Non-drug related crime?
Research Wrap-up

• In his 2009 inauguration speech, President Obama pledged to “restore science to its rightful place and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality.”\(^1\)

• ONDCP takes this promise seriously.

• When available, we use science to inform our policy.

• The research community can help by:
  - Finding answers to priority research questions;
  - Disseminating policy-relevant findings; and
  - Informing development of the National Drug Control Strategy.

For More Information:

WHITEHOUSE.gov/ONDCP

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