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## ONDCP Newsletter – October 2014

Welcome to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) *E-Newsletter Update*. In this issue:

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### Nominate an ONDCP ‘Advocate for Action’

This year, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will honor select individuals and organizations that have worked to bring the *National Drug Control Strategy* to life as “Advocates for Action.” Whether it’s working with at-risk youth, developing innovative alternatives to incarceration that help break the cycle of crime, conducting research that expands our understanding of the brain and substance use, or preventing new drug starts, today’s “Advocates for Action” are making a difference.

Please click [here](#) to submit your nominations before October 8, 2014. Honorees will be notified by December on the ONDCP website leading up to the release of the *2015 National Drug Control Strategy*, and invited to participate in an event next spring with Acting Director Michael Botticelli.

Please email [OIPL@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:OIPL@ondcp.eop.gov) if you have questions.

### October is Prevention Month

October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. This year’s theme: *Prevent. Achieve. Succeed.* Check ONDCP’s [Prevention Month webpage](#) to learn more about prevention and about the exciting events planned for October across the country.

### Justice Department Releases Online Naloxone Toolkit

The Department of Justice has prepared an online Naloxone and Law Enforcement toolkit with materials for officer training, policy development, data collection, and education in naloxone use. Naloxone, an over-the-counter medication, has been shown to reduce the chance of death when administered to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. The naloxone toolkit was developed based on information gathered at a meeting in July with DOJ and ONLEA enforcement officials, and health and legal experts. The meeting focused on how best to assist law enforcement in establishing a naloxone program.

The online toolkit will be available [here](#) in early October.

Learn more about naloxone [here](#).

### **Drug-Free Communities Grant Recipients Announced**

ONDCP has announced \$84 million in Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants to fund 197 new grants and continue funding 463 grants for the 2014-2015 year cycle. They will also fund 3 new DFC Mentoring grants and continue funding 17 that have already been funded.

Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors to address local drug problems. Since its inception, the DFC Program has funded more than 2,000 coalitions that have been effective in reducing youth substance use.

Information on the DFC Program, as well as a complete listing of new and continuation DFC grantees, is available [here](#).

## **ONDCP and Federal Partners Form International Demand Reduction Group**

In late September, ONDCP convened a roundtable of Federal agency leaders to forge a working group to coordinate Administration efforts to support demand reduction initiatives around the world. ONDCP has noted growing interest from international partners, especially in the Western Hemisphere, in learning about U.S. best practices with regard to interventions and alternatives to incarceration.

The interagency working group on international demand reduction will include representatives from the Department of State and Defense, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the United States Agency for International Development.

## **Recovery Month at the White House: Celebrating 25 Years**

On September 17, 2014, ONDCP commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Month with a special event at the White House. The event included more than 175 advocates, recovery community members, long-term recovery, and others who have been impacted by substance use and its consequences.

The centerpiece of the event was a panel discussion featuring five prominent public figures in long-term recovery from substance use disorders: Cris Carter, a Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee and ESPN Analyst who has been in recovery for 15 years; Ruben Castañeda, a former Washington Post Journalist and author of the book "S Street Rising: A Journey from Descent into a Serious Crack Addiction to Recovery"; Tim Willson, Mayor of Brooklyn Center, MN, who lost his daughter Christina Huffington, daughter of publisher Arianna Huffington and advocate for her fellow youth in recovery; and Katie Couric, former Fox News anchor, who moderated the panel.

The panelists shared their stories and fielded questions submitted by viewers via Twitter. The event was moderated by former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Steve Ford, son of former President Gerald Ford and first



- **Continue the discussion!** Tweet us your thoughts at @Botticelli44 using the hashtag #Recovery
- **View the live-stream!** If you missed it (or want to enjoy the experience again), the full archived
- **Connect with us on Social Media!** Like us on [Facebook](#) for news and updates on policies to address substance use disorders.

## Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released findings from the Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the Nation's largest survey of drug use and drug-related attitudes, problems, and consequences. For the survey, approximately 70,000 Americans aged 12 and older are interviewed.

Here are some key findings from the latest survey:

In 2013, an estimated 24.6 million Americans aged 12 or older were current (past month) illicit drug users, or 9.2 percent of this population. Current illicit drug use in 2013 was statistically unchanged from 2012 (9.2 percent), after a gradual increase since 2002. Almost 20 million (4 out of 5 current illicit drug users) used marijuana and/or other drugs. Among current marijuana users, 8 million (2 out of 5) were daily or almost daily users, with more days in the past month. An estimated 2.8 million persons aged 12 or older used an illicit drug for the first time in the past 12 months – an average of about 7,800 new users per day. Most of these new users (7 out of 10) used marijuana. About 1 in 5 initiated with non-medical use of prescription drugs.

Click [here](#) for the complete Results from the 2013 NSDUH: Summary of National Findings.

## President Obama and Vice President Biden Kick Off 'It's On Us' Initiative

On September 19, President Obama and Vice President Biden held a press conference to help launch the "It's On Us" initiative. The initiative is aimed at changing the public's perception of sexual assault. Instead of viewing it as just a crime committed by a perpetrator against a victim, "It's On Us" seeks to engage society in understanding the important role to play in preventing sexual assault.

Please take a moment to consider taking the pledge or getting involved at [ItsOnUs.org](#).

Click [here](#) to watch President Obama and Vice President Biden speaking about "It's On Us."

## National Substance Use Prevention Twitter Chat

ONDCP invites you to participate in the National Substance Use Prevention Twitter Chat at 7 p.m. ET on September 20 to discuss substance use prevention among youth. ONDCP's Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, hosting the chat with several experts in the field.

Follow @ONDCP and include #PrevMonth in your tweets to ask Deputy Director Mineta, Ritankar DeNYLI leader questions about prevention in Federal policy, what you can do in your community to prevent importance of youth involvement in preventing substance use among their peers, and the role schools play in substance use and prevention. We look forward to your tweets!

### **CADCA and ONDCP to Host Twitter Chat**

In observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month this October, ONDCP and the Communities in America (CADCA) will host a Twitter chat at 2 p.m. ET Wednesday, Oct. 20, about prescription drug medicine misuse.

According to the Monitoring the Future Survey, 15 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders misused prescription drugs. A concerning finding is that one in 25 teens misused over-the-counter cough medicines to get high in 2013.

Join CADCA and ONDCP for a lively discussion. We will explore our Nation's medicine abuse epidemic problem, and share tools and resources for parents, educators, and community leaders.

To participate in the conversation, simply follow [@CADCA](#) prior to the chat and use the hashtag #NMAM2013.

### **White House Launches 'My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge'**

More than 100 mayors, county officials, and tribes have already accepted the "My Brother's Keeper" President's call to action for communities around the country to develop and execute strategies to help realize their full potential. The Challenge encourages mayors, tribal leaders, and county officials to attend a 45-day training of accepting the Challenge to assess their specific community's needs, then launch a plan to address them within six months. The National Convening Council will provide communities with resources and help develop strategies.

Click [here](#) to accept the "My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge" in your community.

Learn more about the challenge [here](#).

### **Get Updates**

For more information about ONDCP, please visit our [website](#).

If you know elected officials or other stakeholders who would like to receive our updates, please encourage them to sign up for [ONDCP](#).

[Privacy Policy](#)

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