

Addiction Policy Forum's Commitment to the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) that more than 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017 -- our brothers, sisters, and children -- making it the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. The loss of those lives has inspired and strengthened **our mission to fight against the deadly consequences of addiction and help patients, families, and communities affected by the disease** at Addiction Policy Forum. With our families and patients as the driving force behind our organization, we are fully committed to the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic.

By implementing best practices, we have the power to compassionately address the disease of addiction at the healthcare interface and respond with the urgency that this epidemic requires. We believe **health professional education and training** is essential in countering the U.S. opioid epidemic and have taken steps to improve this by:

- Partnering with the Yale School of Medicine & American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to disseminate best practices and implement evidence-based interventions in the Emergency Department;
- Providing an open source hospital toolkit that includes clinical information about screening, ED-initiated treatment, and post-overdose family notification as well as videos for Emergency Department physicians, nurses, support staff and administrators;
- Building a [webpage](#) specifically designed for Emergency Department professionals to have access to resources such as six principles for ED to respond to addiction, an electronic health record, discharge protocol, and sample ED workflows;
- Providing direct technical assistance to health systems to improve their responses to addiction.

Our vision to eliminate addiction as a major health problem has driven us to develop resources that aid in supporting **prevention, treatment and recovery services** such as:

- Creating a comprehensive database of reliable, unbiased local treatment facilities and healthcare providers to serve as a starting point for those seeking help on the [Addiction Resource Center](#) at [www.addictionresourcecenter.org](http://www.addictionresourcecenter.org) (ARC);
- Offering a free, confidential helpline available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and staffed by trained clinicians to provide information about substance use disorder, education on treatment options, and compassionate support to patients and families;
- Working with our partners to showcase [innovative programs](#) across the nation that are actively transforming the field of addiction and improving access to prevention and treatment services in communities most in need;
- Developing training and online courses for first responders, law enforcement and criminal justice, and educators and parents to prevent addiction, intervene early when addiction is present, and connect people with treatment when it's needed.

Addiction Policy Forum is delighted to support NAM's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. With this commitment, we plan to continue working diligently and swiftly to save lives and help those impacted by the disease of addiction.

Together, we can solve this.