



THE WHITE HOUSE
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FROM THE Office of National Drug Control Policy

ONDCP NEWSLETTER – July 2014

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

- Release of the 2014 *National Drug Control Strategy* in Roanoke, Virginia
- Watch Live: ONDCP and ONAP World Hepatitis Day event
- RADD-ONDCP Ohio teen drugged-driving summit
- NIDA research shows adverse health effects of marijuana use
- Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program

Resources and information available from ONDCP partners:

- New study on marijuana and fatal traffic crashes in Colorado
- Brandeis Center for Excellence briefing on prescriber mandates

2014 National Drug Control Strategy Released

On July 9, ONDCP unveiled the latest update to President Obama's plan for reducing drug use and its consequences, the 2014 *National Drug Control Strategy*. This *Strategy*, shaped by input from people across the country, rejects the notion that we can arrest and incarcerate our way out of the Nation's drug problem. Instead, it builds on decades of research demonstrating that while law enforcement will always remain vital to protecting public safety, addiction is a brain disease that can be prevented and treated, and from which people can recover.

We released the *Strategy* in Roanoke, Virginia, a city that, like so many other communities across America, has been hit hard by heroin and prescription painkiller abuse. This is a community that illustrates how we are not powerless against this challenge. Every day in Roanoke, public safety officials work hand-in-hand with public health experts to support innovative programs that save lives and make Roanoke stronger. From groundbreaking community policing reforms that revitalize neighborhoods and

break the cycle of drug use and incarceration, to specialized drug treatment programs for pregnant women and mothers suffering from opioid addiction, Roanoke is a microcosm of issues covered in the *Strategy*.

What's happening in Roanoke – known as the “Star City of the South” – is vivid proof that the evidence-based drug policy reforms outlined in the *Strategy* can make a difference by making our communities healthy and safe. This is what drug policy reform in the 21st century looks like.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2014 *National Drug Control Strategy*.

Watch Live: ONDCP and ONAP World Hepatitis Day Event

Please join us via live stream on **Wednesday, July 30, 2014 from 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM (Eastern)**, when ONDCP, the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, and the White House Initiative for Asian American and Pacific Islanders commemorate World Hepatitis Day and recognize leaders in the field of viral hepatitis.

The event features remarks from senior Federal officials, representatives from international and national organization, and community leaders, including:

- Michael Botticelli, *Acting Director, National Drug Control Policy*
- Douglas Brooks, *Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy*
- Ambassador Deborah Birx, *U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator*
- Dr. Howard Koh, *Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services*
- Dr. Paul Farmer, *Founder, Partners in Health and Kolokotronis University Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School*

We hope you can join us virtually on www.whitehouse.gov/live to help us “break the silence” about viral hepatitis. Please share this message with your colleagues and others who have an interest in viral hepatitis so that they, too, can observe World Hepatitis Day.

RADD-ONDCP Teen Drugged-Driving Summit

On July 11, ONDCP and RADD (“the entertainment industry’s voice for road safety”) co-hosted the Nation’s first-ever summit on teen drugged driving. The event brought together government leaders, scientists, and community leaders to discuss the latest research and strategies for protecting teens and keeping drugged drivers off the road. Speakers included ONDCP Acting Director Michael Botticelli; Christopher Hart, Acting Chairman of the National Transportation and Safety Board; and Michael Witter, Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The meeting focused on the current state of drugged driving and best practices for implementing programs and initiatives to regulate this serious and growing public health concern.

New NIDA Research Shows Negative Health Effects Associated with Marijuana Use

Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), along with other scientists at NIDA, recently published a review in *the New England Journal of Medicine* of existing research on the adverse health effects of marijuana use. The article, available for purchase, can be found [here](#). The reviewers note the addictive nature of marijuana, the association of marijuana use during adolescence with immediate and long-term consequences, as well as gaps in current research.

Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP)

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) recently introduced the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP), a system designed to improve health care for Medicaid beneficiaries by supporting states' efforts to increase the rate of new payment and service delivery reforms, thereby reducing Medicaid costs. The program will work to improve care by supporting system-wide payment and delivery-system reform innovation and, as envisioned, will facilitate cooperation among states, health care providers, and consumers on these issues. The IAP system will support the Federal Government and serve as a resource to states in advancing the Medicaid delivery system and sharing best practices.

From Our Partners

Study Shows Increase in Marijuana-Positive Drivers in Fatal Traffic Crashes in Colorado Following Widespread Commercialization of Medical Marijuana

A new study shows an increase in marijuana-positive drivers who are involved in fatal traffic crashes in Colorado. This increase comes after the widespread commercialization of medical marijuana in mid-2009. The researchers compared marijuana use among drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes from 1994 through June 2009 to drivers involved in such crashes from July 2009 through 2011 in Colorado and 34 states that did not have medical marijuana laws during this time period. An increase in marijuana-positive drivers involved in fatal car crashes was not seen in the 34 states that did not have medical marijuana laws. Moreover, there was no increase in alcohol-positive drivers in fatal car crashes in Colorado or the other 34 states that were assessed over the same time period.

For more information on drugged driving, click [here](#).

Brandeis Center for Excellence: Prescriber Mandates

[The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program \(PDMP\) Center for Excellence](#) at Brandeis University has issued a report recommending that insurers use data from PDMPs to help drive down overdoses due to opioids and to reduce health care costs associated with the abuse of prescription opioid drugs. The report follows wide agreement among health care

and public policy experts that knowing a patient's prescription history will help ensure safer and more effective care. This type of data-sharing will better allow insurance companies to monitor prescriptions for opioid medications that are commonly abused. Currently, most third-party payers can see only prescriptions issued to a patient under his or her specific insurance plan. Access to PDMP data will allow third-party payers to view the patient's complete prescription history. This will help payers identify a potential substance abuse problem early and, most important, will allow health care providers to get their patients the help they need.

This report was discussed at ONDCP's Prescription Drug Abuse Summit on April 22, 2014.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the report.

To read the press release from the Brandeis Center, click [here](#).

Get Updates

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

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

Notes

Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use, by Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Ruben D. Baler, Ph.D., Wilson M. Compton, M.D., and Susan R.B. Weiss, Ph.D., published online June 4, 2014 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Trends in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes Before and After Marijuana Commercialization in Colorado. Stacy Salomonsen-Sautel, Sung-Joon Min, Joseph T. Sakai, Christian Thurstone, Christian Hopfer, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2014.

